

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

### Title:

Excel in the Grace of Giving

### Speaker:

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### Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 8:1–15

**Theme:** Excel in the grace of giving.

**Introduction:** The Bible has a lot to say about money. Money used wrongly leads to “all kinds of evils” (1 Tim 6:10), but money used rightly to worship God and help others brings blessings to both the giver and the receiver. In 2 Corinthians 8, Paul talks to the Corinthians about a financial gift, and he frames the topic in a way that the Corinthians—and modern readers—need to hear.

Paul lays out three ways that the Christians in Corinth, as well as Christians today, ought to go about giving:

### 1. Give Joyfully Out of Your Poverty (1–6)

- The topic of 2 Corinthians 8–9 is money; specifically, “the relief of the saints” (8:4).
- The saints in Jerusalem were in need due to a famine and being ostracized, and Paul used the Macedonians as an example for the Corinthians.
- Paul did not commend the amount that the Macedonians gave, but the heart from which they gave; a joyful and generous heart.

### 2. Give Graciously to Imitate Christ (7–9)

- Grace is mentioned twice in these three verses, and ten times throughout chapters 8 and 9.
- Giving to the Lord and his people is an act of giving grace.
- Though Christ was rich, in his incarnation he became poor, so that we might become rich (v. 9). This is the most gracious gift imaginable.

### 3. Give Proportionally as You’re Able (10–15)

- God’s providence is personal, and the provisions he gives to everyone are unique as well.
- As we give joyfully and graciously, we will also give proportionally.
- When God’s people give proportionally, there is never any lack.

### Questions:

1. What is your attitude towards wealth? What do you value, and what does that reveal about what you think of money?
2. How has God made you rich in Christ?
3. What does it look like for you to give...
  - a. Joyfully?
  - b. Graciously?
  - c. Proportionally?