



The **Grace** of God

2 Corinthians 8-9

2/11/18

The **grace** of God

2 Corinthians 8:1 Now, brethren, we *wish to* make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,

The **grace** of God + affliction + joy + poverty = g_____

² that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.

The **grace** of God + affliction + joy + poverty = g_____ like this:

³ For I testify that

(a) according to their ability,

(b) and beyond their ability

(c) *they gave* of their own accord,

(d) ⁴ begging us with much entreaty for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,

The **grace** of God + devotion to J_____ and His family + affliction + joy + poverty = **generosity**

⁵ and *this*, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

Other motivations to live generous

1. Organized L_____

⁶ Consequently we urged Titus that as he had previously made a beginning, so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well.

2. The pursuit of b_____

⁷ But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also.

3. L_____

⁸ I am not speaking *this* as a command, but as proving through the earnestness of others the sincerity of your love also.

4. The example of J_____

⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

5. God's plan for r_____ generosity

¹⁰ And I give *my* opinion in this matter, for this is to your advantage, who were the first to begin a year ago not only to do *this*, but also to desire *to do it*.

¹¹ But now finish doing it also; that just as *there was* the readiness to desire it, so *there may be* also the completion of it by your ability.

¹² For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what *a man* has, not according to what he does not have.

¹³ For *this* is not for the ease of others *and* for your affliction, but by way of equality--

¹⁴ at this present time your abundance *being a supply* for their want, that their abundance also may become *a supply* for your want, that there may be equality;

¹⁵ as it is written, "He who *gathered* much did not have too much, and he who *gathered* little had no lack."

6. Trustworthy s_____

Steward #1

¹⁶ But thanks be to God, who puts the same earnestness on your behalf in the heart of Titus.

¹⁷ For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest, he has gone to you of his own accord.

Steward #2

¹⁸ And we have sent along with him the brother whose fame in *the things of the gospel has spread* through all the churches;

¹⁹ and not only *this*, but he has also been appointed by the churches to travel with us in this gracious work, which is being administered by us for the glory of the Lord Himself, and *to show* our readiness,

²⁰ taking precaution that no one should discredit us in our administration of this generous gift;

²¹ for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

Steward #3

²² And we have sent with them our brother, whom we have often tested and found diligent in many things, but now even more diligent, because of *his* great confidence in you.

The stewards

²³ As for Titus, *he is* my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brethren, *they are* messengers of the churches, a glory to Christ.

²⁴ Therefore openly before the churches show them the proof of your love and of our reason for boasting about you.