



Power in weakness

2 CORINTHIANS

Power in weakness
brings generosity.




2 Corinthians 8:1-15:


We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, 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.

For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. ...


Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. 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. ...




I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. 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. ...



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. 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. ...



For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, ...



so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. As it is written, "Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack."

- 2 Corinthians 8:1-15



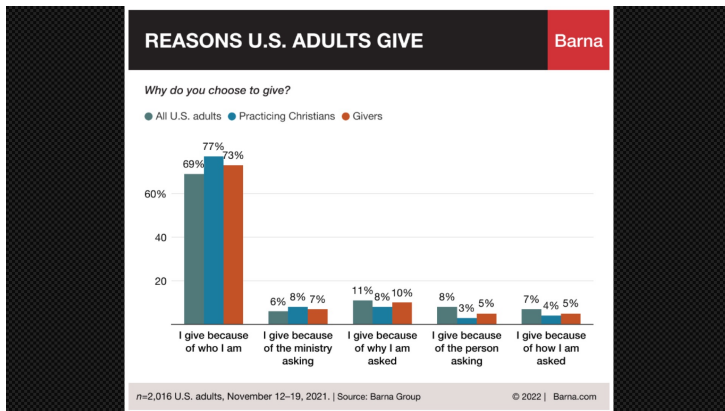
Engaging Generosity

1. The different ways we engage (to everyone)
2. Addressing Christian friends on generosity



The different ways we engage:

a. Guilt



Verses 1-5: We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, 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.

For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, **of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints**— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.


How are you engaging generosity?

- a. Guilt
- b. Fear

Fear:

- Scarcity mindset
- Idols of security/control, approval, status...

Verse 5: ...and this, not as we expected, **but they gave themselves first to the Lord** and then by the will of God to us.




Philippians 4:19: And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.



How are you engaging generosity?

- a. Guilt
- b. Fear
- c. **Legit reasons to not be generous**




Verse 1-2: We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, 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.



Paul is not heavy handed...

Verse 8: I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine.



Paul's principle of "gospel fairness":

Verses 13-14: For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness.



How are you engaging generosity?

- a. Guilt
- b. Fear
- c. Legit reasons to not be generous
- d. **Groaning**

According to Barna, Christian philanthropy accounted for 70% of all American philanthropy in 2022 at \$300 billion total. Christians also out-gave the US Government in addressing global poverty.

Engaging Generosity

1. The different ways we engage (to everyone)

2. Addressing Christian friends on generosity

Addressing Christian friends on generosity:

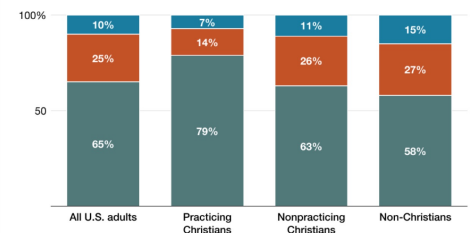
a) **This is discipleship.**

U.S. ADULTS ON LEARNING ABOUT GENEROSITY

Barna

In your life, has anyone taught you what it means to be a generous person?

● Yes ● No ● Not sure



n=2,016 U.S. adults, November 12-19, 2021. | Source: Barna Group

© 2022 | Barna.com

Verse 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.**

Martin Luther: *“There are three conversions necessary: the conversion of the heart, mind, and the purse.”*

Addressing Christian friends on generosity:

a) This is discipleship.

b) Follow through

Verse 6: Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace.

Verse 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.

Addressing Christian friends on generosity.

a) This is discipleship.

b) Follow through

c) Jesus

Verse 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.

Power in weakness brings generosity.



*Becoming a Generous Gospel Community
(Liturgy from Church of the City, NY)*

*Holy Father,
There is nothing I have that You have not
given me. All I have and am belong to
you, bought with the blood of Jesus. To
spend everything on myself, and to give
without sacrifice, is the way of the world
that You cannot abide.*

*But generosity is the way of those who call
Christ their Lord; who love him with free
hearts and serve with him renewed minds;
who withstand the delusion of riches that
choke the word: whose hearts are in your
kingdom and not in the systems of the
world.*

*(In the gospel) I am determined to increase
in generosity until it can be said that there
is no needy person among us. (In the
gospel) I am determined to be trustworthy
with such a little thing as money that
You may trust me with true riches.*

*Above all, (by your grace) I am
determined to be generous because, You,
Father, are generous. It is the delight of
your daughters and sons to share your
traits, and to show what you are like to all
the world. Amen.*

