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Impact: Supporting Your Local Church
Giving in the Tough Times

2 Corinthians 8:1–9 (HCSB)

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God granted to the churches of Macedonia: ² During a severe testing by affliction, their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed into the wealth of their generosity. ³ I testify that, on their own, according to their ability and beyond their ability, ⁴ they begged us insistently for the privilege of sharing in the ministry to the saints, ⁵ and not just as we had hoped. Instead, they gave themselves especially to the Lord, then to us by God’s will. ⁶ So we urged Titus that just as he had begun, so he should also complete this grace to you. ⁷ Now as you excel in everything - faith, speech, knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love for us - excel also in this grace. ⁸ I am not saying this as a command. Rather, by means of the diligence of others, I am testing the genuineness of your love. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ: Though He was rich, for your sake He became poor, so that by His poverty you might become rich.

1. DIFFICULT TIMES OPEN THE DOOR TO _____ vv 1-2

- Tough times did not deter the church from giving.
- The _____ calls us to rise to the occasion with generosity.

2. _____ GIVING ALLOWS THE CHURCH TO SUPPORT MISSIONS vv 3-4

- When we give to the church, _____ allows us to contribute beyond the needs of the church.
- Over and above giving happens when we move from “have-to” to “get-to.”

3. WE GIVE _____ TO THE LORD BEFORE WE GIVE OUR TITHE v 5

- _____ to the Lord precedes our giving to the Lord.
- Saying yes to the Lord in advance allows us to advance the gospel.

4. WE SHOULD STRIVE TO _____ IN GIVING vv 6-7

- Giving is a measurable spiritual _____.
- Just as we excel in other areas, we should excel in giving.

5. OUR GIVING IS _____ AFTER THE GENEROSITY OF JESUS vv 8-9

- Jesus demonstrated generosity in His willingness to step down from heaven.
- In our faithfulness in giving, we become _____ like Jesus.

The Next Step:

Practice generosity in your stewardship especially in the challenging times.