

THE GIFT OF POSSESSIONS

2 Corinthians 8-9

November 26, 2023



INSTRUCTIONS:

Use these questions for your own personal study, and/or with your Small Group:

- Begin your discussion with the opening question. Encourage everyone to share, briefly.
- The format for this series will focus on the following three components:
 - **KNOW: What do we need to KNOW about God?** We are to know Jesus, Scripture, and the voice of the Holy Spirit.
 - **BE: Who are we called to BE?** We are to become more like Jesus (character, heart, and motivations)
 - **DO: What should we DO?** Knowing Jesus and becoming more like Him will change our actions.
- **PRAYER FOCUS:** Use the prayer prompt to guide your prayer time at the end. Pray as an individual, group, or consider sub-grouping into smaller men/women groups.

BEFORE YOUR GROUP MEETS:

- Encourage members to review the questions BEFORE group, so that they are prepared to share.
- Choose a few key questions that will bring out the most discussion in your group.

OPENING QUESTION: When was the last time you joyfully gave of your time, money, compassion, or forgiveness? How did you feel afterward?

1. KNOW

- In this week's passage, what do we learn about God's character?
- What does the Scripture say? Is there an encouragement/warning? Is there a conviction or guidance?
- **Read 2 Corinthians 8-9.** Who do the Macedonians give themselves to first and then second? What does Paul call the Macedonians generosity an act of? The Corinthians excel in many things, but there is an area Paul encourages them to excel in, what is it? What hint in vs. 5 do we read that will help us in the ability to excel in giving?

2. BE

- Examine your life: how are you doing with freely receiving God's grace (gift) and how freely are you giving to others?
- How does this passage challenge you to stretch/grow in your generosity?
- **Read 1 Corinthians 16:2.** How intentional are you with freely giving of your possessions? Do you place it at the top of your planning? Where does it fall on your things to do? Does it fall on the list at all?"

3. DO

- Based on what you read and learned this week, what area/areas might God be calling you to stretch/grow in freely giving of the gift of the possessions in your life?
- What is one action step you will take in obedience?

PRAYER FOCUS: In prayer (silently or with your group), Thank God for the amazing gift of grace He has given us through His Son Jesus Christ. When we find ourselves in a scarcity mentality let us run to Jesus as needy, dependent children. He will freely give us what we need, in order that we can freely give to others. For by grace, we have been saved, so let us by grace live by faith freely giving of our gifts: the gift of presence, the gift of pardon and the gift of possessions.