



A Fresh Start in our Finances

2 Corinthians 8:1-6

Listen! This oughta be choice—a financial seminar from a preacher!

Question: What could a person do to turn their finances around—to get a fresh start in what may be a very stale area of life?

Example: Ball players look at films of great hitters to figure out how they are doing it.

Premise: We could “look at the films” of a great manager of money and figure out how they did it.

The believers in first century Macedonia were great money managers because the grace of God enabled them to:

#1 Dedicate themselves to God:

#2 Dedicate themselves to others:

#3 Give to others with great generosity:

- Generosity:
- Freely:
- Affliction:
- Abundant joy:
- Deep poverty:
- Wealth of liberality:
- Begging to help:

The Reality: Financial habits are a barometer of inner spiritual realities. (Luke 19:9, 10)

- Low spiritual health:
- High spiritual health:

The Solution: A fresh start with God and with others leads to a fresh start in my finances.

Walking Papers

"Practical helps for walking the Christian walk this week—the Christian life is a daily thing."

The Big Idea: A fresh start with God and with others leads to a fresh start in my finances.

Please take some time each day this week to think through these questions and ideas:

- **Today.** Have you ever known someone who demonstrated a remarkable inner spiritual maturity in the use of their finances? What did you see in their use of money?
- **Monday.** How would you go about dedicating yourself to God—in other words, how would you go about imitating "they first gave themselves to God."?
- **Tuesday.** How would you go about dedicating yourself to other believers—in other words, how would you go about imitating "they then gave themselves to us."?
- **Wednesday.** What would "generosity" and "the wealth of liberality" look like in your life?
- **Thursday.** What would "giving freely" and "begging to help" look like in your life?
- **Friday.** If another believer looked at your checkbook, your credit card statement, and your income tax return what would they conclude about the status of your inner spiritual life? What would you conclude about your own inner spiritual life if you looked at these things?
- **Saturday.** What is the meaning of "abundant joy" coming from generosity, wealth of liberality, freely, begging to help, affliction, and deep poverty? How does joy arise from these things?

***"A fresh start with God and with others leads to
a fresh start in my finances."***