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21 Principles of Giving from 2 Corinthians 8–9

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1. The Macedonians are held up as an example or model of giving. *When we see others give, it encourages us to give* (8:1).
2. Paul didn't have to request their giving. It was their idea to give. *Being able to give, even in deep poverty—even beyond our own ability—is a result of the grace (favor) of God* (8:2-3).
3. They gave in support of the saints. *Giving to support/help other believers is a privilege, a grace, a fellowship with other believers* (8:4).
4. The givers begged for the favor of that participation. *If you are helped spiritually by someone, you have a debt to them, to help them in some way* (8:4).
5. They first gave themselves to the Lord. *Giving is the result of sanctification, a result of giving yourself and your desires to God* (8:5).
6. Paul is calling them to the action of giving. *You should also be growing in giving. Give some thought, prayer, and Bible study to this subject* (8:6-7).
7. Paul could have commanded them, yet he appealed to them instead. *What you give is what you decide to do. To not give is not optional. But what you give is optional* (8:8).
8. Paul uses Jesus as an example. He was rich in heaven, but He became poor for your sake. *Jesus is not asking you to do something which He has never done. He gave up everything for you* (8:9).
9. They desired to do it, now it was time to actually do it. *Desiring to give is good. But you need to actually do it* (8:10-11).
10. Paul is not expecting them to give as sacrificially as the Macedonians. *Look at what you have, and give out of that. It is even greater to give out of poverty, but we are not in that situation* (yet).
11. Giving is essential to Christianity. *Giving keeps the needy dependent on God to meet their needs. It keeps those with abundance humble, being used by God to meet the needs of others* (8:13-14).
12. Provision and need ought to be matched. *The mistake is thinking that what you have, you earned or you deserve. NO. What you have is a gift from God. It's a stewardship* (8:15).
13. You need to check out who you give to. *Those you support should be responsible, honest, full of integrity in the handling of money, and should actually be doing ministry* (8:16-24).
14. Paul said the Corinthians needed to step up with their giving. *Not to sound too obvious, but agreeing to give, planning to give, pledging to give, are not the same as actually giving* (9:1-2).
15. The reason they could end up not giving is because they covet the money for themselves. *Here's a question to ask: Is my gift being affected by my own covetousness?* (9:3-5).
16. Paul said God gives to believers who give. *The reaping from your giving will correspond to the proportions and spirit of the giving* (9:6).
17. I should not judge what you give, and you should not judge what I give. *Giving is an individual decision. Your giving should be done with thought and design* (9:7).
18. God loves a cheerful giver. *Don't give by accident or hastily at a given moment. You may regret it later—or after some thought, would have given more* (9:7).
19. The One who supplies what is needed is God alone. *God supplies the seed and the bread, and God alone enlarges the harvest that results from righteous, generous giving* (9:8-9).
20. Paul said their giving can multiply and increase. *You may enjoy what you sow now or some day, it will sprout and bear a harvest of fruit motivating you to become more generous* (9:10-11).
21. Their giving is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God. *Giving to other believers in need produces much thanksgiving to God who provided for their need* (9:12).