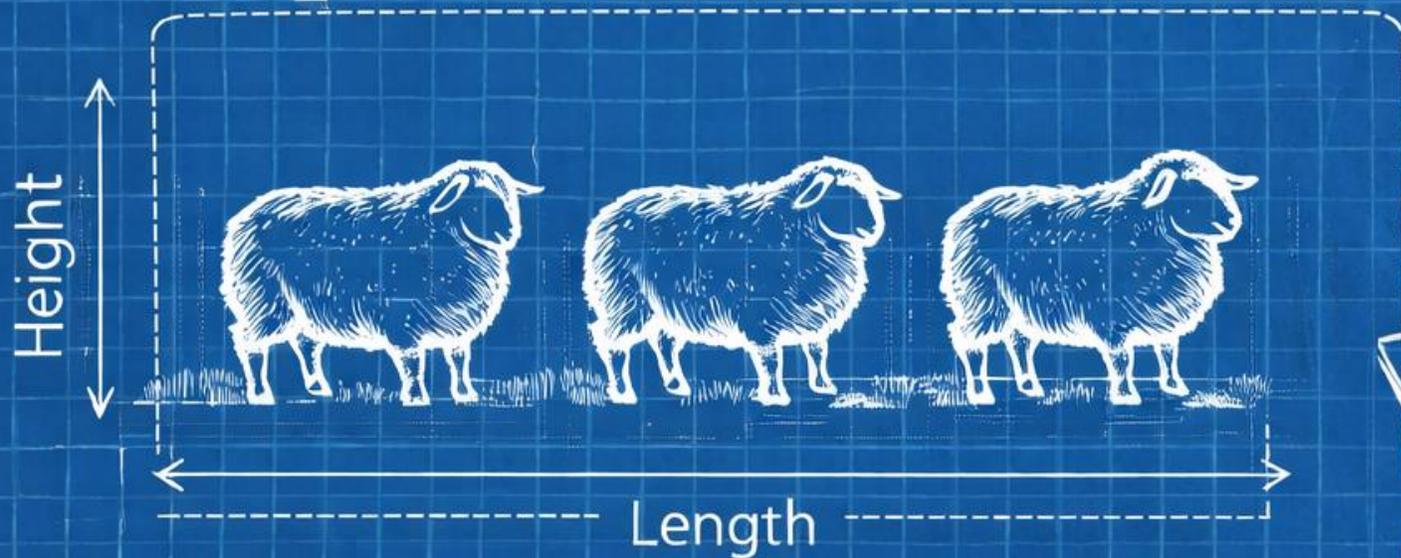


# How's the Herd?



Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. x

Call to the Word / 2Cor 8:1-5

For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were* freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And not *only* as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and *then* to us by the will of God

Call to the Word 2Co 8:1-5

Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, *And* attend to  
your herds; For riches *are* not forever, Nor does a crown  
*endure* to all generations

Call to the Word / Pro 27:23-24

# The State of the Flock

Family Meeting

Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>

12:15PM

Introduction

Money is congealed life –  
your life stored up in a spendable form.

Introduction

**The issue isn't the church wants something from you;  
the real issue is, God wants something for you—  
freedom.**

**Introduction**

When a believer understands grace, he understands giving. Grace reshapes our hearts so giving becomes willing, joyful, proportional, and worshipful—not pressured, not performative—just a grateful response to how God has given to us.

## Introduction

Paul is organizing relief efforts for the believers in Jerusalem.

When Paul takes up this offering, it isn't charity for comfortable people; it's relief for a church that's suffering deeply, coming from believers who were suffering too—just not to the same degree.

Context

GRAYSON MOTT

**Grace produces generosity in hard conditions (8:1–2)**

Their giving wasn't 'giving out of surplus.' And it produced within them something supernatural: joy overflowing even when life is tight.

**If you wait to be generous until life is easy, you'll delay a grace  
God wants to grow in you right now.**

**The secret: they gave themselves first (8:3–5)**

***“God is far more interested in you giving yourself than  
He is giving your money.” (Smith)***

**2Co 8:3-5**

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your* reasonable service.

**When Jesus has *you*, He'll have what's in your hand.**

2Co 8:3-5

**Giving is a grace to grow in, not a law to endure**

“Giving is a spiritual discipline... an act of grace, not a commandment of law.” (Hamrick)

2Co 8:6-8

**A spiritual discipline is a purposeful practice God uses to train us to live with Him and become like Jesus.**

**Giving is mark of maturity.**

**2Co 8:6-8**

**The ultimate motivation: Jesus' generosity**

**Paul is saying: *If you want a standard for giving, look at Jesus.  
The cross is the pattern—grace makes givers.***

**2Co 8:9**

**Be Ready, be Proportional, be Realistic in Giving**

“There’s a time to stop talking and start acting.” (Smith)

2Co 8:10-15

## Shared Burdens

This is the family of God functions like a family: nobody hoards manna; nobody starves.

**Not an endorsement for socialism!**

***“God blesses some so they can supply others — and someday it may reverse.” (Smith)***

2Co 8:10-15

**Grace makes giving intentional, joyful, and God-centered**

**Plan it so it doesn't feel pressured**

**Healthy giving is usually planned discipleship — not a spur-of-the-moment squeeze.**

**2Co 9:1-5**

## **The spiritual law: sowing and reaping**

Paul isn't selling greed. He's describing a kingdom principle: sow small, reap small; sow generously, reap generously.

2Co 9:6-7

- **A deeper experience of God's grace** (God's enabling, not just His favor) — “God is able to make all grace abound...” (2 Cor 9:8)
  - **Provision for needs and stability** so you can keep being generous — “having all sufficiency... may have an abundance for every good work” (2 Cor 9:8; Phil 4:19)
  - **More opportunities to do good** (God entrusts resources to proven stewards) — “He... will increase the fruits of your righteousness” (2 Cor 9:10)

2Co 9:6-7

- **Fruit that “credits” to your account** (eternal, gospel fruit) — “I seek the fruit that abounds to your account” (Phil 4:17)
  - • **Joy and freedom from the grip of greed** — “God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:7; Acts 20:35)
- • **Contentment and a lighter heart** — generosity trains us to trust God (1 Tim 6:6–8, 17–19)

2Co 9:6-7

**Thanksgiving multiplying to God** through your giving — your gift produces worship, not just relief (2 Cor 9:11–13)

- **Stronger bonds of love and prayer** within the body — recipients “long for you and pray for you” (2 Cor 9:14)
- **A clearer witness to the gospel** — giving “adorns” the confession of Christ (2 Cor 9:13; Matt 5:16)
- **Eternal reward** from the Lord who sees in secret (Matt 6:19–21; 1 Cor 3:12–14)

2Co 9:6-7

**V7: “As he has purposed in his heart...”**

**Decided beforehand... “Lord this is what I’m choosing to do  
before You”**

**Intentional... not impulsive**

**2Co 9:6-7**

**V7: “... not grudgingly...”**

**Lit: “not with regret”**

God isn't after your money; He's after your **heart**, and grudging giving reveals a heart that feels forced.

2Co 9:6-7

**V7: “...or of necessity.”**

**Lit: “not under compulsion”**

**Paul is saying: no arm-twisting, no guilt tactics, no spiritualized pressure.**

**2Co 9:6-7**

**V7: “...for God loves a cheerful giver...”**

*“If you can’t give with hilarity, you shouldn’t give.” (Smith)*

*“Giving is as much about what’s in your heart as what’s in your hand.” (Hamrick)*

God doesn’t want your money while your heart is rolling its eyes.

2Co 9:6-7

- **“God is able...”** — This starts with God’s capacity, not yours.
- **“Sufficiency”** means *enough; contentment; not scrambling; not panicking*. It’s the idea of having what you need so you’re not living in fear.
- **“may abound to every good work”** — The goal isn’t luxury; it’s **fruitfulness**. God provides so you can keep doing what He calls you to do—serving, helping, supporting ministry, meeting needs, being generous.

2Co 9:8-11

*“It spreads through radical generosity. Listen, when the church becomes what it ought to be, there is a magnetism and an attractiveness about people's lives in the church that attracts people and radical generosity is a key.”*

*(Keller)*

God doesn't call you to generosity and then abandon you to fear. He supplies *seed* and *bread* — what you sow and what you need.

2Co 9:8-11

**Two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God - for you.**

When we live generous, honest, love-filled lives, we put the beauty of Jesus on display so the message sounds as true as it is.

2Co 9:8-12-15

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2Co 9:8-12-15

*“Everything we give sits downstream from what God has already given — Christ, and all His ‘fringe benefits’ of grace.” (Smith)*

Jhn 3:16; 1Jn 5:11-12

2Co 9:8-12-15

*Giving is an Act of Grace, not a Commandment of  
Law*

*Tithing is Biblical... not commanded, but endorsed*

*Rom 8:32*

*Mt 23:23*

Reflections

*Giving: The return is proportional to the gift.*

*Ps 37:25*

*God is most blessed by the attitude of our heart, not the amount in our hand.*

*Jer 20:12; Pro 21:2*

Reflections

# How's the Herd?

