

## 2 Corinthians 9:7

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7



## 2 Corinthians 8

Giving to completion (Rom 15)

Giving out of nothing (vs 1-4)

Giving from the heart (vs 5-12)

Giving by faith (vs 13-24





**Romans 15:26** 

For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem. They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them.



Thursday, February 21, 13

500 Miles

an Empire, c.E. 117

There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.



Acts 4:34-35

"When the hard times came, the community had no reserves of any kind." ~C.H. Dodd





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## We give to completion

"The smallest gift is greater than the grandest intention that goes unfulfilled."



### We give out of nothing

And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches.

Out of

the most severe trial,

their overflowing joy and

their extreme poverty

welled up in rich generosity.

2 Cor 8:1-2

#### "extreme poverty"

ptocheia (Greek n.):
A beggar who has
absolutely nothing
and has no hope of
getting anything.



We give out of nothing

Severe affliction + Joy + Poverty = Wealth

**God's Math** 

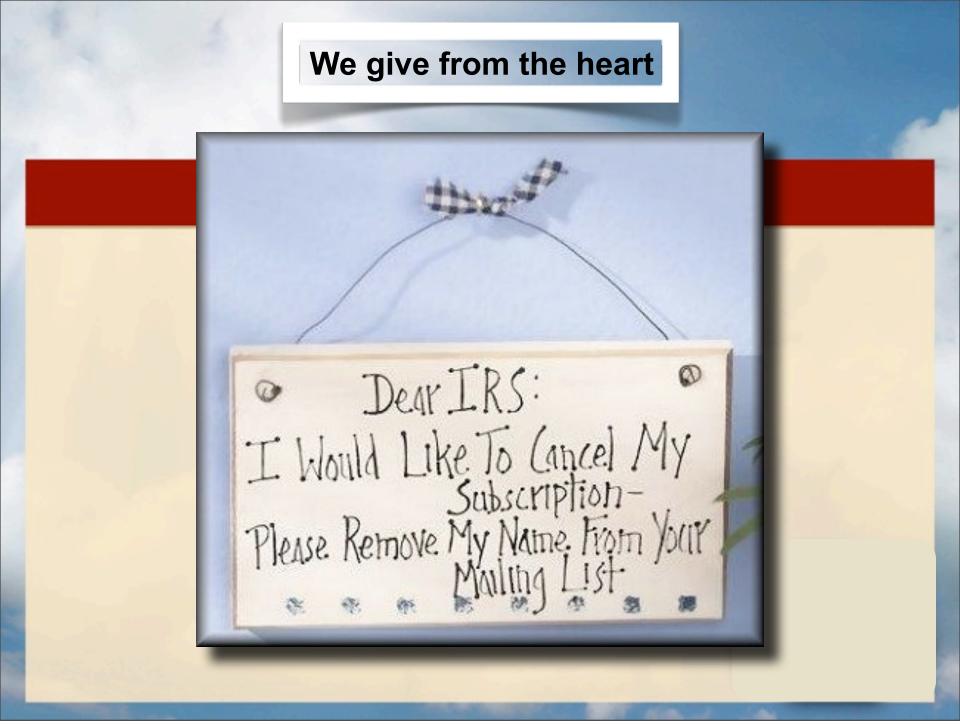


## We give out of nothing

"Are circumstances ever an encouragement to giving?"

~Warren Wiersbe

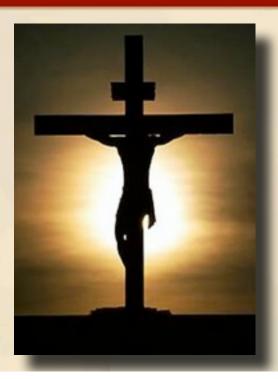




## We give from the heart

#### Became poor





Was obedient to death on the cross

#### We give from the heart

"Giving is a natural and necessary expression of our transformed lives." ~James Montgomery Boice



"...a visible sign of invisible grace."

## We give from the heart

#### How much?

■ be **generous** and willing to share (1 Tim 6:18)

■ so that you can be **generous** on every occasion (2Cor 9:11)

■ let him give **generous**ly (Rom 12:8)

#### We give by faith

#### Trusting that God will provide



"He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little." 2 Cor 8:15

#### We give by faith

#### **Trusting that God will provide**

"God always supplies enough to the whole body of Christ, but it is up to Christians to make sure that the "enough" is adequately distributed."



# Applying the Lesson in Your Life

Write a prayer asking what generous giving looks like in your life.

Do you give...

to completion? out of nothing? from the heart? by faith?

