



A Twenty-One Day Digital Devotional

Day Seventeen

Grace, Favor, and a Generous Heart

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. – 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Do you display the grace of God in your life? What does that look like? For the Macedonians, it meant they could not be held back from giving. In an earthly logical sense, their circumstances certainly did not endorse such giving.

We live in an entitled driven society. We are entitled to first place in line, first consideration for a promotion, the best of what this world has to offer, etc., etc. We rarely stop to look for opportunities to put others first. As Christians, we should stop and consider our privilege and our responsibility as God's children. Our commander and chief became poor so we could become rich. He has set the standard for us to follow.

We have a brief opportunity on this earth to use the resources entrusted to us to invest in God's initiative.

“.... you are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away” James 4:14b.

At the end of the movie Schindler's List, Oskar Schindler – who bought the lives of many Jews from the Nazis – looks at his car and his gold pin and regrets that he did not give more of his money and possessions to save more lives. He did

more than most of us might even consider and yet as he looked back he wished for the chance to do more.

We are aliens here on this earth. This is a temporary assignment with a purpose to reach the lost using all the resources the Lord has placed at our disposal. The resources are to be used here for His glory; we cannot take them with us. We do not have to worry about reinforcements on this assignment because He has promised to be with us. Like the Macedonians, we need to overflow with our generosity toward others. The joy of our Master is both our source and motivation for giving. We are in the best of company on assignment. The mission is clear: seek and save the lost!

Today, you get to decide if you want to live out what you believe or how you feel.

Questions To Consider

Are you giving like you are privileged or entitled?

Does your giving display your Father's name and your inheritance?

Prayer Focus

Lord, make my life a display of Your graciousness. Lead me each morning to Your word for guidance throughout the day so I will take advantage of each opportunity You present to give of what You have given me. Make me realize the privilege I have to give back to You what You have so generously given to me.

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