



TITLE | This Act of Grace
SERIES | Beyond Our Strength
TEXT | 2 Corinthians 8:1-15
BY | Bob Kerrey
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SERMON NOTES

2 Corinthians 8:1 We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, **2** 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. **3** For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, **4** begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—**5** and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. **6** Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. **7** But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. **8** I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. **9** 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. **10** And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. **11** So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. **12** For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. **13** For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness **14** your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. **15** As it is written, "Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack." *ESV*

BIG IDEA:

Text questions during the sermon: 623-850-8809

2 Corinthians 8:7 But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. *ESV*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15. The central command comes in verse 7: "excel in this act of grace." What is "this act of grace?"

Tuesday:

Reread 2 Corinthians 8:1-5. In what ways are the Macedonian believers an example of the act of grace Paul has in mind?

Wednesday:

Read 2 Corinthians 8:9. How has the Lord Jesus Christ filled believers with his generosity? How was he rich? How did he become poor? How are we made rich?

Thursday:

In 2 Corinthians 8:12, what does it mean to give "according to what a person has"? According to 2 Corinthians 8:13-14, how does fairness come into play in generosity?

Friday:

Read 2 Corinthians 8:15 and Exodus 16:15-20. What is it about the Lord's provision of manna and the hoarding of the Israelites that relates to giving generously?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, thank you for filling me with your generosity. Help me to allow it to joyfully overflow to those who need it. Amen.