



Evident Grace

(II Corinthians 8:1 & 2)

Romans 15:25-27 -

²⁵ but now, I am going to Jerusalem serving the saints.

²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

²⁷ Yes, they were pleased *to do so*, and they are indebted to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they are indebted to minister to them also in material things.

“Grace giving must come from a willing heart; it cannot be coerced or forced. During my years of ministry, I have endured many offering appeals. I have listened to pathetic tales about unbelievable needs. I have forced myself to laugh at old jokes that were supposed to make it easier for me to part with my money. I have been scolded, shamed, and almost threatened, and I must confess that none of these approaches has ever stirred me to give more than I planned to give.” – W.W. Wiersbe

*“In fact, more than once I gave **less** because I was so disgusted with the worldly approach. (However, I have never gotten like Mark Twain, who said that he was so sickened by the long appeal that he not only did not give what he planned to give, but he took a bill out of the plate!)”*

— W.W. Wiersbe



Grace on Display – Two Ways

I. Midst of difficult circumstances.



Grace on Display – Two Ways

I. Midst of difficult circumstances.

- This is the most common way!

I Thessalonians 1:6 -

⁶You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

Philippians 1:27-29 -

²⁷ Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; ²⁸ in no way alarmed by *your* opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that *too*, from God.

²⁹ For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,



Grace on Display – Two Ways

I. Midst of difficult circumstances.

- This is the most common way!
- Am I surprised by testing?

1 Peter 4:12 -

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

“They did not plea poverty to evade any obligation; they pled with Paul instead to allow them to join in this service.”

— D. Garland



Grace on Display – Two Ways

II. Condition of their hearts.

John 15:10 & 11 -

¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

¹¹ These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that your joy may be made full.*



Grace on Display – Two Ways

II. Condition of their hearts.

- Crushing affliction ↔ Overflowing joy.



Grace on Display – Two Ways

II. Condition of their hearts.

- Crushing affliction ↔ Overflowing joy.
- Rock bottom poverty ↔ Bubbling over generosity.



Grace on Display – Two Ways

Grace Giving

I. Transcends circumstances.



Grace on Display – Two Ways

Grace Giving

1. Transcends circumstances.
2. Marked by joy & generosity.