

Monday, October 13: Generosity

By Terry Kountz

Reading: 2 Corinthians 8

Paul points to the churches in Macedonia as a model of what generosity looks like. They didn't have much, but they were overflowing with joy and generosity. Even though they were struggling, they wanted to help others and give to God's work. Their giving wasn't about how much money they had—it was about how much they loved Jesus.

When we experience God's grace, it changes how we see what we have. Everything we own (our time, money, talents, and stuff) is a gift from Him. And when we give back, we're showing that we trust God more than we trust our things. Jesus noticed this same kind of heart in the story of the poor widow in Luke 21:1–4. She gave two small coins, which wasn't much to anyone else, but to Jesus it meant everything because she gave out of love and faith.

The truth is, generosity isn't about how much you have—it's about who has your heart. The Macedonians gave because they had already given themselves to God first (2 Corinthians 8:5). When you give your heart to Jesus, giving to others becomes natural and we reflect His love to the world.

Prayer: God, thank You for giving me everything I need and so much more. Help me to have a generous heart like Yours.

Tomorrow's Reading: 2 Corinthians 9

Tuesday, October 14: The Cheerful Giver

Reading: 2 Corinthians 9

“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

Imagine your school is collecting money to help a family in need. Two students give \$10 each.

- The first student says, “Ugh, I guess I *have to* give since everyone else is and I don’t want to look bad.”
- The second student says, “I really want to help! God’s blessed me, and I can bless someone else.”

Both gave the same amount, but only one gave cheerfully. That’s the kind of heart God loves.

In 2 Corinthians 9, Paul talks about the heart behind your giving. He says that each person should give what they’ve decided in their heart; not because they feel pressured or guilty, but because they *want* to. God loves a cheerful giver, not someone who gives to check a box. Giving is all about the attitude behind the gift. When we give with joy, we’re showing that we trust God to take care of us and that we’re thankful for what He’s already given.

Paul reminds us that generosity isn’t only about money. We can give our time, kindness, talents, or help to someone who needs it. Every time we give from the heart, we reflect God’s character; because He’s the most generous of all. Jesus gave everything for us, and when we give freely, we look more like Him.

So, what’s one way you can give cheerfully this week? Maybe it’s helping a friend, serving at church, or giving to someone in need. Whatever it is, give with a smile, because God loves a cheerful giver!

Prayer: God, thank You for being so generous with me. Help me to give cheerfully and trust You to provide everything I need.

Tomorrow’s Reading: 2 Corinthians 12

Wednesday, October 15: Strength in Weakness

Reading: 2 Corinthians 12

Paul knew what it meant to struggle. He had a “thorn in the flesh,” something that constantly reminded him of his weakness. He pleaded with God to take it away. Not once. Not twice. But three times. And what was God’s response? Not removal. Not relief. But revelation: *“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”*

Warren Wiersbe once said, *“God doesn’t always change the circumstances, but He can change us to meet the circumstances.”* That is exactly what Paul experienced. His weakness became the place where God’s strength could shine the brightest. When we stop relying on our own strength and start leaning on God, we find a power that never runs out.

In our world, weakness is often seen as failure. But in God’s kingdom, weakness is an opportunity for His strength to be revealed. Every struggle, disappointment, and limitation can remind us that God’s grace is enough.

Where do you feel weak today? Ask God to meet you there, not necessarily to take the weakness away, but to fill you with His strength and grace in the middle of it.

Prayer: Lord, thank You that Your grace is always enough. When I feel weak, remind me that Your power is made perfect in my weakness. Help me to rely on You instead of my own strength. Use my struggles to show Your glory and draw me closer to You.

Tomorrow’s Reading: Romans 1

Thursday, October 16:

Reading: Romans 1

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.” — Romans 1:16

In Romans 1, Paul boldly declares his confidence in the gospel. He was not ashamed to share it, even though it often brought him rejection and hardship. Paul knew that the gospel was not just good advice or an inspiring message. It was the very power of God that changes hearts and saves lives.

Sometimes it is hard to stand for our faith, especially when others do not understand or when we fear being judged. But Paul’s words remind us that the message of Jesus is nothing to hide. It is the greatest truth the world has ever known. When we live unashamed of our faith, we point others to the hope and freedom found in Christ.

As Warren Wiersbe once said, *“The gospel is not good advice to be obeyed; it is good news to be believed.”* Our role is to trust that message, live it out, and share it with confidence.

Are there moments when you hold back from sharing your faith? Ask God to give you courage to live unashamed of the gospel and to let His power shine through your life.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for the power of the gospel that saves and transforms. Give me boldness to stand for You and to share Your truth with love and confidence.

Tomorrow’s Reading: Romans 4

Friday, October 17: Faith of Abraham

Reading: Romans 4

For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” Romans 4:3

Romans 4 teaches us about a faith that fully trusts in God. Paul explains that Abraham wasn't made right with God because of his deeds, but because he believed in God's promises. His righteousness came from faith, not from anything he accomplished. Abraham stands as an example of what genuine faith looks like. God promised that Abraham would become the father of many nations, even though he and his wife Sarah were far too old to have children. From a human point of view, the promise seemed impossible, yet Abraham chose to trust God completely.

Warren Wiersbe explained it this way: *“Faith is not believing in spite of evidence; it is obeying in spite of consequence.”* Abraham's faith was not passive. His faith was not about understanding how God would keep His promise. It was about trusting that He would. Because Abraham believed, God counted his faith as righteousness.

Paul explains that this story is not only about Abraham but about us as well. Just like Abraham trusted God's promise, we trust in God's greatest promise, Jesus. Jesus gave His life for our sins and rose from the dead so that we could be made right with God. Our faith in what Jesus did for us is what saves us, not anything we do.

Faith means believing even when you do not see how things will work out. It means trusting God's promises when life feels uncertain. When you feel weak, worried, or unsure about the future, remember that God always keeps His word. The same God who kept His promise to Abraham and raised Jesus from the dead is the same God working in your life right now.

Prayer: God, thank You for showing me what true faith looks like through Abraham's story and through Jesus. Help me to trust You completely, even when I cannot see the outcome. Strengthen my faith and remind me that I am made right with You because of what Jesus has done.

Tomorrow's Reading: Weekend is for catch-up and review.

Monday's Reading: Romans 5