

WORD

But just as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us--see that you also excel in this grace of giving. 2 CORINTHIANS 8:7

(ALSO READ 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-7.)

WHAT

The Macedonian church set an exemplary example in generosity. What is generosity? Oxford dictionary defines the word as "giving more than what is being asked or needed." Let us look at how the Bible defined and explained generosity.

1 Generosity is a result of God's grace.

¹And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ²Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1,2

A modern quote says, "You cannot give what you do not have." This is true, but it often hinders us from giving in freedom and confidence. It is only when we realize and experience God's generosity will we be able to give in faith (2 Corinthians 8:9). Recall how God generously provided for you in the past. How will this help you change your attitude towards giving?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

2 Generosity is not about our economic condition.

²Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:2-4

The Macedonians showed an impossible response in the natural—rich generosity amidst extreme poverty. Why is that? It is because they knew Who their Source was; they did not look at their limitations but looked to their limitless God! When you are confident of God as your Source, what are you capable to share with others?

.....
.....
.....
.....

3 Generosity is a mark of a believer.

And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:5

The Macedonians belonged to God first before they could become generous. They knew Whom they followed and served. It was not a surprise that they reflected the character of their generous God. Your character reflects how much you follow and obey God. What do people around you see in your life?

.....
.....
.....
.....