

# The Power of a Heartfelt Offering

## INTRODUCTION

Paul instructs the Corinthian church in an offering they are giving, that he wants; "...to test the sincerity of their (sic) love by comparing it with the earnestness of others." 2 Cor. 8:8

So how do you make an offering that stirs our and God's heart!?

## A HEARTFELT OFFERING IS WHEN WE GIVE IN SPITE OF CIRCUMSTANCES

### READ 2 Corinthians 8:1-2

The Macedonian churches that Paul was using as an example had experienced severe difficulties, and yet they had given generously. They had not simply gone through "affliction"; they were in a "very severe trial". They were in *extreme poverty*, which means "rock-bottom destitution."

They were not going to let their circumstances dictate to them – first in attitude and then in action. Their poverty didn't lead to a victim mentality; it didn't lead them to a withholding set of actions. No, they believed God and allowed joy to rise up within them, overflowing joy – joy that could not be contained – joy that didn't want to be contained!

**WHAT KIND OF CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE DICTATED TO YOU IN THE PAST WITH RESPECT TO OFFERINGS?  
WHERE DOES WISDOM PLAY A ROLE HERE?**

## A HEARTFELT OFFERING IS WHEN WE GIVE ENTHUSIASTICALLY

### READ 2 Corinthians 8:3-4

It is possible to give generously but not give enthusiastically. But not for the Macedonians! The Macedonian churches needed no prompting or reminding, like the Corinthians.

They were more than willing to share in the offering. In fact, *they urgently pleaded, they begged to be included!*

Grace not only frees us from our sins, but it frees us from ourselves. The grace of God will open your heart *and your hand*.

**HOW DO YOU SHOW YOUR ENTHUSIASM IN GIVING?**

## A HEARTFELT OFFERING IS WHEN WE GIVE OURSELVES TO GOD FIRST

### READ 2 Corinthians 8:5

If we give ourselves to God, we will have little problem giving our substance, our money to God. If we give ourselves to God, we will also give of ourselves for others.

**HOW DO YOU GIVE YOURSELF TO GOD?**