



## Giving the Greatest Gift

### II Corinthians 8:5

Teaching about God's gifts –

- ❖ Building on a **foundation** vs.
  - Building on **sand**

Today:

- ❖ **Foundation** and
  - **Practical Application**

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- ❖ What is God's Greatest Gift?
  - **Himself**
- ❖ What do we **do** with gifts from God?
  - **Give them** – like He does

To who?

- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup>, to **Him**
- ❖ Then, to **those He gives them to**

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**II Corinthians 8:1-5**, “And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most **severe trial**, their overflowing **joy** and their extreme **poverty** welled up in rich **generosity**. For I testify that they

*gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for **the privilege of sharing** in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but **they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.**” (Emphasis mine)*

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*This was the **foundation** laid for them **from the start***

**Acts 2:42-47**, “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now **all who believed were together, and had all things in common**, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing

*daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*"

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**II Cor. 8 was *nothing new***

- ❖ **God's 1<sup>st</sup> gift *Of Himself?***
    - *Community (I John 1:3)*
  - ❖ **His 1<sup>st</sup> gift *Through Them?***
    - *Community*
  - ❖ **Their 1<sup>st</sup> gift *Back to Him?***
    - *Community*
  - ❖ **Their 1<sup>st</sup> gift *To Their Community?***
    - *Community*
- .....

*January 10, 2010 –*

***“Lord of Past, Present & Future”***

- ❖ *What we have already –*
    - ***We thank Him for***
  - ❖ *Our present circumstance –*
    - ***We give to Him***
  - ❖ *Our future –*
    - ***We ask Him for***
- .....

***Two sides to every coin:***

- ❖ ***“In God We Trust”***
- ❖ ***“Out of Many, One”***
- ❖ ***Both different – Both true***
- ❖ ***Our 2009 testimony – True and excellent***

- *Including some uncommon provision*

- ❖ ***Our present circumstance –***
    - *Different and also true*
  - ❖ ***Our provision for 2010 –***
    - *We're asking Him*
- .....

- ❖ ***God's Truth Applied –***
- ❖ ***In Acts, Corinthians and Today:***
- ❖ ***God's provision for His church***
- ❖ ***Is present in His people***

***II Corinthians 9:6-10***, “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided ***in his heart*** to give, ***not reluctantly or under compulsion***, for God loves a cheerful giver. And 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. As it is written: “He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.”

- ❖ This also is not new

***Proverbs 3:9-10***, “Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your

*barns will be filled with plenty, And  
your vats will overflow with new wine.”*

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- ❖ No 2010 budget presentation today
- ❖ Elders & Deacons are in prayer
- ❖ Please ask Him to provide according to His will