

GUIDELINES FOR GIVING

II Corinthians 8

God's Word encourages thoughtful, voluntary and gracious giving.

Let's see how that happens in II Corinthians 8

1. It should be thoughtful (3, 11)
2. It should be voluntary (3, 10)
3. It should be gracious (6, 7, 19)

I. BE INSPIRED: Sacrificial Givers Encourage Us (1-5)

A. THE APOSTLE'S REPORT (1)

B. THE MACEDONIANS GIVING (2-5)

1. Their Selfless Liberality (2)
2. Their Sacrificial Giving (3)
3. Their Sincere Participation (4)
4. Their Surprising Commitment (5)

II. BE INVOLVED: Giving Encourages Discipleship (6-15)

A. GIVING PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH (6-7)

1. Satisfaction (6)
 - Finishing what you started.
2. Affirmation (7a)
 - Look at the progress you've made!
3. Motivation (7b)
 - Add being a good giver to whatever else you do!

B. GIVING PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LOVE (8-9)

1. The Challenge: Prove the sincerity of your love
2. The Choice: An opportunity not an order
3. The Examples: The Macedonians and Christ

C. GIVING PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCIPLINE (10-12)

1. The Praise (10)
 - You had the right attitude
2. The Priority (11a)
 - Keeping your commitments
3. The Principles (11b-12)
 - a. Give according to your ability
 - b. Give from what you have
 - c. Don't worry about what you don't have

D. GIVING PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MINISTRY (13-15)

1. Clarification (13)
 - The goal in giving is not to shift burdens but rather to share them
2. Motivation (13b-14)
 - a. Equality through mutual aid - cf. Gal. 6:10
 - b. Camaraderie through assistance - cf. Gal. 2:10
3. Cooperation (15)
 - Each one gets what he needs

III. **BE IMPRESSED: Financial Integrity is a Priority** (16-24)

A. THE PERSONNEL (16-19, 22-23)

1. Titus (16-17, 23)
 - His character (16-17) and credentials (23)
2. The Brother (18-19)
 - a. Reputable with the godly (18)
 - b. Representative of the churches (19)
3. Our Brother (22)
 - Proven and excited

B. THE PRECAUTIONS (20-21)

1. Avoiding Accusations (20)
2. Providing for all things honorable (21)

C. THE PROCLAMATION (24)

1. We have done our part
2. Now its up to you to give ... publically and lavishly.

CONCLUSION: God's Word encourages thoughtful, voluntary and gracious giving.

Why you give is more important that what you give.

1. Give because givers inspire you.
2. Give because giving encourages discipleship.
3. Give because you can be assured your gifts are handled properly.