

October 26, 2025

God's Good News Story: The Church Alive & Growing
The Book of 2 Corinthians – Part 7
Grace-Fueled Generosity

Today we continue on our multi-year journey through the New Testament where we are seeking to understand the historical, chronological & missiological of the 1st Century Church so that we in the 21st Century Church can keep the “CHURCH ALIVE & GROWING”. We pick up where we left off with Paul at the end of his 1st Letter to the Church in Corinth. As I mentioned before, Paul had spent 1 ½ years previously in Corinth evangelizing, discipling and planting churches. He then left to go to Ephesus where he stayed 3 years. During this time, Paul received news of the chaos that had erupted in the Corinth Church. That’s when he wrote we know of as 1st Corinthians. It appears that he left Ephesus and made a quick ‘painful visit’ as we will learn in Chapter 2:1,2. Paul then left and promised to return for a longer visit and then he went to Macedonia. It appears he stayed in Macedonia longer than expected by him and by the Corinth church and they began to accuse him of forgetting them and seemed to question his integrity and intentions. This prompted Paul to **write the letter we know of as 2 Corinthians** about 1 year after he had sent them 1st Corinthians. Approximately 55/56 BC.

REVIEW: The Ministry of Comfort & Reconciliation

1. Receive God’s Comfort—
2. Extend God’s Comfort—
3. Walk in Integrity—

**We Have A Triumphant Faith &
A Transforming Faith *therefore***

‘Don’t Lose Heart-Be of Good Courage

**Be Ambassadors of Christ Compelling Others with a
Ministry of Reconciliation.**

Be Pure & Obedient & Trust in God Thru Trials.Today

Today we will be gleaning through Chapters 8 & 9. I am taking both of them because there is a common thread that holds this section of the letter together. That common thread is two words –

GRACE & GENEROSITY

Paul had previously addressed this topic in his previous writing (1 Cor. 16), but he revisits it again in these two chapters (8 & 9).

The summary point is ... Giving is a joyful privilege for every believer. Giving helps us to have an active part in God’s Good News Story of Redemption & Salvation. Giving is at the very heart of God (*John 3:16, etc*). We should give based on the example of God and His generous gift of Grace. We should not only love because we are loved, we should give because of the grace we have received. Out of thankful, grace-filled hearts we should just simply Give – Freely, joyfully and expectantly! Give out of grace, not guilt!

With that in mind let’s hit the high points in these two chapters. I encourage you to read the two chapters in their entirety this afternoon, but because of time restraints let’s go for the “*Golden Grace Passages*” that reinforce our sermon title ... “**Grace-Fueled Generosity**”

1. Grace That Gives.

2 Cor. 8:1-5...¹And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the GRACE that God has given the Macedonian churches. ²In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich GENEROSITY. ³For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴they urgently pleaded with us for the PRIVILEGE of sharing in this

service to the Lord's people. ⁵ And they EXCEEDED OUR EXPECTATIONS: They GAVE THEMSELVES FIRST OF ALL TO THE LORD, AND THEN BY THE WILL OF GOD ALSO TO US.

Just as a reminder, Paul is writing this letter to the Corinthian Church while he is in the area of Macedonia. He starts out by saying the Macedonia Church has shown themselves faithful in giving even in the midst of trials and financial poverty. He shares his joy in their generosity which was beyond expectations, out of their own desire, not under compulsion. They saw this not as an obligation or out of guilt, but as a Privilege born out of a true understanding and appreciation for the Grace of God.

2. Grace That Takes Action.

2 Cor. 8:6-11...⁶ *So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. ⁷ But since you EXCEL IN EVERYTHING—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you ALSO EXCEL IN THIS GRACE OF GIVING. ⁸ I am not commanding you, but I want to test THE SINCERITY OF YOUR LOVE by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹ 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 through His poverty might become rich. ¹⁰ And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. ¹¹ Now finish the work, so that your eager*

willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means.

Paul is challenging them to take note of the Macedonian's example and follow through on their grace-giving. He reminds them that not only are they to excel in faith, speech, knowledge and love (see verse 7), they are also to excel in the grace of giving. A true believer excels in all aspects of faith and grace. In verse 11, Paul challenges them to '*finish the work*'. He wants them to take action, put their faith into action and give generously so that the work of God and His Church can be accomplished.

We need to put our faith into grace-fueled action!

3. Grace That Models Integrity.

2 Cor. 8:18-21...¹⁸ *And we are sending along with him the brother who is praised by all the churches for his service to the gospel. ¹⁹ What is more, he was chosen by the churches to accompany us as we carry the offering, which we administer in order to honor the Lord Himself and to show our eagerness to help. ²⁰ We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. ²¹ For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man.*

Paul had previously addressed this same point of integrity in 1 Cor 16. Paul makes it clear that he wanted the gifts given in grace to also be handled with integrity and transparency. Paul was not a money-hungry, loose

spending charlatan. He knew that these gifts actually belonged to God and thus needed to be handled and spent with integrity and transparency. It is important that as the Church of the 21st Century receive, record, handle and spend with integrity & transparency the gifts given to the Church wisely for His glory!

4. Grace That Produces Cheerful Generosity and Good Work.

2 Cor. 9:6-8... ⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Paul points out to them and to us today that a Grace-Fueled Believer will seek to give generously, faithfully and CHEERFULLY. He describes here the Principle of Sowing and Reaping. If you sow little you will reap little, but if you sow generously, you will reap generously. Paul clearly lays out some key principles of giving... Abundantly, Cheerfully and Willingly. A heart that is Grace-Fueled will give this way, serve this way, love this way

5. Grace That Produces a Thankful Heart.

2 Cor. 9:12-15... ¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

Simply put, Paul is sharing that a True Believer should be giving generously out of a Grace-Fueled Heart that produces a Thankful Heart. Your thankful obedience will also give you a '*confession of the Gospel of Christ*...in other words it will give you a testimony of a life well live. This will open the door for people to hear the Good News Story from you.

Summary Take Away:

A Grace-Fueled, Grace-Filled Heart will be a Thankful Heart, a Generous Heart, and a Serving Heart that will Bring Glory to God, and Blessings to Other People.