



ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Studies in 2 Corinthians

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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Above and Beyond 2 Corinthians 8-9



**Authentic Christianity
is fleshed out in our
personal experiences**

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for God’s mission

Employees who go “above and beyond” the call of duty, instead of simply doing what’s required, add untold value to a company by doing more than is expected. This is the kind of giving that this week’s study describes. Paul first encouraged the Corinthians to such “above and beyond” giving by offering two examples of this in real life. The first one was that of the Macedonian churches, who begged for the privilege of participating in an offering for the poor saints at Jerusalem. This was amazing since they had deep poverty and great affliction themselves; but it gave them great joy to be so generous. Also, as they gave beyond their ability, they gave themselves to the Lord first. Paul’s second example of beyond giving was Jesus Himself; He was rich in heaven, but be-

came poor so that we might become rich in Him. Paul thus urged the Corinthians, who had so much, to follow these examples, and let them know that he was sending Titus to help them complete their commitment. Paul then advised them on the expression of beyond giving. It takes more than good intentions; to make a difference actual giving must occur. He stated the principle that if the readiness to give is there, then whatever one has to give is fine; God is concerned with the heart. In addition, such giving allows all to share equally in God’s blessings. Paul’s practical expression of this was to send Titus and others to pick up their offering, which would provide proof of the Corinthians’ love for their poor brothers. He wanted them to have it ready so there would-

n’t be any pressure when they arrived. Finally, Paul gave an explanation of beyond giving. First, it is to first be generous and this will lead to an abundant harvest. Also, each individual is to give as they have been led personally, without grumbling, and they are to do it voluntarily, not under duress. In fact it is to be a cheerful gift, because God loves such giving. When we give this way God promises to bless, not only financially, so we can give this way again, but also spiritually, and this will lead to thanks to God. Ultimately, this giving is a response to His indescribable gift of grace. This is “above and beyond” giving.

Study Questions for 2 Corinthians 8-9

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study%20questions))

1. Read II Cor 8:1-5. What did Paul make known about the Macedonian churches (v1)? Describe the various aspects of how they gave (v2, 3, 4, 5).	
2. From 8:6-8 what did Paul urge Titus to do regarding the Corinthians (v6) and what was his approach (v7-8)? What did he say good about them (v7) and what did instruct them to do (v7)?	
3. In 8:9 who was Paul’s 2nd example of “above and beyond” giving? Describe Jesus in heaven, and on earth, and why He made this sacrifice. What is our “before and after” condition because of this?	

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2 Corinthians 8-9 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

<p>4. According to 8:10-15 what did the Corinthians need to do (v10-11)? What principle is given in v12 and to what result will this lead (v13-15)?</p>	
<p>5. Based on 8:16-21 who was like-minded with Paul (v16). Who went with Titus to fulfill his mission (v17, 18-19)? Why was this important (v19, 20-21)?</p>	
<p>6. In 8:22-24 who else went with the team and what was he like (v22)? How did Paul describe Titus (v23) and the others (v24-25)? What did he urge the church to do (v25)?</p>	
<p>7. From 9:1-5 how did Paul build up Achaia (Corinth) (v1-2) and what was the effect (v2)? What precaution did he take (v3) and why (v4-5)? Explain.</p>	
<p>8. Using 9:6-7 identify five elements of giving “above and beyond”. What promise is given in 9:6 and what declaration is made in 9:7? How does your giving match up to this?</p>	
<p>9. Continuing in 9:8-11 what further promises are given (v8, 10, 11)? What is the primary emphasis of how God gives back to us (v10) and who does this reflect (v9)? What will result from such giving (v11)?</p>	
<p>10. Looking at 9:12-15 what was the twofold result of their giving (v12) and what did this “prove” (v13)? To what would this lead (v13, 14) and how did this affect Paul (v15)? What “gift” is Paul referencing in v15?</p>	
<p>11 Review 2 Cor 8-9. What do the 2 examples of beyond giving (8:1-5, 9) teach us? What is important about the expression of this giving (8:11-15) and how would you explain what beyond giving should look like (9:6-11)?</p>	

Scripture to Remember

“Each one must do as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NASB)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing



Life Group Questions—*What Must I Do? (Not a Fan, Week 3)*
(Using questions from Sunday’s sermon, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship, helping us to grow in Christ.)

1. Open with several sharing about when they feel most closely connected to Jesus. What difference does that make in your daily life?
2. Reflect on the video. Why does Darren hold onto his “map” when Eric, who gave it to him, basically tears his up? Also, what do you make of the symbolism of Darren tossing his heart back in the box and then eventually passing it on to Kyle?
3. Read Matt 19:16-30. Why was the young man sad, and why were the disciples surprised at Jesus’ statement? In what ways is v.29 true?
4. Discuss what it means, “The problem wasn’t that he had money, but that his money had him.” Has anything ever “had” you? What was that like?
5. Talk about the last time that your relationship with Jesus “cost” you something. Why did you do it and what were the results?
6. Share with the group something that you believe Jesus might be telling you to give up for Him right now?
7. Close in prayer with each person silently asking God to remove that one thing that might be holding them back from a full commitment to Jesus.