I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others.



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.



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.



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



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



Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality.



At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality,



as it is written: "The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little."



"As thunder follows lightning, giving follows grace. When God's grace touches you, you can't help but respond with generous giving."

RANDYALCORN



Examples for Inspiring Generosity (8.8,9)

"Paul does not command but instead invites, encourages, and lays out Divine principles gleaned from Scripture. Paul hopes that they will respond out of hearts that have been freed by the Gospel and fired by God's grace."

DAVID GARLAND



In light of Christ's sacrifice, no one can honestly say, "I'm poor."



"If we are going to call people to extravagant giving of their resources, we need to call them first to embrace the Gospel and its implications."

GEORGE GUTHRIE



"Those who are disinclined to be generous when they are poor are not likely to become suddenly generous when they are rich. Giving is related to the grace of God experienced in Christ."

DAVID GARLAND





Exhortation to Express Generosity 8.10,11)

"It's not only about the intention. It's really **not** the thought that counts."

PASTOR DAVE NICODEMUS



"The longer you wait to fulfill an intention, the harder it gets."

PASTOR DAN GREEN



"A great deal of ministry involves challenging people to align their expressed desires with their actions."

GEORGE GUTHRIE



"Any number of dynamics can cause a stall in moving from the first to the second — laziness, excuses, procrastination, confusion over how to proceed."

GEORGE GUTHRIE





Principle for Assessing Generosity 8.12)

Principle for Assessing Generosity

"There are few topics in the Church more sensitive than that of money. Any mention of giving, contributions, or fundraising campaigns is sure to be perceived by some as inappropriate, intrusive, even offensive."

JOHN MACARTHUR



Principle for Assessing Generosity



Practical Purpose of Generosity (8:13–15)

"Stinginess has a way of expressing itself through suspicion of others and rationalizing its tightfisted ways."

DAVID GARLAND



"Nothing makes a journey more difficult than a heavy backpack filled with nice but unnecessary things. Pilgrims travel light."

RANDY ALCORN



"Solomon learned that affluence didn't satisfy. All it did was give him greater opportunity to chase more mirages."

RANDYALCORN



"In context, 'surplus' does not mean whatever you happen to have left over after you have spent lavishly on yourself. Rather, 'surplus' refers to the resources one has after basic needs in life are met."

GEORGE GUTHRIE



"God distributes wealth unevenly not because He loves some of His children more than others, but so His children can distribute it to their brothers and sisters on His behalf."

RANDYALCORN





God demonstrates His generosity through the generosity of His people.