

Rebuilding *for* God's People

*A Study of Nehemiah
and 2 Corinthians*



Lesson 19



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.



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

We give to completion

Collection for the
church in Jerusalem

Unity of Jews and
Gentiles

Finish what they
started





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”

ptochēia (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



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 **generously** (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?

