




Blessed
TO BE A BLESSING.

"...all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."
(Gen 12:3b, NIV)

福杯满溢





福

ネ God, 神

言 One Mouth, 一口

田 Farm, Garden, 田



Grace for
Good Works
Blessing
in Action

**BLESS
As You Have Been
BLESSED**



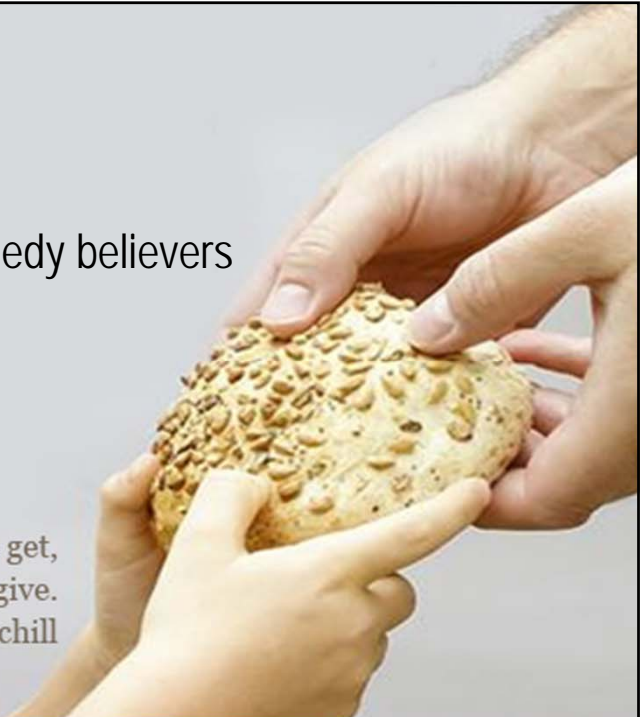
WEST PALM
BEACH, Florida

BACKGROUND

2 Corinthians 8 & 9

Focus : On Offering taken up for needy believers
in Judea.

We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give.
- Winston Churchill



2 Examples:

A. Macedonian Churches

We want you to know, brothers, about the **grace** of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia,

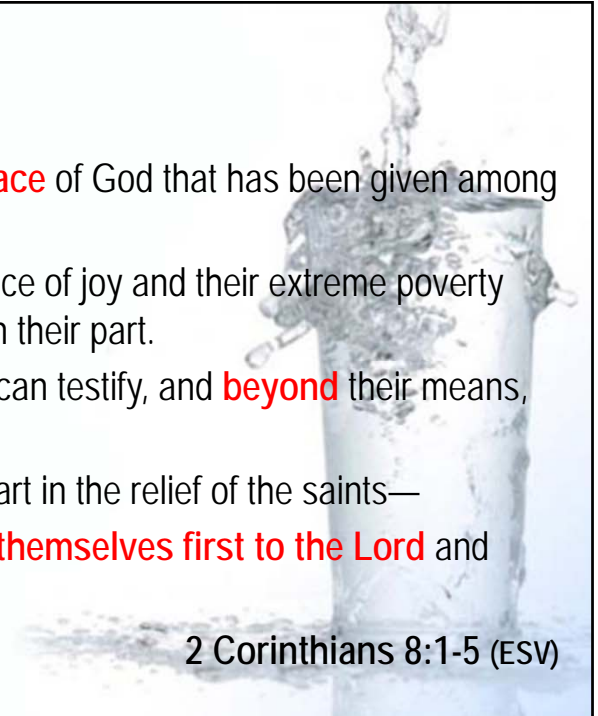
for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have **overflowed** in a wealth of generosity on their part.

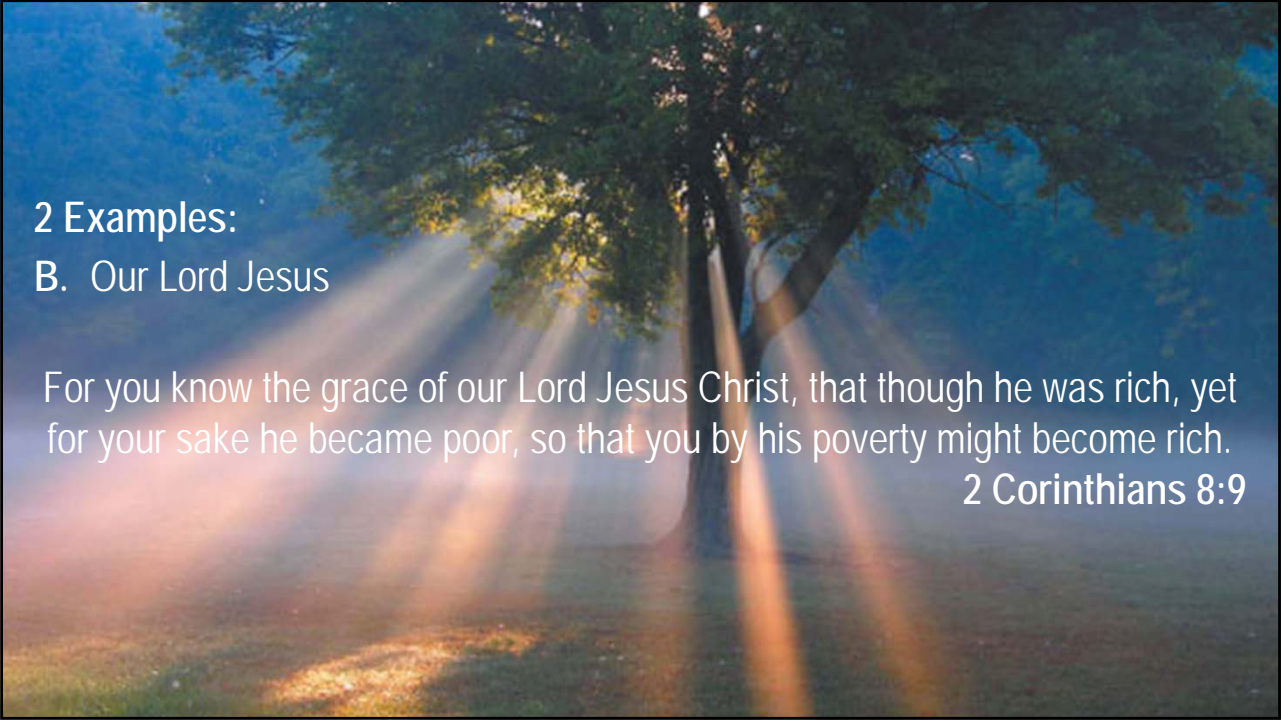
For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and **beyond** their means, of their own accord,

begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—

and this, not as we expected, but **they gave themselves first to the Lord** and then by **the will of God to us**.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5 (ESV)



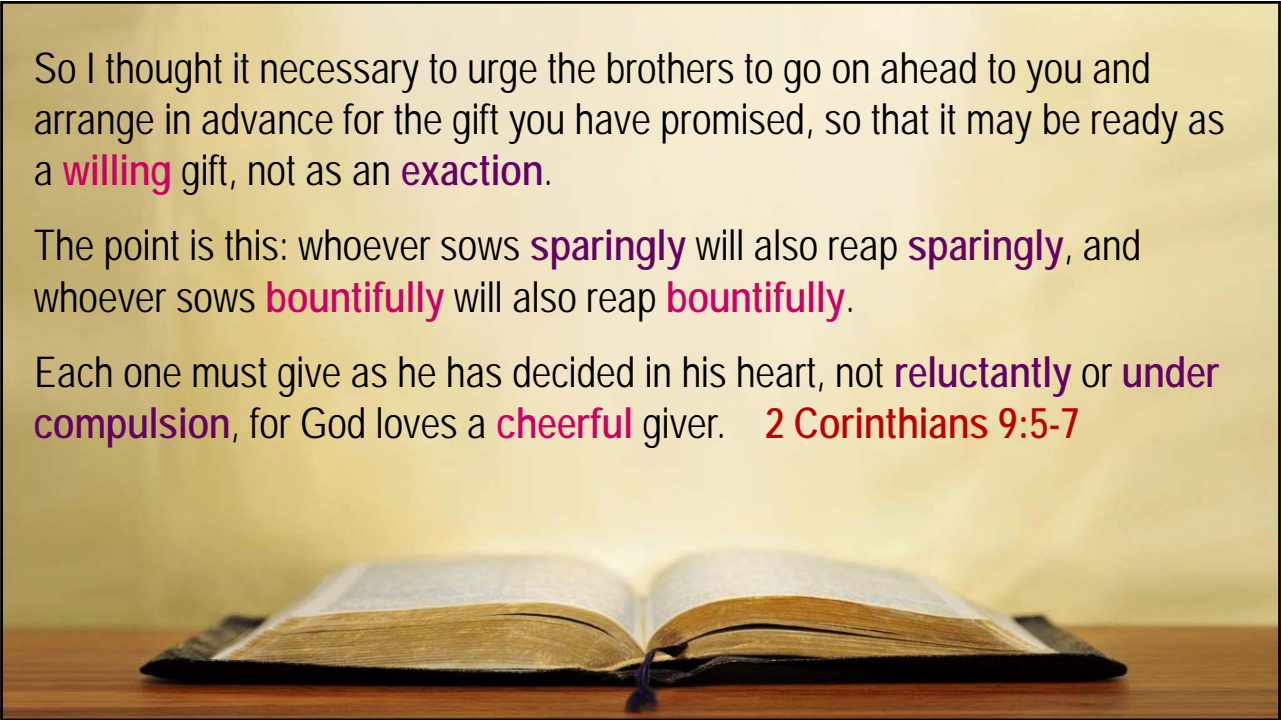


2 Examples:

B. Our Lord Jesus

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 by his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9



So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a **willing** gift, not as an **exaction**.

The point is this: whoever sows **sparingly** will also reap **sparingly**, and whoever sows **bountifully** will also reap **bountifully**.

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not **reluctantly** or **under compulsion**, for God loves a **cheerful** giver. **2 Corinthians 9:5-7**

Two Types Of Giving

CONTRASTS

EXACTION

SPARINGLY

RELUCTANTLY (UNDER COMPULSION)

WILLING

BOUNTIFULLY

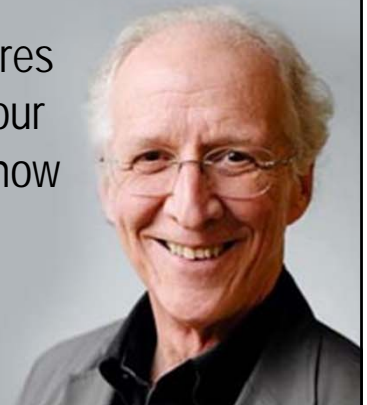
CHEERFULLY

How NOT to give:

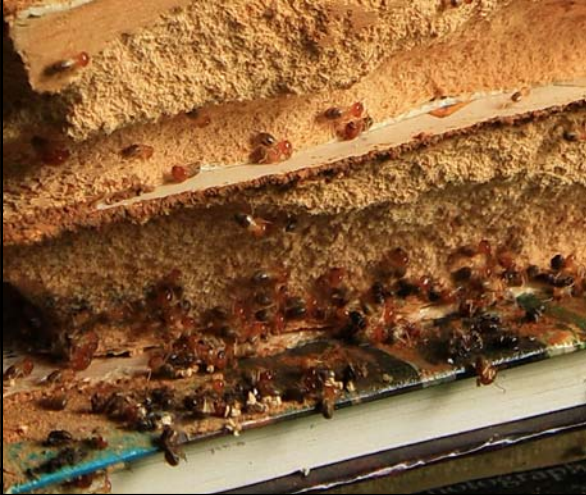
Essence of Bad Giving: comes from a heart that wants to **HOLD BACK**

"There are enough external constraints and pressures to make us give something. But the real feeling of our heart is not to think of how much we can give, but how much we can keep."

-- John Piper



Story:



What we give away, we keep.
What we hoard , we lose.
- *Larry Pennings*

**BLESS
As You Have Been
BLESSED**

How to give:

'Give on the basis of blessing. Our giving should rest upon the great truth that God is a bountifully blessing God, and then our gift in turn should be a bountiful blessing to others.' – JP

Story: Aunty S &
Jeff & Donna Romack



Two Different Types Of Hearts

Two Different Types Of Hearts	
Sees God as Taker	Sees God as Giver/Supplier
God is demanding	God is NOT demanding
When this person looks at God, he feels drained	He feels replenished, not drained
And depleted	



The **BIGGEST** issue
of our lives -
HOW WE SEE GOD

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. **2 Corinthians 9:8-10**

Verse 6	Verse 9	Verse 10
Uses an Imagery:	Uses an Illustration:	Connects v9 back to God
SOWING SEEDS BOUNTIFULLY	A PERSON WHO SOWS BOUNTIFULLY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is the One who gives seed for scattering. • God is the Giver so that we can give.
v6 sowing of seed and v9 distributing freely (scattering of seed)		➤ He is the One who will increase your harvest of righteousness
Free and Generous giving of help to meet the needs of the people.		➤ Harvest of Righteousness is the result of generous sowing



By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others,



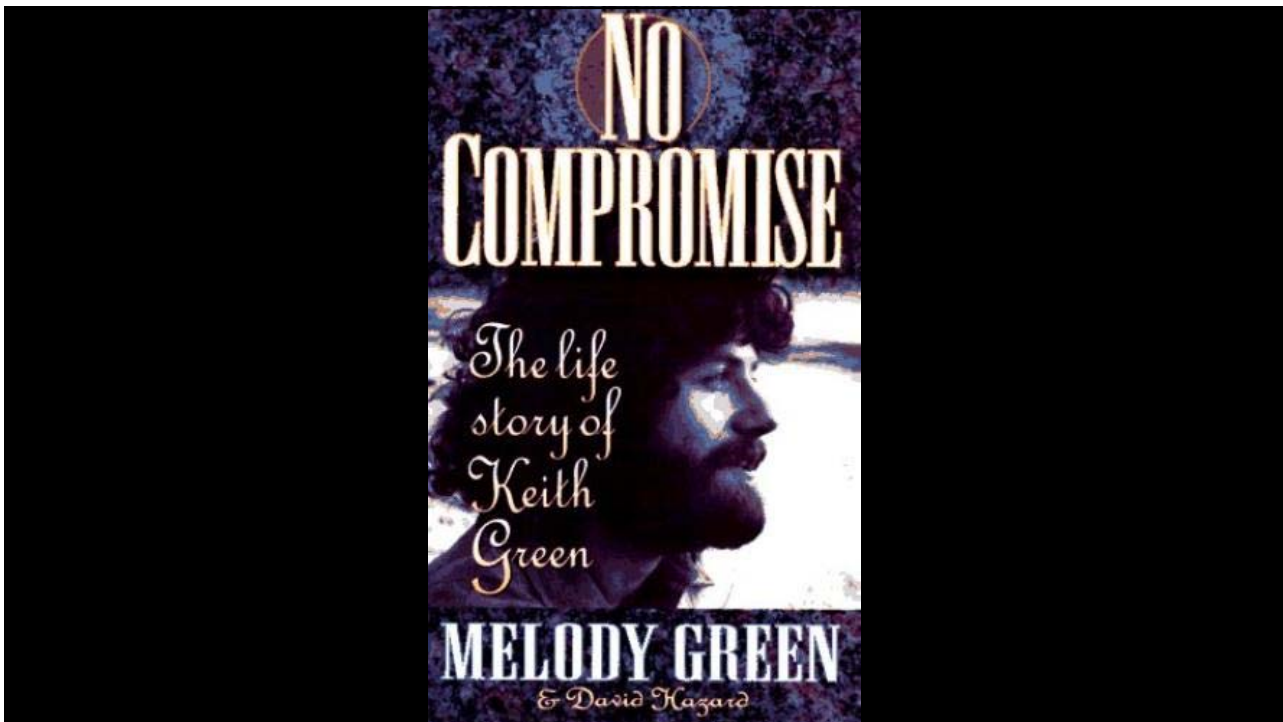
while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you.

2 Corinthians 9:13-14

The result of seeing God as the absolute **GIVER**, as the One that gives us the harvest of righteousness:

- ❖ Greater willingness to be generous/be a blessing v11
- ❖ Thanksgiving to **GOD** v11,12 - **GOD** gets the **GLORY**
- ❖ Joy in seeing God meet the needs of others.
- ❖ Love shared among those who give and those who receive.





GO TO THE HUNGRY ONES

BY KEITH GREEN

Go to the hungry ones and fill them with His bread
 They'll leave their darkness as you shine the light he shed
 Point to His promises, believe in what He said
 And His joy will be manifest in you
 And the lost will be found as He works through you



GO TO THE HUNGRY ONES

BY KEITH GREEN

Is your house open to let strangers enter there
Give to the least of them, show them someone cares,
And you maybe entertaining angels unaware,
And His joy may be manifest to you
And the lost may be found as he works through you



Conclusion

Video - Ripples

