

## 2 Corinthians 8:8-9:5 Living Generously, Part 2

**Ever found yourself saying: If I only had ....start growing!**

If I only had..... **start serving.**

If I only had..... **start giving.**

If I only had..... **start obeying his commandments**

But Is *if I only had* really a reasonable excuse for not doing what you know you are called to do!

Or I will start it when .....

**Problem we all deal with Procrastination:**

A) Things that we put off – things on our to do list that we put off for a more convenient time.

B) **Think about your to do list: Physical things**

1) Home Project - left undone > nudge

C) This one The **Diet:** { Man – killing me

1) Went to the doctor about 6 months ago

Lacking energy –

D) My Doc is the same age as me – mid 40's

Same problem I do – Need to lose about 20lbs

And start exercising

E) **I Knew that !** – Didn't need to pay money to hear that – been telling myself – every month 5yrs I am going to start a diet

My if only? – **If I only had more time!** If I only had that exercise equipment / if only ... gym next to...

**Yes we all have our physical list – but what about your Spiritual list{ More important**

A) A **principle you are supposed to be starting.**

**Sin supposed to be stopping**

**Area supposed to be serving in**

**Study you are supposed to be beginning**

B) Well the Church at Corinth had a spiritual area they were procrastinating in starting.

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**See Paul a year before had told them about this idea he had from the Lord**

A) Church in Jerusalem where things started was really going thru it – famine persecution

B) They were in a financial bind!

C) So Paul called on the Gentile Churches to help out take up an offering to help support the saints who were struggling in Jerusalem

D) And the Gentile Churches **were enthusiastically** in favor of helping out

1) The Church at Corinth was one of those Churches

**Leading} Ch.9 V2 your Zeal stirred up.. majority.**

E) But a year had gone by and they hadn't done anything – **they were Procrastinating for some reason**

**So as we come to Ch. 8 in our study in 2 Corinthians Paul is encouraging the believers at Corinth to follow thru on their commitment.**

A) **That it was time to step up to the plate.**

B) Title of the message to day is living Generously part 2 – Again the subject of giving

1) **Visiting – Study thru the Bible ....** Not going to ignore passages because they make us uncomfortable

C) Really what we have here in Ch. 8-9 is very Positive

1) God's heart that we would grow in all things

D) Which is why we saw in our study last time Paul's heart for them V.7 – **Abound in this grace as well**

1) God never wants us to be satisfied with the status quo – Good here .....

E) They were abounding in faith, knowledge, diligence and love – this grace too

Now we saw in our study last time Paul used the Churches in Macedonia as examples to inspire the Church in Corinth.

**V. 2 They gave during tough times!**

A) They were poor – they gave anyway- even though it wasn't convenient.

Poverty was at the depths – affliction being crushed

**V.3 They gave generously – they gave beyond their ability.**

A) They knew what it was like to be poor – and afflicted so they responded.

**B)Interesting: Never **known a Waitress** to be a poor tipper – They know what it is like to depend on tips for your livelihood**

1)These poor Churches gave generously because they knew what it was like to be poor & afflicted themselves.

**C) What Prompted them to be so generous?**

**V.5 They first gave themselves to the Lord.**

**Result: V. 2 Hearts and lives were full of Joy!**

**D)So that was the example from the Churches in Macedonia**

**Today we are picking up in V.8 of Ch.8 – finish the Chapter Noting 6 Principles for giving**

**A)But not just insight for giving but for any spiritual area where God has been prompting ...following thru**

**#1 There is no Pressure: **8 I speak not by commandment,****

**A)Even though they had made a commitment to participate a year ago – Paul says – not a command**

**B)In other words – there is no pressure here to give**

**1)God is not pressuring you to participate**

**C)That is never God's heart in wanting us to do anything – doesn't want us to feel pressure.**

**1)Give and serve freely willingly out of love**

**D)Not going to twist our arms – not his way.**

**This is one of the reasons why we don't talk about our building project more often**

**A)We don't want pp to feel pressure to give. We want it to be willing**

**B)Never want people to **feel Manipulated** into giving**

**1)Unfortunately a lot of Churches do that**

**C) Now We do believe that God wants each of us in the family @ CCV to play a role in this**

**1)But when everything is said and done – we want to be able to say **this is what God did.****

**Quick update: Noted in April we were short a million dollars to begin construction &**

## complete 1<sup>st</sup> phase

A) Since that time about 200K has come in - # to 800K

B) We can make an adjustment in the project a little smaller..... **bring the # 550K if necessary**

1) It would be great if the Lord provided by the end of the year.

C) Presently at right now – So that is what we are trusting God for. Keep you posted.

**#1 No pressure**

**#2 This is a test! 8 I speak not by commandment,**

**but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others. { the eagerness of the other Churches**

**This is a test of the sincerity of your Love { for others and for the Lord that is where it starts. { Heart thing**

A) God doesn't pressure us to give – but giving is an indicator of where our heart is at.

B) Noted last week – God isn't after your money but he is after your heart.

B) Romans 12:9 **“Let love be without Hypocrisy.”**

1) Hypocrisy is when we say one thing and do another

C) 1 John 3:18 **“My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.”**

D) Actions speak louder than words – God expects our actions to match our profession.

## #3 The example of Christ!

**9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.**

**This is a Tremendous verse that speaks to us of What Christ did for us in Saving us {He followed thru!**

A) **He became Poor – left heaven { Became a man**

**Poor one at that** Born in a borrowed stable,

B) **Poor parents** – went to the temple offer sacrifice of dedication – two turtle doves – which was the sacrifice allotted to the poor who couldn't afford a lamb

C) **He grew up in a poor place – Rural Nazareth –**

**D)He lived in obscurity for 30 yrs – grew up poor – The one who had everything at his disposal – suddenly knew what it was like to be without**

1)He could relate to us -

**He preached from a borrowed boat, rode into Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey,**

**A)He ate His Last Supper in a borrowed room, and was buried in a borrowed grave.**

**B)He Who made everything laid it all down and entered into total poverty that You & I might be rich!**

1)Rich in Salvation – rich in the love of God – rich in our inheritance – Heaven -

**C)Rich in Grace! – Rich in forgiveness The Riches that are ours in Christ just keep coming –**

1)They came out of the fact that He became poor!

**D)Salvation today: Don't put it off so great is His love for US.**

**So Yes this is a tremendous verse showing what Christ did & the affect that it had on all who put their trust in Him**

**A)We quote this verse a lot – but it is interesting the context – of it – Middle of these chapters on giving**

**B)Pt. Giving and all service – is to be born out of a response of Love for what Christ has done for us.**

**C)The Macedonians had not been pressured into giving by gimmicks or fear.**

1)Rather it was the heavenly example of giving exemplified by Jesus that inspired them to give.

**D) That is the ultimate motivation for giving. LVG**

**E)Giving makes us more like Christ!**

**#4 There is a blessing in following through.**

10 And in this I give advice: It is **to your advantage** not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago; 11 but now you also **must complete** the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be **a completion** out of what you have.

**Principle of growth – Growth doesn't happen when you agree with something “Preach it Pastor Rob”**

A) Doesn't happen because you are convicted –

B) Doesn't happen because you wrote it down in your journal

**C) Growth happens when you do something about it**

1) Growth happens when make whatever it is that God is showing you a part of your life.

D) That is when it becomes to your advantage – that is when it becomes a blessing in your life.

E) After instructing his Disciples in John 13 Jesus said: **“Now Happy are you if you do these things!”**

**John 13:17**

**So If you're basically unhappy, melancholy, depressed, discouraged, or defeated,**

A) The reason could very well be that there is something the Lord has told you to do - that you theoretically agree with , but have failed to work out practically.

B) You have failed to apply it to your life – failed to make the necessary changes

“The Devil will let you resolve as much as you like; the more the better, just as long as you never carry it out. “The tragedy of life so often **is not** that we have no high impulses, but that we fail to turn them into actions.” (Barclay)

**We often talk about and sing about Surrender – But what does that mean?**

A) More often than not we think it means to Let go and let God

C) But then we get frustrated and say: I surrendered this to God and nothing happened.

**Well lets think about that concept of surrender for a minute: Idea of surrendering to another person**

A) First it means I am going to stop resisting – stop fighting

B) Then it means I am yielding my will to that person.

1) Go where they say to go – I am going to do what they say to do

C) So surrender is a lot more about obedience, and discipline and the yielding of my will.

**But we are not surrendering to an enemy who hates us and wants to put us in bondage.**

A) We are surrendering to the Almighty – All wise God – a Father who loves us – **Who wants**

**the best for us.**

**B)Who wants to work in our lives** – take us places we couldn't imagine going – and do things with us that we couldn't imagine doing !

**So is there something in your life today: Might be in the area of finances or it might be completely different**

**A)You know I need to deal with that – You haven't – You need to complete the doing of it!**

**B)You are going to come right back to that place in a similar situation**

**1)The Father is committed to your growth**

**C)For the Church in Corinth it was this area of giving that they were procrastinating in.**

**1)A year before they were ready - -but they had delayed**

**D)Paul says it is to your advantage to follow thru!**

**#5 This requires a willing mind: V.12 For if there is first a willing mind,**

**A)God is looking for a willingness You have to be willing –**

**B)God doesn't force us to give – He doesn't force us to follow thru on things**

**C)Concerning giving - Ch. 9 Cheerful Giver – Can't give Cheerfully – don't give at all.**

**#6 It is according to what one has and not according to what one does not have.**

**12 For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.**

**13 For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened; 14 but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack — that there may be equality. 15 As it is written, "He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack."**

**When it comes to giving God wants us to give according to what we have.**

**A)He is not looking for us to be burdened and stressed out.**

**B)Building project as an example again: Challenge**

**1 Million – 750 per person – 1500 per house**

**1)For some here: Not a problem – Write a check that day.**

C)For others – tough – stretch that out over a year

1)Others I just can't do that right now.

**That is Paul's pt – Not wanting you to be burdened and others eased.**

A)Don't worry about the amount – Well I can only give \$50 bucks and that is nothing –

B)Hey your God is the God who multiplies 5 loaves and 2 fish to feed 1,000's but he didn't multiply anything until it was first given

C)Your \$50.00 can go a long way in the hands of God!

D)But there is an **equality of response**: Each giving according to what he can

**Your abundance may supply their lack – now – Maybe one day they will supply your lack later**

A)V. 15 Paul's quotation from Exodus 16:18 the gathering of the manna - illustrates his principle.

B)Everyone gathered what they what they had gathered. What they could, some more and some less; but they all shared- No lack -

1)Churches 1% - another 5%

**#7 Giving requires Accountability.**

A)Paul makes sure the offering was not going to be handled by just one person.

B)Trust worthy men

**16 But thanks be to God who puts the same earnest care for you into the heart of Titus.**

**17 For he not only accepted the exhortation, but being more diligent, he went to you of his own accord.**

**Titus Had already proven himself trust worthy to the Churches**

**18 And we have sent with him the brother whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches, 19 and not only that, but who was also chosen by the churches to travel with us with this gift, which is administered by us to the glory of the Lord Himself and to show your ready mind,**



**And another famous and trust worthy brother  
{ We have no idea } But they knew him well.  
GOOD CHOICE – they choose!**

**20 avoiding this: that anyone should blame us in this lavish gift which is administered by us — 21 providing honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.**

**Paul wisely wanted to be above reproach!**

**Here: I have never handled or counted an offering – I don't know who gives – who doesn't**

**Several men who count offering – make sure it goes into the safe**

**C)Then it goes to accounting department – Count has to match –**

**D)The way money is spent is scrutinized by several pp**

**E)Yearly audit ! {System of Checks and balances**

**All very important – Accountability in Giving!**

**Close by reading V.22 – 9:5**

**Wrap up – We are all in this together**

**Blessing of being involved**

**Blessing of following thru**