



Grace

Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.

For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.

~ 1 Corinthians 8:1-5

So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and encourage you to finish this ministry of giving. Since you excel in so many ways — in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us — I want you to excel also in **this gracious act of giving**.

I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches. You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.

~ 1 Corinthians 8:6-9

Here is my advice: It would be good for you to finish what you started a year ago. Last year you were the first who wanted to give, and you were the first to begin doing it. Now you should finish what you started.

~ 1 Corinthians 8:10-11

Three Important Truths

- I. NOT ALL giving is a gracious act

Three Unusual Facts

1. Their poverty didn't keep them from giving.
2. They gave more than they could afford.
3. They begged again and again to be allowed to give.

Three Important Truths

- I. NOT ALL giving is a gracious act
- II. Giving tests the AUTHENTICITY of our love for the Lord

I am not commanding you to give, but I am testing how genuine your love is.

~ 2 Corinthians 8:8

Three Important Truths

- I. NOT ALL giving is a gracious act
- II. Giving tests the AUTHENTICITY of our love for the Lord
- III. There is a key to IMPACTFUL giving

Here is my advice: It would be good for you to finish what you started a year ago. Last year you were the first who wanted to give, and you were the first to begin doing it. Now you should finish what you started. Let the eagerness you showed in the beginning be matched now by your giving.

~ 1 Corinthians 8:10-12

The background is a dark, deep blue to black gradient. It features several large, semi-transparent, overlapping circles in shades of blue and purple. A prominent, bright lens flare or starburst effect is located in the lower right quadrant, with multiple thin, radiating lines extending from it across the frame. The word "Grace" is centered in a white, clean, sans-serif typeface.

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