



# THE JOY OF GENEROSITY

WHEN GIVING SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE  
2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-5

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Compass Bible Church • January 10 & 11, 2026 • 2 Corinthians, week 35 • Msg. 26-02

**2 Cor. 8:1** *We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, 2 for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. 3 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, 4 begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— 5 and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.* (ESV)

1. Consider \_\_\_\_\_ (v.1)

2. Refuse \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.2-4)

3. Start \_\_\_\_\_ (v.5)

# Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **1 John 4:19; Romans 12:1; and John 14:15**. In your experience—both giving and receiving—why does love motivate more deeply and last longer than duty? How does God use obligation to move us toward love-driven obedience?
2. Read **Ephesians 2:4-10**. How does Paul's description of salvation by grace rule out both pride and reluctance in generosity? How does stewardship flow from salvation, not contribute to it?
3. Read **Hebrews 6:12**. Who has modeled generous faith in a way that challenges your current habits? What specific step could you take to imitate their faithfulness?
4. Read **Luke 16:9-13**. How does Jesus' teaching on stewardship redefine ownership, accountability, and reward? Why does divided loyalty undermine faithfulness.
5. Read **Psalms 116:12**. Sincerely ask yourself the question raised by this text. What specific action of gratitude toward the Lord will you take this week, and how will you follow through?

The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website and App (FPR.org).

Msg. 21-37 – **Shared Struggle & Mutual Aid**  
Msg. 19-41 – **Reflecting God's Inexpressible Gift**  
Msg. 07-33 – **Sacrifice Instead of Selfishness**  
Msg. 17-01 – **In Light of God's Financial Forecast**  
Msg. 11-07 – **Excelling in Generosity**  
Msg. 14-40 – **Reflecting the Incarnational Love of Christ**  
Msg. 16-01 – **The Fear of Not Having Enough**

## Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> .....Gen.27-28 & Mt.9:18-38  
Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> .....Gen.29-30 & Mt.10:1-23  
Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> .....Gen.31-32 & Mt.10:24-42  
Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> ..... Gen.33-35 & Mt.11  
Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> .....Gen.36-37 & Mt.12:1-21  
Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> .....Gen.38-40 & Mt.12:22-50  
Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> ..... Gen.41 & Mt.13:1-32  
Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> .....Gen.42-43 & Mt.13:33-58

Here are some books that may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Alcorn, Randy. **Money, Possessions, and Eternity**. Tyndale House, 2003.  
Burroughs, Jeremiah. **The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment**. Banner of Truth, 1981.  
Epp, Theodore H. **Present Labor and Future Rewards: The Believer, His Sin, Conduct & Rewards**. BTTB, 1960.  
Getz, Gene. **Real Prosperity: Biblical Principles of Material Possessions**. Moody Press, 1990.  
Henry, Matthew. **The Pleasantness of a Religious Life: A Puritan's View of the Good Life**. Christian Focus, 1998.  
Kroll, Woodrow. **Struggling with Selfishness: Choosing to Look Past Yourself**. Back to the Bible, 1996.  
MacArthur, John. **Anxious for Nothing: God Cares for the Cares of Your Soul**. Victor Books, 2006.  
Smith, Christian. **Passing the Plate: Why American Christians Don't Give Away More Money**. Oxford Press, 2008.  
Stowell, Joseph. **Eternity: Reclaiming a Passion for What Endures**. Moody Press, 1995.  
Swindoll, Charles. **Improving Your Serve: The Art of Unselfish Living**. Word, 2002.  
Tada, Joni Eareckson. **Heaven: Your Real Home**. Zondervan, 1997.  
Taylor, Howard. **Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret**. Moody Press, 1987.  
Wilson, Doug. **Joy at the End of the Tether: The Inscrutable Wisdom of Ecclesiastes**. Canon Press, 1999.