

— 2 CORINTHIANS 8-9 —

GENEROUS
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¹We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ²for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— ⁵and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

⁶Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. ⁷But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

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Generosity is a VIRTUE that must be cultivated.

Men... most highly approve those virtues which agree with their interest most, according to their various conditions in life.

A truly virtuous mind, being as it were under the sovereign dominion of love to God, above all things, seeks the glory of God, and makes that its supreme, governing, and ultimate end.

- Jonathan Edwards, A Dissertation Concerning the Nature of True Virtue

How do we cultivate virtue?

Consecration

Imitation

Repetition