

First to the Lord

Lesson One • 2Corinthians 8:1-9

Going Generous

The Goal of "First to the Lord" Sermon Series:

To GROW (abound or excel) in the grace of giving; to go GENEROUS as a lifestyle!

But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also. 2Corinthians 8:7

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." ~Jesus, Acts 20:35

Five Principles for Going Generous:

1. Going Generous Is Rooted in the GRACE of God!

Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: 2Corinthians 8:1

2. Going Generous Is Motivated by Personal EXAMPLE!

That in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 2Corinthians 8:2-4

The Generosity of the Macedonian Churches Teaches Us:

- Giving is not necessarily related to INCOME: they were financially destitute.
- Giving is not necessarily related to CIRCUMSTANCES: they were physically afflicted.
- Giving is essentially related to the HEART: they freely gave with joyful generosity.

3. Going Generous Is Linked to Giving MYSELF First to the Lord!

And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God. 2Corinthians 8:5

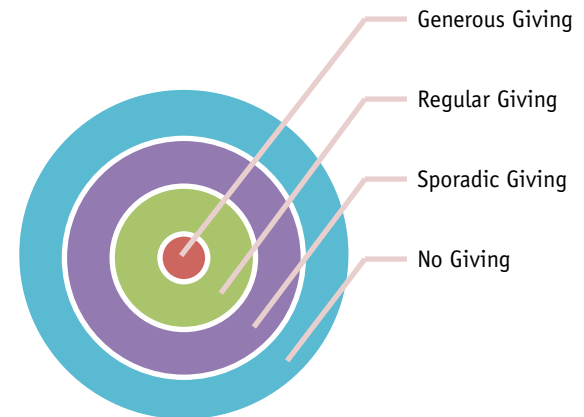
4. Going Generous Is Evidence of Spiritual GROWTH!

So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well. But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also. 2Corinthians 8:6-7

5. Going Generous Is a Response to the GOSPEL of Christ!

I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. 2Corinthians 8:8-9

Where Are You When It Comes to Going Generous?



Go Generous!

- IDENTIFY where you are in going generous.
- ASK God, "Is this where You want me to be in 2013?"
- MOVE at least one circle toward generous giving.