

## Finding Joy through Generosity

October 2, 2016

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

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

**1. Generosity springs from having more joy, not having more money.**

<sup>3</sup> For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own.

**2. When you give, it not only enriches the receiver, it enriches you.**

<sup>4</sup> They urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to Lord's people. <sup>5</sup> And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

**3. When we practice generosity we are following the heart of our gracious God.**

<sup>8</sup> I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others.

**4. To excel in giving is to take the next step in practicing generosity.**

<sup>9</sup> 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.