

PROMISES WORTH KEEPING

# The Gift of *Giving*



## GROWTH GUIDE SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 and 9:6-15

### AUTHOR

The apostle Paul, formerly known as Saul, a persecutor of Christians, who had a conversion experience on the road to Damascus. He spread the good news of Jesus Christ on three missionary journeys, and was instrumental in bringing the gospel to non-Jews.

### CONTEXT

Paul wrote to the church in Corinth around A.D. 55-57 from Macedonia. Eugene Peterson writes that the church at Corinth gave their founding pastor, Paul, more trouble than all his other churches combined. Though they gave Paul a lot of trouble, they are responsible for some of Paul's most profound writing. He wrote this 2nd letter to the Corinthians because of an attack on his leadership. His 1st letter did not mince words so they bucked his authority, according to Peterson, and didn't like being told what to do. In this 2nd letter he talks about the nature of leadership in a faith community, defending his own leadership and also denouncing false teachers. During Paul's 3rd missionary journey, he had collected money for the poor believers in Jerusalem. The churches in Macedonia had sacrificed and given money, even though they were poor, and had given more than was expected. In our 1st scripture passage Paul hopes the generosity of these churches will motivate and encourage the Corinthians to solve their problems and unite. In the 2nd passage, Paul encourages their generosity.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-7. What stands out to you?
2. Does the generosity of the poor churches in Macedonia challenge you in your giving?
3. How does your faith journey impact your giving?
4. How does your giving impact your faith journey?
5. How does your giving reflect the love of Christ in your life?
6. How often do you practice sacrificial giving? Is there something you could sacrifice for a season to enable you to give more to the ministries of the church?
7. How has God's provision strengthened your faith walk and what has been your response to God's generosity?
8. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. What stands out to you in this passage?
9. Why is it important to give willingly rather than out of guilt or obligation?
10. Think of some practical ways you can be generous with your resources, time, and talents and discuss.
11. Share a personal experience when you witnessed the impact of someone's generosity. How did it inspire you?

### ENCOURAGEMENT

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!  
– 2 Corinthians 9:15.

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