

**The Actual Price Is...****Core Competency***Stewardship*

I Tim 6:17-19

**Core Competencies****Core Beliefs**

- Trinity
- Salvation by Grace
- Authority of Bible
- Personal God
- Identity in Christ
- Church
- Humanity
- Compassion
- Eternity
- **Stewardship**

**Core Practices**

- Worship Prayer
- Bible Study
- Single-Mindedness
- Biblical Community
- Spiritual Gifts
- Giving Away My Time
- Giving Away My Money
- Giving Away My Faith
- Giving Away My Life

**Core Virtues**

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness/Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-Control
- Hope
- Humility

Dear Fellow Good Stewards,

Our study on “**stewardship**” continues! As we think about stewardship, it is important to remember that this is a topic that God is never finished with in our own lives. As we think about how we live our lives and use the resources God has given to us, it’s important to remember that all of what we are and have is a gift from God.

Something happens to our hearts when we live ‘openhandedly.’ Yet, the reality is for many of us is that “it’s easier said than done.” There could be many reasons why someone does not live openhandedly. Maybe we’ve been burned in the past. Maybe it’s a trust issue for the future. Maybe it’s a memory of “not having enough.” I’m not sure what may be holding you back. But one of the best ways to begin is by being in a relationship with others where we can dive into this issue. This is one way to enter a helpful dialog about our concerns with giving away our money. Your Community Group and Home Group are great places to continue the dialog of why you do or don’t live opening your heart and your wallet to God.

For many of us, especially with those we love the most, we have experienced the joy of giving. Many of us have experienced the joy on a child’s face when they give that special homemade card or gift to a parent (even though the parent is wondering what it is or says). The child indeed experiences joy in giving! Maybe we need to return to the heart of our childhood and once again experience the joy of giving from our hearts.

May this week be a special week in which God is given thanks because of how you have opened your heart and your hands.

Learning to Give with You,

*Juno*

## Engaging Our Minds & Hearts

### Day 1

#### This Week’s Passage: 2 Corinthians 8 and 9

As we continue to look at the Core Competency of **Stewardship**, we will look closely at the scripture passage of 2 Corinthians, chapters eight and nine.

Today, as always, begin your time with God’s Word in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to clearly show you the truth contained here and to apply that truth specifically to your minds, your hearts and your actions.

Today read through the entire passage at least three times in different versions. If you have internet capabilities, you can go to [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com), and access a variety of versions. You might try *The Message* for a very current vernacular, *The New King James* for an easy to understand and accurate translation, and or *The Amplified Version* for a very detailed account.

## Day 2

### *Pray first!*

1. On a separate piece of paper make a chart with the following headings: MACEDONIANS, CHRIST, GOD, CORINTHIANS, OTHERS, PRINCIPLES. Throughout this week, you will add to this chart.
2. Read through **2 Corinthians 8 and 9**. Mark in a distinctive way all references to the Macedonian believers, the Lord Jesus Christ, and God.
3. Record on your chart everything you learn about the churches of Macedonia.
4. How is God's grace seen in and through these Macedonian believers?
5. Record on your chart what this passage tells us about the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ as an example to us.
6. As you read through these chapters, what part do you see God playing in this ministry of giving? Record this on your chart.

## Day 3

### Today's Passages:

#### *Pray first!*

Read through **2 Corinthians 8 and 9**. Mark every reference to the Corinthians. Record on your chart everything you see about the believers in Corinth.

## Day 4

#### *Pray first!*

1. Read through **2 Corinthians 8 and 9**. Record on your chart (under Others) everything you see about those who were collecting the gifts, distributing the gifts or receiving the gifts.
2. As good stewards of the money that God supplies us, why would this be an important component in our giving?

## Day 5

#### *Pray first!*

Read through these two chapters again. Record all the principles related to the ministry of giving. When you finish your list, ask God to show you how to begin to apply these truths in your giving. Be ready to respond in obedience!

What is helpful?  
What could be better?  
What is missing?  
Is it helping you be more  
prepared for Sunday?

Send your feedback to  
[engage@gccaz.org](mailto:engage@gccaz.org)

In Chapters 8 and 9 of 2 Corinthians, Paul charges the church in Corinth to give generously. However, he is not asking them to give to some vague cause. In order to understand the situation Paul is talking about, we need to know some background on three geographical areas.

The first is **Judea**. This is the region where Jesus ministered. Judea was a poor region and many believe undergoing a serious famine during the reign of Emperor Claudius (AD 41-54). This was where the oldest churches were located in places like Jerusalem, Damascus and Caesarea comprised of mostly Jewish Christians. But by this time, Paul and other missionaries had brought the gospel to new Gentile regions.

One new region was **Macedonia**. Paul was called in a vision to this region in Acts 16:9 and went to such cities as Lydia and Philippi. The cities in Macedonia were considerably more well off than Judea, yet still, there was quite a bit of poverty (2 Corinthians 8:1-7). Paul had asked the Macedonian churches to contribute to a special offering for the Judean brothers and sisters and they had given in abundance to Paul and his fellow missionaries. In Philippians Chapter 4, we see how Paul commended Philippi for their generous gifts.

Now Paul is writing to the **Corinthians**. Corinth was located in a third region, Achaia. Achaia was also a rather wealthy region like Macedonia. Paul wrote 2 Corinthians in part to prepare the church for the need to give to the Judean churches. Paul was sending Titus ahead of himself to the Corinthians to minister to them and prepare them for the gift (2 Corinthians 8:16-24).

Thus, Chapter 8 and the first part of Chapter 9 give background to the present cause. In Chapter 9 verses 6-15, Paul moves to a motivational speech in which he points out some of the benefits to serving:

- 9:6** Paul uses a common agricultural metaphor to illustrate the principle of giving to God's work.
- 9:7** Paul could assert that God loves a cheerful giver because he was quite familiar with the Old Testament where this is a common theme (Exodus 25:2, 35:5, 21-22 and Deuteronomy 15:10 (cf. 1 Chron 29:6-9; Ezra 2:68)).
- 9:9** Psalm 112:9
- 9:11-13** The primary motivation in giving is not in order to receive a blessing but rather that God may be worshipped and "given thanks."