

**Generosity: Excel in This Act of Grace (Part 1)**  
**2 Corinthians 8:1-9**

**Principle #1: Christian giving is a work of grace (8:1)**

<sup>8</sup> We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia,

**Principle #2: Christian giving involves willing sacrifice (8:2-3)**

<sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord,

**Principle #3: Christian giving is a privilege (8:4)**

<sup>4</sup> begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—

**Principle #4: Christian giving is an act of worship (8:5)**

<sup>5</sup> and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

**Principle #5: Christian giving is part of our basic discipleship (8:6-7)**

<sup>6</sup> Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. <sup>7</sup> 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.

**Principle #6: Christian giving displays genuine love (8:8)**

<sup>8</sup> I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine.

**Principle #7: Christian giving is inspired by the cross (8:9)**

<sup>9</sup> 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.