

FINANCIAL FREEDOM *that lasts*



WEEK 2 • OCT 19

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NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT

Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER

What do you refuse to spend money on?

BACKGROUND

In 2 Corinthians 8, Paul recounts how God's grace was displayed through the Macedonians. Even though they endured a *severe test of affliction* (v. 2), he comments that *their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part* (v. 2). It seems ironic that their lack of resources was what created the opportunity for extreme generosity. Paul and those with him were not expecting such generosity, and yet they gave *beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints* (vv. 3-4). Paul shared this story with the Corinthian church as a way to urge them on, so that they would *excel in this act of grace also* (v. 7), just as they had excelled in many other ways.

He continued to encourage them by reminding them of Jesus' sacrifice for them, *for you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich* (v. 9). Knowing that their greatest treasure and inheritance was secured in Christ for eternity, they could freely give out of their abundance from God.

The Corinthians were ready to give already, but Paul made it clear that he was not asking them to give what they do not have, as he says, *it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have* (v. 12). He did not want them to be burdened by this, but for them to give as they were able and to receive help when needed. *For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. As it is written, 'Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack'* (vv. 13-15).

As Paul's exhortation continues into chapter 9, he emphasized God's desire for a heart that is ready and willing to give, not only for the sake of material blessing. *For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God* (vv. 12-13). Paul's final thought reminds us that we have received more than we could ever give: *"Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!"* (v. 15).

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?

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KEY VERSES: 2 Corinthians 9:6

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

READ: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8



HEAD LEVEL: *What does it say? These help us to examine what the Word tells us.*

1. What are the wrong ways to give?
2. What are the right ways to give?
3. What is God's response to those who give cheerfully?
4. How does verse 8 relate to the Old Testament quote (Psalm 112:9) in verse 9?



HEART LEVEL: *What does it mean? These questions help us shape our beliefs around the objective truth of God's word.*

1. In verse 6, what is being sown? What is being reaped?
2. Verse 7 says *Each one must give as he has decided in his heart*. What does this decision making process look like?
3. How could one's view of God affect the way they give?
4. What does *having all sufficiency in all things at all times* look like (v. 8)?

DEEPER DISCOVERY:

How should the following verses affect the way we give?

- 1 Timothy 6:6-8
- Matthew 6:19-21
- Matthew 6:31-33
- Matthew 10:42
- Matthew 19:29

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 **HANDS LEVEL:** *What does it mean to me? These questions help us commit to live out the truth in our everyday lives and commit to potential next steps.*

1. Do you look forward to giving? How can you increase your cheerfulness the next time you give?
2. Where do you see need around you? How can you sow *bountifully* (v. 6) to meet those needs?

 **MEMORY VERSE:** 2 Corinthians 9:7-8
Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)