

**Stewards of God's Grace Part 4
Excel in the Grace of Giving**

2 Corinthians 8:7 (NIV)
⁷ 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 8:1 (NIV)
¹ And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches.

1. The myth that only people with plenty can give.

2 Corinthians 8:2 (NIV)

² Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.

1. The myth that only people with plenty can give.

• Luke 21:1-4 (NIV)

• ¹ As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. ² He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ³ "I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. ⁴ All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

2. The myth that it is unpleasant to give.

2 Corinthians 8:2 (NIV)

² Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.

2. The myth that it is unpleasant to give.

Acts 20:35 (NIV)

³⁵ ...remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

3. The myth that giving will result in poverty.

Luke 6:38 (NIV)

³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

3. The myth that giving will result in poverty.

John 6:9-12 (NIV)

⁹ "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. ¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over..."

3. The myth that giving will result in poverty.

They gave beyond their ability to give.

2 Corinthians 8:2-4 (NIV)

³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.

3. The myth that giving will result in poverty.

They gave willingly.

They first gave themselves to the Lord.

2 Corinthians 8:5 (NIV)

⁵ 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.

3. The myth that giving will result in poverty.

2 Corinthians 8:8-9 (NIV)

⁸ I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.
