



# **Comfortable Christianity**

## **Overflowing Joy & Generosity**

### **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**SUNDAY 03 August 2025**

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# COMFORTABLE CHRISTIANITY: Overflowing Joy & Generosity

## **03 August 2025**

### GETTING STARTED

Money and generosity are often sensitive topics, but in 2 Corinthians 8–9, Paul boldly addresses them—not from guilt or pressure, but from grace and joy. Paul reminds the Corinthians of their earlier commitment to give and points to the Macedonian churches (Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea) as an example of kingdom generosity.

Even in extreme poverty, the Macedonians gave beyond their ability—and they did it with overflowing joy. Why? Because they had first given themselves fully to the Lord (8:5).

For them, generosity wasn't a financial decision - it was a spiritual one. This passage isn't just about money. It's about hearts aligned with God's kingdom and trusting that we serve a God who blesses, provides, and works through our generosity.

- Why do you think generosity is such a strong theme in Paul's letters?
- Do you see generosity as a spiritual act of worship or just a financial one?

# INTO THE WORD

Paul writes to the Corinthian church during a time of tension. Although they had promised to give to the church in Jerusalem, they hadn't followed through. Paul encourages them: Finish what you started. Give, not because you have to—but because Christ gave everything for you (8:9).

He makes it clear: this isn't about **equal amounts**, but **equal willingness**. "If the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has" (8:12). God looks at the heart behind the giving.

In chapter 9, Paul unpacks a **kingdom economy**:

"Whoever sows generously will also reap generously... God loves a cheerful giver" (9:6-7).

This is not a formula for wealth, but a call to trust God's provision. He blesses us *so that we can be a blessing*—so that we may "abound in every good work" (9:8).

Paul finishes with a powerful reminder: **Jesus is the ultimate gift**, and our generosity reflects His grace (9:15).

- What does Paul mean by the "grace of giving"?
- How does Jesus' example of becoming poor for our sake challenge your own view of giving?

# GOING DEEPER

These chapters challenge us to examine not just *how much* we give, but *why* we give. Is our giving driven by fear, guilt, or habit? Or is it an overflow of joy, trust, and worship? True kingdom generosity flows from hearts rooted in grace. When we trust that **God is our provider**, we can give freely, joyfully, and generously—knowing He will supply what we need to be a blessing to others.

- Where is your money going—and what does that say about your heart?
- How is God inviting you to grow in your generosity?

## Prayer

Gracious Father, thank You for Your overflowing generosity toward us. You gave us the greatest gift—Your Son, Jesus—who, though rich, became poor so that we might become rich in grace, love, and eternal life. Help us to give as the Macedonians did: not out of abundance, but out of faith, joy, and devotion to You. Teach us to hold our resources loosely and our hearts tightly to You. Lord, shape us into people who don't give reluctantly or under pressure, but cheerfully—trusting in Your provision and led by Your Spirit. May our generosity reflect Your heart and point others to Your kingdom. Reveal to us the things we cling to, and free us to live open-handed lives. Help us to excel in the grace of giving, to sow generously, and to abound in every good work. We surrender our finances, our gifts, and our hearts to You. Use us to bless others and to build Your kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.