

Dollars and Sense

Ephesians 3:20-21

*Now to him who is able to do **immeasurably more** than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

Is money a reflection of your walk with God?

My use of money is a direct reflection on my relationship with God!

2 Corinthians 8:1-12

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.

*3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even **beyond their ability**. Entirely on their own, 4 they urgently pleaded with us for **the privilege of sharing** in this service to the Lord's people.*

*5 And they **exceeded our expectations**: They gave themselves **first of all to the Lord**, and then by the will of God **also to us**.*

6 So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part.

*7 But since **you excel in everything**—in **faith**, in **speech**, in **knowledge**, in **complete earnestness** and in the **love** we have kindled in you—**see that you also excel in this grace of giving**.*

Generosity shows discipleship.

*8 I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. 9 For you know the **grace of our Lord Jesus Christ**, that though he was **rich**, yet for your sake he became **poor**, so that you through his **poverty** might become **rich**.*

Generosity is a response to grace.

10 And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so.

*11 Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, **according to your means**.*

*12 For if the **willingness** is there, **the gift is acceptable** according to **what one has**, not according to **what one does not have**.*

Willingness is a matter of the heart.

Means is a matter of reality and budget.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

*7 Each of you should give **what you have decided in your heart to give**, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

Generosity reveals the heart.

2 Corinthians 9:12-15

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

*13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, **others will praise God** for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.*

14 And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. 15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Generosity is always about others.

The Best Way to make Sense of Dollars is to Start with Generosity!