

2 Corinthians 8

v1-grace	(noun)	undeserved kindness
v1-Macedonian	(proper noun)	belonging to the region of Macedonia. See map
v2-severe	(adjective)	very difficult; very hard; intense
v2-trial	(noun)	hardship; trouble; suffering
v2-overflowing	(adjective)	plentiful; bountiful
v2-extreme	(adjective)	severe; worst
v2-poverty	(noun)	the state of being very poor
v2-welled up	(verb)	gradually or steadily rose upwards
v2-generosity	(noun)	the act of willingly giving more than expected
v3-testify	(verb)	declare publicly
v3-ability	(noun)	capacity: what a person can do
v3-entirely	(adverb)	completely
v4-urgently	(adverb)	insistently; earnest and persistently; in a way that required immediate action
v4-pleaded	(verb)	begged; asked with intensity and emotion
v4-privilege	(noun)	special right; benefit
v4-service	(noun)	work; ministry; something done for the benefit of others
v4-saints	(noun)	Christians; Literally, 'holy ones'; 'people who have been made holy (perfect, set apart for God's purposes). All Christians have been made holy by faith in Jesus, so all Christians are 'saints'.
v5-expected	(verb)	thought would happen; hoped-for
v5-in keeping with	(phrase)	in conformity with; in line with
v5-will	(noun)	choice; purpose; intention
v7-excel	(verb)	are very good at
v7-faith	(noun)	belief; trust
v7-earnestness	(noun)	sincere and intense devotion
v8-commanding	(verb)	ordering
v8-sincerity	(noun)	genuineness; honesty
v9-for your sakes	(phrase)	for your benefit
v10-advice	(noun)	recommendation (of appropriate action); guidance
v10-matter	(noun)	situation
v10-desire	(noun)	strong wish for something
v11-eager	(adjective)	keen; enthusiastic
v11-willingness	(noun)	the quality of being ready to do something
v11-matched	(verb)	equal in quality and strength
v11-completion	(noun)	accomplishment; attainment; finishing
v11-means	(noun)	wealth; funds; ability
v12-acceptable	(adjective)	pleasing; satisfactory
v13-relieved	(adjective)	no longer feeling distressed or anxious

v13-hard pressed	(adjective)	under a lot of strain and worry
v13-equality	(noun)	the state of being equal
v14-plenty	(noun)	situation of having a lot of money or resources to live on
v14 supply	(verb)	provide
v14 in turn	(phrase)	one after the other
v15-gathered	(verb)	collected; picked up
v16-concern	(noun)	care; worry
v17-appeal	(noun)	request; plea
v17-enthusiasm	(noun)	eagerness; keenness; great interest
v17-initiative	(noun)	the ability and opportunity to act before others tell you to
v18-praised	(verb)	spoken highly of
v18-gospel	(noun)	the good news that people can be reconciled to God through trusting in Jesus
v19-offering	(noun)	donation; contribution
v19-administer	(verb)	manage; oversee
v19-honour	(verb)	treat with respect
v20-avoid	(verb)	keep away from; prevent
v20-criticism	(noun)	disapproval; negative comments
v20-liberal	(adjective)	plentiful; lavish
v21-taking pains	(verbal phrase)	trying very hard
v22-proved	(verb)	shown clearly through action
v22-zealous	(adjective)	devoted; eager; keen; passionate
v22-confidence	(noun)	feeling that you can trust someone
v23-partner	(noun)	companion; someone who works with you in something
23-fellow worker	(noun)	co-worker
v23-representatives	(noun)	people chosen or appointed to act or speak for another or others
v24-proof	(noun)	evidence; confirmation
v24-pride	(noun)	satisfaction because you or someone close to you has done something good



2 Corinthians 8-9 (New International Reader's Version)

8 Brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given to the churches in Macedonia. ²They have suffered a great deal. But in their suffering, their joy was more than full. Even though they were very poor, they gave very freely. ³I tell you that they gave as much as they could. In fact, they gave even more than they could. Completely on their own, ⁴they begged us for the chance to share in serving the Lord's people in that way. ⁵They did more than we expected. First they gave themselves to the Lord. Then they gave themselves to us because that was what God wanted. ⁶Titus had already started collecting money from you. So we asked him to help you finish making your kind gift. ⁷You do well in everything else. You do well in faith and in speaking. You do well in knowledge and in complete commitment. And you do well in the love we have helped to start in you. So make sure that you also do well in the grace of giving to others.

⁸I am not commanding you to do it. But I want to test you. I want to find out if you really love God. I want to compare your love with that of others. ⁹You know the grace shown by our Lord Jesus Christ. Even though he was rich, he became poor to help you. Because he became poor, you can become rich.

¹⁰Here is my opinion about what is best for you in that matter. Last year you were the first to give. You were also the first to want to give. ¹¹So finish the work. Then your desire to do it will be matched by your finishing it. Give on the basis of what you have. ¹²Do you really want to give? Then the gift is measured by what someone has. It is not measured by what they don't have.

¹³We don't want others to have it easy at your expense. We want things to be equal. ¹⁴Right now you have plenty in order to take care of what they need. Then they will have plenty to take care of what you need. The goal is to even things out. ¹⁵It is written, "The one who gathered a lot didn't have too much. And the one who gathered a little had enough."

¹⁶God put into the heart of Titus the same concern I have for you. Thanks should be given to God for this. ¹⁷Titus welcomed our appeal. He is also excited about coming to you. It was his own idea. ¹⁸Along with Titus, we are sending another brother. All the churches praise him for his service in telling the good news. ¹⁹He was also chosen by the churches to go with us as we bring the offering. We are in charge of it. We want to honor the Lord himself. We want to show how ready we are to help. ²⁰We want to keep anyone from blaming us for how we take care of that large gift. ²¹We are trying hard to do what both the Lord and people think is right.

²²We are also sending another one of our brothers with them. He has often proved to us in many ways that he is very committed. He is now even more committed because he has great faith in you. ²³Titus is my helper. He and I work together among you. Our brothers are messengers from the churches. They honor Christ. ²⁴So show them that you really love them. Show them why we are proud of you. Then the churches can see it.

9 I don't need to write to you about giving to the Lord's people. ²I know how much you want to help. I have been bragging about it to the people in Macedonia. I have been telling them that since last year you who live in Achaia were ready to give. You are so excited that it has stirred up most of them to take action. ³But I am sending the brothers. Then our bragging about you in this matter will have a good reason. You will be ready, just as I said you would be. ⁴Suppose people from Macedonia come with me and find out that you are not prepared. Then we, as well as you, would be ashamed of being so certain. ⁵So I thought I should try to get the brothers to visit you ahead of time. They will finish the plans for the large gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a gift freely given. It will not be given by force.

⁶Here is something to remember. The one who plants only a little will gather only a little. And the one who plants a lot will gather a lot. ⁷Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give. You shouldn't give if you don't want to. You shouldn't give because you are forced to. God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to shower all kinds of blessings on you. So in all things and at all times you will have everything you need. You will do more and more good works. ⁹It is written,

"They have spread their gifts around to poor people.
Their good works continue forever."

¹⁰God supplies seed for the person who plants. He supplies bread for food. God will also supply and increase the amount of your seed. He will increase the results of your good works. ¹¹You will be made rich in every way. Then you can always give freely. We will take your many gifts to the people who need them. And they will give thanks to God.

¹²Your gifts meet the needs of the Lord's people. And that's not all. Your gifts also cause many people to thank God. ¹³You have shown yourselves to be worthy by what you have given. So other people will praise God because you obey him. That proves that you really believe the good news about Christ. They will also praise God because you share freely with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴Their hearts will be filled with love for you when they pray for you. God has given you grace that is better than anything. ¹⁵Let us give thanks to God for his gift. It is so great that no one can tell how wonderful it really is!

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