



*\*Selfishness is the whim that possesses me now.  
~ Dr. Jordan Peterson*

*\*Great affliction and trial produce joy? While deep poverty overflowed in giving liberally.*

*\*2 Corinthians 8:1 Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: 2 that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. 3 For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, 4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God. 6 So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well. 7 But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also.*

**V:1-3 Our abilities limited by physical understanding will cost you more than you know.**

**Responding to life in the physical only restricts the outcome.**

**When giving is only a physical expression, it could reveal our heart's treasure.**

**Matthew 6:19-21** “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**Giving beyond our abilities breaks** the physical barrier and moves us into the spiritual realm of life.

**V:4-6 How we receive says something about our understanding of grace.**

**\*Acts 20:35b** Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

**Receiving has a spirit attached to it, showing** fellowship and ministry. A lousy receiver is worse than a bad giver.

**V:7 Abounding/fruitful in everything.**

**In faith, speech, knowledge, diligence, and your love, see that you are fruitful in this grace (giving) too.**

**It takes God to live the Christian life.** Poverty is a spirit, judgment, and curse. The judgment is not all about money.

**The prosperity gospel is not scriptural, but abounding in everything is.**

## \*The heavenly example of giving.

*\*2 Corinthians 8:8 I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others. 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.*

*10 And in this I give advice: It is to your advantage not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago; 11 but now you also must complete the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have. 12 For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.*

*13 For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened; 14 but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack—that there may be equality. 15 As it is written, “He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack.”*

**V:8-9 Giving should not be a test of sincerity of love for others.**

**It's an obedience to God's Spirit. (Jesus went to the cross 1<sup>st</sup> out of obedience and second out of love.)**

**Jesus gave out of the potential, not out of the guarantee of your acceptance of His gift.**

**V:10-12 Secret to spiritual giving.**

1. **The early impression will fade.** Long-term commitments are not as good as short-term.
2. **Choose to give out what you have** not on some potential earnings.

**V:13-15 Giving shouldn't ease others and burden you.**

1. **Biblical living is not a socialistic society.** Very few people need total support.
2. **Equality is about sacrifice,** not about equal giving. Giving is more than financial.

## \*What level of truth and comfort is the Holy Spirit drawing you to?

*\*2 Corinthians 8:16 But thanks be to God who puts the same earnest care for you into the heart of Titus. 17 For he not only accepted the exhortation, but being more diligent, he went to you of his own accord. 18 And we have sent with him the brother whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches, 19 and not only that, but who was also chosen by the churches to travel with us with this gift, which is administered by us to the glory of the Lord Himself and to show your ready mind, 20 avoiding this: that anyone should blame us in this lavish gift which is administered by us— 21 providing honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.*

*22 And we have sent with them our brother whom we have often proved diligent in many things, but now much more diligent, because of the great confidence which we have in you. 23 If anyone inquires about Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker concerning you. Or if our brethren are inquired about, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ. 24 Therefore show to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love and of our boasting on your behalf.*

**V:16-21 Generous giving is honorable** and should be celebrated properly.

**V:22-24 Give testimony and proof of the results of people's generosity.**