



A New View of Giving:

1. Giving is not a punishment, it's a _____.

- **It's a privilege to have God work through us.**

¹ And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ² In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.

II Corinthians 8:1-2

- **It's a privilege to meet the _____ of the needy.**

³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. II Corinthians 8:3-4

2. Giving is not an obstacle, it's an _____.

- **It's an opportunity for _____.** v. 5-6

⁵ And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. ⁶ So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier

made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. II Corinthians 8:5-6

- **It is an opportunity for _____.** v. 7
⁷ But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. II Corinthians 8:7
- **It is an opportunity to be like _____.** v. 8-9
⁸ I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. II Corinthians 8:8-9

3. Giving is not a burden, it's a _____.

 v. 13

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35

Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality.

II Corinthians 8:13

Next Steps:

- ☐ Ask God to give you a heart for the two billion people who have not heard the Good News of Jesus.
- ☐ Bring a friend next Sunday, December 8, for the new series, THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS, and to celebrate VICTORY SUNDAY for "Stepping Into the Future."
- ☐ Pray about your opportunity to bring your over and above World Mission Offering on December 8.