



The privacy of the purse makes it extremely difficult for Christians to talk about their money. The “fig leaf” has slipped from the private parts and to our wallets. The problem is compounded by hard-sell media evangelists raising funds for their personal empire. However, Paul devotes two whole chapters to the grace of giving, because both he and the Corinthians have a problem in this area.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read and meditate on [2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 8:1-9:15](#). Jot down 1 or 2 new thoughts that seem important. Why are they important?
2. Reflect on your own pattern of giving. When is it hard for you? What positive and negative feelings do you have about people raising money for a Christian cause?
3. In what ways are the Macedonians excellent examples of generosity ([8:1-5](#))?
4. In both chapters Paul refrains from using the word money. Instead he speaks of sharing ([8:4; 9:13](#)), service ([8:4, 18; 9:1, 12-13](#)), offering ([8:19](#)), grace ([8:6-7](#)) and gift ([8:12, 20; 9:5](#)). What insights do these words give us into the nature of giving?
5. Paul never raised money for himself, for his own missionary organization or even for Corinth Community Church. What is the primary goal that governs his appeal for gifts ([8:10-15](#))?
6. What care does Paul take to avoid any suspicion of dishonesty or self-interest as he handles this large gift ([8:16-24](#))?
7. Some people teach that giving money to the Lord's work results in your getting more money yourself. What does Paul say about the personal benefits of giving ([9:6-11](#))?
8. Paul encourages cheerful giving ([v. 7](#)). The word is the root of our English hilarious. It is the exact opposite of calculated giving under compulsion. According to these two chapters, how could you become a more cheerful giver?

### MOVING FORWARD

What difference will this study make in the stewardship of your personal and financial resources? How can you become a more cheerful giver? Pray for the needs of all believers around the world, especially those who suffer persecution, and ask how you can help.

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

[“<sup>7</sup> Each person should do as he has decided in his heart — not reluctantly or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver.”](#)

[2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:7](#)