

SOLID ROCK

DESIRE

W E E K T W O

SERIES BIG IDEA:

God is _____ and He wants me to excel in the _____ of giving.

Just as I can have the _____ to give and not act on it, I can also _____ without the desire to be generous.

⁷ But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. ⁸ I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

2 Corinthians 8:7-10 (NIV)

HISTORY:

- The mother church in Jerusalem was highly persecuted and experienced a famine. (Acts 8:1; Acts 11:27)
- The Apostles Peter, James, and John, encouraged Paul to remember the poor in Jerusalem as he traveled to the wealthier Gentiles to spread the gospel. (Galatians 2:10)
- Paul had the desire to help and had the discipline to fulfill his commitment. (Acts 24:17)

¹¹ Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. ¹² For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have. ¹³ Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. ¹⁴ 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, ¹⁵ 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.”

2 Corinthians 8:11-15 (NIV)

Shared generosity is a response of _____.

“He (Paul) is desperately concerned for the unity of the whole Christian family...and he sees the possibility of doing something so striking, so remarkable, so practical that it will establish a benchmark for generations to come, a sign that Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians really do belong together.”

NT Wright, Paul for Everyone.

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

A _____ desire to be generous, matched with discipline and direction, _____ advances God's kingdom.

We share a desire to love _____ by loving others the way Christ Jesus loved us.

⁸...but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹ 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.

2 Corinthians 8:8-9 (NIV)

We share a commitment to accomplish the _____ Jesus has given His church.

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

SOLID ROCK

DESIRE

W E E K T W O

We share in the _____ of generosity.

The goal is equality.

2 Corinthians 8:14 (NIV)

How we unite in generosity:

- Give _____. (2 Corinthians 8:8)
- Give proportionally with a _____. (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
- Give for the sake of the _____, because Jesus was given for us. (1 Corinthians 8:9)

Because _____ is _____, so are we.



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

Desires and intentions are similar. Intentions are a little greater than desires and involve an internal commitment or plan. However, a desire or intention without action is powerless and even pointless.

True generosity begins with a desire, and it is matched with the action of giving. When desire and action align with God's purpose, they are powerful.

The church at Corinth made a commitment to give and were the first to share their desire to give, but they didn't finish the work. The Apostle Paul encourages them to have the same desire from last year, but this year, put action to that desire.

Every Christian is to share in the desire and share in the action of giving generously to advance God's kingdom. This is the unity we have because of what Jesus did for us. He demonstrated God's gracious generosity by becoming poor so that we could inherit the riches of God's kingdom in eternity.

TALK-IT-OVER:

What desire in your life has turned into direction and action?

Do you struggle with the discipline to pursue a desire from God to be generous?

How does it feel to hear that you have a united direction with other Christ followers who are committed to generosity for Kingdom advancement?

What is one next step you need to take today?

Who do you need to tell about what you've learned?

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:

Day 1) 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Day 2) Psalm 112:1-10

Day 3) Luke 11:37-42

Day 4) 1 Timothy 6:11-19

Day 5) Titus 3:3-8

Day 6) Matthew 6:1-4