

## THIS GRACE OF GIVING

August 9, 2020 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 by Bob Branch  
Real Faith in Raw Times, part 14

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**BIG IDEA: When we are touched by and live in God's generous, self-giving love, we become increasingly generous.**

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. <sup>2</sup>In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. [**NOT CIRCUMSTANTIAL**] <sup>3</sup>For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. [**EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY**] Entirely on their own, <sup>4</sup>they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. [**OPEN-HEARTED SHARING**] <sup>5</sup>And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. [**DEVOTION EXPRESSED**] <sup>6</sup>So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. [**COMMITTED FOLLOW-THRU**] <sup>7</sup>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. [**REALLY GOOD AT THIS!**]

<sup>8</sup>I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. [**NOT OBLIGATION, LOVE**] <sup>9</sup>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. [**JESUS'SELF-GIVING GENEROSITY DRIVES IT**].

- NOT Circumstantial.
- NOT Limited to my Resources.
- NOT Coerced, Obligated or Manipulated.
- NOT Self-Oriented.
- NOT a Heavy burden.
- NOT a Command/a Check-Box.
- NOT of this World.

### TAKEAWAYS, TAKE-HOMES & TAKE-TO-THE-BANKS:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ go together.

2. Aim at being an \_\_\_\_\_ giver.

**21-DAY GIVE CHALLENGE:** Ask God for one opportunity to be generous each day this week.

3. God's \_\_\_\_\_ love invites an extravagant \_\_\_\_\_.

“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.” (8:9)

“Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.” Lk. 19:8

4. \_\_\_\_\_ wholly to God.

“authentic salvation changes our orientation to wealth.”

**Kent Hughes**

*What are you holding back from God today?*