

*Gospel*



**THE GOSPEL AND  
CONCERN FOR THE  
POOR  
Lesson 14**

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# 2 Corinthians 8:7-9

# I. When The Gospel Awakens Concern

**“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. I say this not as a command, but to prove by the**

**earnestness of others that  
your love is also genuine.  
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...The**

**point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God**

**loves a cheerful giver. And  
God is able to make all grace  
abound to you, so that  
having all sufficiency in all  
things at all times, you may  
abound in every good work.”**

**~ 2 Corinthians 8:7-9; 9:6-8**



**The gospel reminds me of  
my spiritual poverty, and  
instills in me a  
connection to the poor,  
desiring to show them the  
same generosity lavished  
on me.**

# **II. Four Reflections On Giving From 2 Corinthians 8-9**

## **II. Four Reflections On Giving From 2 Corinthians 8-9**

- 1. Generosity is a demonstration of grace, not duty.**

**“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.”**

**~ 2 Corinthians 8:7**

**“Churches still receive  
freewill gifts, but they are  
very small. In Bavaria in  
1970 the freewill gifts  
averaged out to about 60  
cents per member per year.”**

~ John Piper  
*Sermon*

2. Generosity is a way we express our joy in the gospel.

**“The point is this:  
whoever sows sparingly  
will also reap sparingly,  
and whoever sows  
bountifully will also reap  
bountifully. Each one  
must give as he has**

**decided in his heart, not  
reluctantly or under  
compulsion, for God  
loves a cheerful giver.”**

**~ 2 Corinthians 9:7**



**“We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, 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. For**

**they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints.”**

**~ 2 Corinthians 8:1-4**

3. Generosity has a promise; the more generous we are, the more God supplies to enable us to be more generous.

**“And God is able to make all  
grace abound to you, so that  
having all sufficiency in all  
things at all times, you may  
abound in every good work.”**

**~ 2 Corinthians 9:8**

**“If God increases our income, he is not putting his stamp of approval on a life of luxury; he is commissioning us to the exhilarating and joyful mission of tremendous and creative generosity.**

**Make as much as you want,  
and give as much as you  
can.”**

~ John Piper  
*Sermon*

4. Generosity proves our  
love is genuine.

**“I say this not as a  
command, but to prove by  
the earnestness of others  
that your love is also  
genuine. 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.”**

**~ 2 Corinthians 8:8-9**

# III. Our Opportunity

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