

# EXCEL IN THE GRACE OF GIVING

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## **2 CORINTHIANS 8 & 9**

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HIGHLANDS SYMPOSIUM – ADDIS ABABA

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# BACKGROUND

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Jerusalem, Macedonia, Corinth

*“Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.” 8:2*

*“They gave themselves first to the Lord....” 8:5*

*“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.” 8:9*

# PRINCIPLES OF GIVING

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- *“If the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.” 8:12*
- *“...Give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion...” 9:7*
- *“...finish the arrangements ...so that it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given.” 9:5*
- *“Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” 9:6*
- *“God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need you will abound in every good work.” 9:8*

# RESULTS OF GIVING

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- *“The service that you perform is ... supplying the needs of God’s people....” 9:12*
- *“The service...is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.” 9:12*
- *“Men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ....” 9:13*
- *“Your eagerness to help (give)...has stirred others to action. 9:2-3*
- *“God will continue to meet your needs so that you can be generous to others in need.” 9:11*

# STEWARDSHIP OF GIVING

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- *“...we administer (the offering) in order to honor the Lord and to show our eagerness to help.” 8:19*
- *“We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift.” 8:20*
- *“We are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men.” 8:21*
- *“...through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” 8:11*

# THE FLOW OF GIVING

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- Begins with “*the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ*” 8:9
- Provides for those in need 8:4, 8:14-15, 9:12
- “*In their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.*” 9:14

**“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”**

**2 Corinthians 9:15**

