THE GRACE OF GIVING

2 Corinthians 8-9
8:24 So give proof before the churches of your love and of our boasting about you to these men.

9:1 Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints, 2 for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year. And your zeal has stirred up most of them.
3 But I am sending the brothers so that our boasting about you may not prove empty in this matter, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be. 4 Otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—for being so confident. 5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction.
1. GIVING IS AN EVIDENCE OF LOVE

8:24 So give proof before the churches of your love and of our boasting about you to these men.
2. GIVING IS CONTAGIOUS

9:1 Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints, 2 for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year. And your zeal has stirred up most of them.

Heb 10:24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.
3. GIVING IS NOT A GIVEN
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3. **GIVING IS NOT A GIVEN**

- Paul understood human nature and our need for structure.
- He understood the need for systematic giving.
1 Cor 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. 2 On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. 3 And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. 4 If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.
3. GIVING IS NOT A GIVEN

- Paul understood human nature and our need for structure
- He understood the need for systematic giving
- He wanted to avoid embarrassment
- He wanted to avoid a last minute collection
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2 Corinthians 8-9