

## **MOTIVATIONS FOR GENEROUS GIVING**

(2 Corinthians 8:1-9)

In his book *"Giving It All Away,"* David Green said, *"Generosity begins with a decision to steward your resources with a heavenly mindset. In all the world, there are only two eternal things, the Word of God and the souls of people. All else is temporary, transient and short lived. To invest in these eternal things is the most important thing we can do with our lives, our energies and our resources."* David Green was motivated to give generously because what is at stake is the Word of God, the eternal souls of people, and the gospel mission of Christ. In 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, the Apostle Paul identifies what our motivations should be when we give towards the work of the Lord. As we reflect on these biblical motivations, may we endeavor to live out this fundamental truth: **Since God has generously given us His Son Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we must excel in the grace of giving generously.**

### **1. The \_\_\_\_\_ must motivate us.**

In his second letter to the Christians in Corinth, Paul urged these believers to resume and continue their financial giving for the sake of their fellow Christians in the Jerusalem church who were suffering from abject poverty and severe persecution (2 Corinthians 8:1-4; Acts 11:27-30; Romans 15:25-26; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 2:17; 11:7; 12:14). In order to encourage them in their giving, Paul used the example of the churches in Macedonia who gave generously and selflessly in spite of their own experience of crushing affliction and grinding poverty (2 Thessalonians 1:4; Philippians 1:29). What motivated such open-hearted and sacrificial generosity is the saving grace of God in Christ (2 Corinthians 8:9). This grace of God which must compel all of believers to be generous givers is the self-giving of Christ whereby He impoverished and humbled Himself by becoming a man and dying sacrificially on the Cross for the sins of those who would trust in Him so that they might receive the riches of eternal salvation (Philippians 2:6-8).

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### **2. The \_\_\_\_\_ must motivate us.**

Generosity in Christian giving also stems from submission and surrender to the Lordship of Christ. The Macedonian believers are committed to generous and selfless giving because they are aware in the first place that they belong to the Lord and that they are under the sovereign Lordship of Christ. This is why the first priority of the Macedonian Christians is to give and offer themselves wholeheartedly to the Lord (2 Corinthians 8:5). True believers and genuine disciples of Jesus recognize and submit to the Lordship of Christ over all aspects of their lives, including their material and financial resources (Psalm 24:1; Haggai 2:8; 1 Chronicles 29:12; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Faithful and generous giving dethrones money in our hearts, glorifies Christ and banners His Lordship over our lives. The God who calls us to excel in giving is the God who promises to bless us exceedingly and abundantly according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 8:7; 9:6-15; Malachi 3:8-10; Leviticus 27:30; Philippians 4:19).

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