

Making Room “Giving Encouragement”
2 Corinthians 8:1-9
September 21, 2025

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, 2 for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. 3 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, 4 begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— 5 and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. 6 Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. 7 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.

8 I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Not a command.

“They gave themselves first...”

We can get good and giving

2 Corinthians 8:15

15 As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”

Money is like manna.

Fear. Busy. Debt.

2 Corinthians 8:9

9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Life Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
- Consider watching the “Making Room” testimony video again. What about the testimony resonated with you?
- Why do you think sermons about money often get a negative critique? What makes teaching about generosity challenging? What makes it life giving?
- Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9. What generosity principles are revealed in this passage?
- Can you point to a teaching, Scripture, or experience that has helped you mature in your understanding of generosity?

- Discuss the idea that the Apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians 8:7 that giving is something we can and should get good at. Why is this a Christian trait that isn't often considered?
- Obstacles to being generous are fear, busyness, and debt. Which of these three is your most challenging?
- How does Paul present Jesus to us in 2 Corinthians 8:9 as the expression of generosity? How might the cross influence our thoughts about giving and meeting needs?
- Pray for one another in your Life Group and spend some time asking for God's grace as we make room and pursue what's next at Rivertree.