

Although we may not like it, money affects almost every area of our life. Having enough money can provide a level of comfort and security but comes with the challenge of complacency and callousness. Not having enough money may cause stress and tension, but it can also create empathy and generosity. In this week's message, we talked about how financial trials can create joy that overflows in generosity. God wants to see if our faith is real in a tangible way. Our goal is to experience heart transformation so we can excel in the grace of giving like Jesus.

### What Do You Think?

- Why do you think financial stress has such a huge impact on people?
- Have you ever been through a difficult time financially? How did it affect you and your family?

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“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.” 2 Corinthians 8:2 (ESV)

### What Does God Say?

- **Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 and James 1:2-3.** What is it about financial difficulty that creates a spirit of generosity in people? What else in these verses grabs your attention?
- **Read 2 Corinthians 8:6-7.** Twice this passage says that giving is an “act of grace.” What does this mean, how do we do it, and how do we excel at it?

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“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.” 2 Corinthians 8:9 (ESV)

- **Read 2 Corinthians 8:8-9.** Jesus' life is the example a Christian follows. He was a giver. Discuss what Jesus gave up, how He did it, and why He would make these sacrifices. How does that shape the way we give?

## **What Will You Do?**

- What about your mentality needs to change for you to embrace joyful generosity? Do you need to accept God's challenge and test Him by giving?
- What are some financial changes you can make to better position yourself for generosity?
- As we prepare for the 1-year anniversary of REACH, discuss how you see the Cove being generous. Pray for the sacrificial efforts the church is making to spread the hope of Jesus.