

INTRO

- Tell about a time when you received an unexpected or undeserved gift.

READ

2 Corinthians 8:9

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

REFLECT & RESPOND

1. Beginning in Chapter 8, Paul tells the Corinthians what happened among the churches in Macedonia. He described their situation: — affliction & extreme poverty — yet, giving beyond their means. (vs 2 & 3)

Paul called giving “an act of grace” He said, “But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.” (vs 7)

The circumstances the Macedonians found themselves in were extreme, yet grace enabled them to give. The Corinthians who were not in such dire circumstances were struggling to give. Regardless of our circumstances, we are reminded to give bountifully and cheerfully, confident in God’s abundant provision.

Qu: Do you ever struggle to be generous? Why do you think it’s difficult to give?

2. Paul’s exhortation was centred around the grace of God. When you encounter the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ — the one who had it all and gave it all for our sakes — the extravagance of his gift — then in good times and in difficult — you can faithfully give.

Qu: How is generosity a measure of your own understanding of the grace of God?

3. The assurance for those “sow bountifully” is God’s bountiful provision. “You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.”

“Giving is not for a select few, but everyone must learn to be generous. Giving should result from inward resolve, not from an impulsive or casual decision”.

— Pastor Timothy Loh Every Nation Malaysia

Paul said, “Each one must give as he has decided (purposed) in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Qu: Do you have a plan for giving for 2020?

Qu: What steps can you take in 2020 to grow in this “act of grace”?

PRAY

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.”

Pray for one another:

- a. to trust God with your finances
- b. to grow in grace & give generously
- c. for any financial concerns