

# *Authentic Generosity* 真实的慷慨

## 2 Corinthians 8-9 哥林多后书 8-9 章

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A carnival set up down at the Concourse in Chatswood. They had a variety of side-shows, one of which was a strong man competition. They had a 150kg muscle-bound hulk of a man who squeezed an orange into a glass until there wasn't even a drop of juice left.

在车士活的大广场举行了嘉年华会。他们有各种各样的杂耍表演，其中之一是壮仕比赛。有一个 150 公斤的肌肉男，他在玻璃瓶上用手挤压一个橘子，直到一滴果汁也没有留下。

He then challenged anyone in the audience to step up and try to get another drop of juice out of the orange and win \$1000 in prize money. Many who spent their days looking at themselves in Crunch gym stepped up and tried, but no one succeeded.

然后，他挑战观众中的任何人站出来，试试从橘子中再挤出一滴果汁，便会赢得 1000 元的奖金。许多常在 Crunch 健身房里的镜子前自我欣赏的人站了起来，尝试着，但没有人成功。

Until, that is, a middle-aged man watching from the back stepped up to the platform, grabbed the orange, and proceeded to squeeze another half a cup of juice out of the orange.

直到，一个从后面看着的中年男子站到台上，拿起那橘子，接着又从橘子里挤出了半杯果汁。

The crowd roared with delight as the cheque was handed over. The muscle-bound hulk was embarrassed and flabbergasted! He asked him who he was, and how on earth did he do it? He said...*My name is ANDREW SMITH, I'm the Treasurer of the local Anglican Church. I do this every Sunday with the collection.*

颁发支票时，人群欢呼雀跃。肌肉男又尴尬又被吓坏了！他问他是谁，和他到底是怎么做到的？他说。。。我的名字是 ANDREW SMITH，我是当地一所圣公会教会的司库。我每个星期天都要对收集到的奉献金这样做。

So far in 2 Corinthians Paul has put it all out there. His passion for Jesus and the gospel, his convictions about ministry, his concern for the church family at Corinth, his love for individuals, his fears for their long-term salvation, and even his delight in their repentance after his previous stern letter.

到目前为止，保罗在哥林多后书已经把一切要说的说了。他对耶稣和福音的热爱，他对事工的信念，他对哥林多教会大家庭的关心，他对每个人的爱心，他们对他们永久的救恩的忧虑，甚至在他之前的严厉书信之后，对他们的悔改的喜悦。

Having done all that, what is left? To talk about money! See the link? He has been calling them back to the authentic gospel of the Lord Jesus and having celebrated their repentance he now highlights what an authentic embrace of the gospel looks like in practice.

做完了这些事，还剩下什么？谈论金钱！看到连结了吗？他一直叫他们回到主耶稣纯正的福音，在庆祝他们的悔改之后，他现在强调福音的真正拥抱在实践上是什么样子。

Authentic generosity. God's generosity to us shapes a life of generosity. These chapters are not incidental, nor a side point, to the message of 2 Corinthians. While money is the presenting issue in these chapters, they are more broadly a call to be open hearted, wholehearted, gospel shaped followers of the Lord Jesus. This is, of course, evidenced in the way we handle our money.

真实的慷慨。上帝对我们的慷慨塑造了慷慨的生命。这些章节不是偶然的，也不是哥林多后书的信息的一个次要。虽然金钱是这些章节中提出的问题，但更广泛地说，金钱是一种要成为主耶稣的开诚布公、全心全意、以福音塑造的追随者的呼吁。当然，这体现在我们处理金钱的方式上。

In 2 Corinthians 8 & 9 Paul gives us the longest, most rigorous, and sustained treatment of a gospel shaped attitude to money in the entire Bible.

在《哥林多后书》第 8 和第 9 章中，保罗给我们在整个《圣经》中最长、最严格、最持续地以福音对待金钱的态度。

Why does he do it? Because he is wanting to raise money. It easy to forget that these letters are not abstract theological essays which lay the theological foundation for Christianity. They do that, but they are also real letters written for pressing and urgent reasons.

他为什么要这么做？因为他想筹钱。很容易忘记，这些信件不是抽象的神学论文，来为基督教奠定神学基础。它们会这样做，但它们也是为了迫切的原因而写的真正的信件。

In this case it's to get the prosperous Corinthians to part with large amounts of their hard-earned cash, so that their poor brothers and sisters back in Jerusalem could put some Hommus and Falafel on the table.

在这种情况下，这是要让繁荣的哥林多人把他们辛苦赚来的钱分出来，这样他们在耶路撒冷可怜的弟兄姐妹可以有一点粗茶淡饭放在桌子上。

It's important not to forget this. One of the main reason 2 Corinthians was written was ensure that when Titus and his friends showed up there would be a large pile of cash waiting for them.

不要忘记这一点是很重要的。哥林多后书的写作的主要原因之一是，确保当提多和他的朋友出现时，会有一大堆现金在等着他们。

Strap yourselves in and get a firm grip on your wallet because we've got a bit of ground to cover today. We are going to see The Gospel Produces Generosity ... Sacrifice ... Servant-Heartedness ... and Joyful Generosity. Then closing off with an exhortation to practice Authentic Generosity.

坐稳，紧紧抓住你的钱包，因为我们今天有好几样事情要看。我们将看到福音产生：慷慨...牺牲...仆人的心意...和喜乐的慷慨。然后结束的劝诫是练习真正的慷慨。

### **THE GOSPEL PRODUCES GENEROSITY 福音产生慷慨 (8: 1-7)**

The first is the gospel produces a life of generosity from 8:1-7. Paul tells the Corinthians to give like the Macedonians. There is no doubt in Paul's mind that one crucial effect of the gospel is a life of generosity.

第一是从 8: 1-7 看福音产生的慷慨的生命。保罗告诉哥林多人像马其顿人一样给予。毫无疑问，保罗认为福音的一个关键影响是慷慨的生命。

The Macedonians are a noteworthy example. The Macedonians had dumbfounded Paul with their selfless generosity despite their own deep poverty.

马其顿人是一个值得注意的例子。马其顿人不顾自己极度贫困，以无私的慷慨使保罗哑口无言。

Have a look at 8:1-5... *And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches.*

看看 8: 1-5... *弟兄们，我们要把上帝赐给马其顿众教会的恩惠告诉你们：*

*In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.*

*他们在患难中受大考验的时候，仍然满有喜乐，在极度贫穷中还格外显出他们乐捐的慷慨。*

*For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.*

*我可以证明，他们是按着能力，而且超过了能力来捐助，主动再三恳求我们，准他们在这供给圣徒的善事上有份；*

***And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.***

并且他们所做的，不但照我们所期望的，更照上帝的旨意先把自己献给主，又给了我们。

Their giving was clearly sacrificial; they gave more than they could afford. It was remarkably enthusiastic! They begged Paul for the privilege of getting involved in the collection he was organising for the struggling church in Jerusalem.

他们的付出显然是牺牲的;他们超过了能力来捐助。非常热情! 他们恳求保罗准他们参与他为耶路撒冷挣扎的教会组织的募捐活动。

I dream of the day when people are crowding at my office door pleading with me to allow them to give more and more money to the work of gospel ministry at St Paul's!

我梦想有一天，人们挤在我的办公室门口恳求我，让他们在圣保罗的福音事工的工作上给越来越多的钱，!

The Macedonian's abundance of joy and extreme poverty overflowed in a wealth of generosity. They aren't perfect but they did have this one sorted out. They understood that giving is a delight, even an expression of our joy in Christ.

马其顿人丰富的喜乐和在极度贫穷中格外显出他们乐捐的慷慨。他们不是完美的，但他们在这一方面整理得好。他们明白给予是一种喜悦，甚至是我们在基督里的喜悦的表达。

That is a strange concept for most people living in this country, and for most people living in the Western world. I heard someone once say they were in an African church where people danced up to the front to bring their offerings.

对于生活在这个国家的大多数人和生活在西方世界的大多数人来说，这是一个奇怪的概念。我曾经听到有人说，他们在一个非洲教堂，在那里人们一边跳舞一边把他们的奉献带到前面。

In most Aussie churches we have a competition to see how quickly we can move an empty bag from the front to the back without anyone acting like anything significant, let alone joyful, is happening.

在大多数的澳大利亚教会，我们有一个比赛，要看看我们能多么快地把一个空的袋子从前面移动到后面，没有人表现得像任何重大的事情正在发生，更不用说说是喜乐的。

The Macedonians knew that giving to other believers and the work of the gospel was the overflow of the fact they had given themselves first to the Lord, then to the apostles. 马其顿人知道，给予其他信徒和福音的工作，是格外显出他们把自己先交给主，然后交给使徒的事实。

Verse 5 is a startling sentence; they gave themselves first to the Lord then to the apostles. 第5节是一个惊人的句子；照上帝的旨意先把自己献给主，又给了我们。

It reveals a depth of commitment and gravity that we would do well to copy. This is the source of their generosity. They committed themselves wholeheartedly to God in repentance and faith.

它揭示了一个深度的承诺和重力，我们复制的话会是最好。这是他们慷慨的源泉。他们在悔改和信心中全心全意地投靠神。

They gave themselves to God, they gave themselves to one another, and therefore they gave away their money.

他们把自己献给上帝，他们把自己奉献给彼此，因此他们把钱捐了出去。

John Calvin makes the profound observation on this passage that our problem is we think something is lost when we give it away, especially when we give it to other people. 约翰·加尔文对这段话做了深刻的观察，我们的问题是，我们认为当我们放弃它时，有些东西是丢失了，尤其是当我们把它给别人的时候。

The Macedonians had been so set free by the gospel that they realised to give is GAIN NOT LOSS, even though they were poor.

马其顿人被福音所释放，他们意识到给予的是得到不是失去，即使他们很穷。

Paul wants the Corinthian church to model the Macedonians, verse 7:

保罗希望哥林多教会模仿马其顿人，第7节：

***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.***

**既然你们在信心、口才、知识、万分的热忱，以及我们对你们的爱心上，都胜人一等，那么，当在这慈善的事上也要胜人一等。**

In first Corinthians Paul has plenty to say about the Corinthian's ability to talk themselves up. Now they have a wonderful opportunity to put their money where their mouths are!

在哥林多前书，保罗对于哥林多人对自己的自夸自擂有很多话要说。现在，他们有一个绝佳的机会，以行动证明自己的话！

Paul's words must have made them squirm a little, as I hope it does for some of us here. It must have bothered them a bit to be told to be more like the Macedonians.

保罗的话一定让他们有点发抖，我希望它对在座的一些人也是一样。被告知要更像马其顿人一定有点困扰他们。

The beauty of the gospel is it helps us get over our pride and ego and recognise what God has done in others and be spurred on by them. None of us have it all sorted.

福音的美妙之处在于它帮助我们克服我们的骄傲和自我，承认上帝在别人身上做了什么，并受到他们的激励。我们谁也没有把一切都处理妥当。

### **THE GOSPEL PRODUCES SACRIFICE 福音产生牺牲 (8:8-15)**

Having told them to model the Macedonians, Paul then raises the stakes a little higher in 8:8-15. Paul says the gospel produces sacrifice. Not just sacrifice like the Macedonians but like Jesus himself.

保罗告诉他们要模仿马其顿人之后，以 8: 8-15 把赌注提高了一点。保罗说福音产生牺牲。不只是像马其顿人那样牺牲，而且像耶稣自己一样的。

The gospel doesn't just make us generous; it makes us SELFLESS. Have a look at v8 and 9:

福音不仅使我们慷慨，它使我们变得无私。查看 8 和 9 节：

***I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. 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.***

我说这话，并不是命令你们，而是借着别人的热忱来考验你们爱心的真诚。你们知道我们主耶稣基督的恩典：他本是富足，却为你们成了贫穷，好使你们因他的贫穷而成为富足。

He is now telling them to act like Jesus. In this very brief sentence Paul highlights the pre-existence of the Son of God, and the grace God has shown us in the coming of the eternal Son of God into this world and dying on a cross for us to press the Corinthians into generosity.

他现在告诉他们要像耶稣一样行事。在这个非常简短的句子中，保罗强调了神的儿子的先存，上帝在永恒的神的儿子来到这个世界，死在十字架上所赐给我们的恩典，来激励哥林多人更慷慨解囊。

In particular he is telling the Corinthians to follow through on their pledges in the same way Jesus followed through for our sake by not even baulking at death on a cross for the sins of the world.

特别是，他告诉哥林多人去履行他们的誓言，就像耶稣为了我们而坚持到底一样，甚至为世人的罪死在十字架上也义无反顾。

Let's keep reading from v.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. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means*

让我们继续阅读第 10 节：*我在这事上把我的意见告诉你们，是对你们有益，因为你们开始办这事，而且起此心意已经有一年了。如今就当办成这事，既然有愿做的心，也当照你们所有的去办成。*

We are to follow through on our commitments because Jesus did and empowers us to now.

我们现在要履行我们的承诺，因为耶稣做到了，并赋予我们能力去做到。

If you say you were going to support someone in ministry, or an organisation financially then fill out the forms and transfer the money.

如果你说你要支持某个人的事工，或者经济上支持一个组织，那么就填写表格并把金钱转账过户。

I think it is important to point out that at the moment we are \$22,000 behind in our offertory this year. That is \$22,000 behind what we pledged to give this year at our Commitment Sunday last year.

我认为必须指出，目前我们在今年的认捐总额落后了\$22,000 元。这比我们去年在承诺星期日承诺在今天要奉献的落后了\$22,000 元。

As Paul is here calling the Corinthians to follow through with their pledges, I'm doing now. Let's see that \$22,000 deficit removed by the time Andrew does his reporting for Parish Council in one month's time.

当保罗在这里呼吁哥林多人履行他们的承诺时，我现在也同样在做。让我们在 Andrew 在一个月后为教区议会做报告之前，这\$22,000 元的赤字已经消除。

A year earlier the Corinthians had made encouraging noises about supporting the Jerusalem fund. Now they need to come up with the cash. Now is the time they needed to prioritise others and open their wallets.

一年前，哥林多人曾发出支持耶路撒冷资金的令人鼓舞的声音。现在他们需要拿出现金。现在是他们需要优先考虑其他人和打开钱包的时候了。

The extent to which we follow through with our commitments is a measure of how selfless or selfish we are. Almost always it is SELF getting in the way of what we've committed to do.

我们履行承诺的程度，是衡量我们是多么无私或自私的尺度。几乎总是自我会妨碍我们履行承诺。

I don't do what I've said I will do because I've prioritised something that is more important to me. It's not very flattering but it's true. It's the opposite of Jesus's attitude. 我不做我说我会做的事情，因为我优先考虑了其他我认为对我更重要的事情。这不是很讨人喜欢，但这是真实的事情。这是耶稣的态度的背道而驰。

What Paul is wanting to see at Corinth is a grace driven equilibrium. Verse 12-15:  
保罗想在哥林多看到的是一种恩典驱动的均匀。第 12-15 节：

***For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have. Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality.***

因为人只要有愿做的心，必照他所有的蒙悦纳，并不是照他所没有的。我不是要别人轻松，你们受累，而是要均匀：

***14 At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need.***

14 就是要你们现在的富余补他们的不足，使他们的富余将来也可以补你们的不足，这就均匀了。

***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."***

如经上所记：多收的没有余，少收的也没有缺。

When I need help you help me and when you need help, I'll help you. No one is keeping score though, but there is a natural grace driven ebb and flow of dependence as we live together without the shame that would stop us asking for help or the greed that would stop us giving it.

当我需要帮助时，你帮助我，当你需要帮助时，我会帮助你。虽然没有人保持分数，但有一个自然的恩典驱动的依赖潮流，在我们生活在一起时，没有耻辱会阻止我们寻求帮助或贪婪来阻止我们给予。

Paul backs it up from Exodus 16 and the account of how God supplied the manna as food each day for his people in the wilderness. It was the law of diminishing returns.

保罗引述《出埃及记》16 章作支持，叙述了上帝如何每天为荒野中的人民提供吗哪作为食物。这是收益递减的法则。

If you got greedy and tried to store up more than a day's worth of manna you got maggots in it. There was always enough for each day and for everyone. Excess was toxic.

如果你变得贪婪，并试图存储超过一天的吗哪，会生虫发臭。每一天每个人都会有足够的。过量是有毒的。

John Calvin put it like this: *Those who have riches, whether inherited or won by their own industry and labour, are to remember that what is left over is not for intemperance or luxury but for relieving the needs of the brothers.*

约翰·加尔文这样说：*那些拥有财富的人，无论是继承的产业，还是由自己的劳动赢得财富，都必须记住，剩下的不是为放纵或奢侈，而是为了减轻弟兄们的需要。*

That stings a bit. Our society runs on the principle that we work hard so we can play hard. The default is we spend as much on ourselves as we can. We budget and save so we can spend on ourselves.

这有点讽刺。我们的社会坚持的是我们努力工作，这样我们才能放任地玩乐的原则。默认的是我们尽可能多多地在自己身上花钱。我们预算和储蓄，所以我们可以花在自己身上。

The way of Christ is to lavish as much as we can on others for the sake of the gospel. It's to give things up for the sake of Jesus and others.

基督的方式是，为了福音，我们尽可能多多地在别人身上挥霍。这是一切都是为了耶稣和其他人而放弃。

### **THE GOSPEL PRODUCES SERVANT HEARTEDNESS 福音产生仆人的心意 (8:16-9:5)**

That's because the gospel also produces a servant heartedness. It's why Paul talks about Titus here.

这是因为福音也产生仆人的心意。这就是为什么保罗谈论到提多。

This kind of gospel driven quality is revealed when Titus puts his hand up to go to Corinth to collect their part of the money but also in the depth of care he shows them.

当提多自告奋勇去哥林多收集他们那部分的钱，同时也向他们展示深度的关怀时，这种福音驱动的质量就显露出来。

Have a look at v16-18: *Thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same concern I have for you. For Titus not only welcomed our appeal, but he is coming to you with much enthusiasm and on his own initiative. And we are sending along with him the brother who is praised by all the churches for his service to the gospel.*

看看 16-18 节：**感谢上帝，把我对你们的热忱同样放在提多心里。他固然听了我的劝告，但自己更加热心，自愿往你们那里去。我们还差遣一位弟兄和他同去，这人在传福音的事上得了众教会的称赞；**

Titus and his team of two brothers go above and beyond to serve in a selfless way with full integrity. Verse 20:

提多和那弟兄的两人团队，以无私的方式，完全的诚信作出无可非议的事奉。  
第 20 节：

***We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man.***

**我们这样做，免得有人因我们收的捐款多而挑剔我们。我们留心做好事，不但在主面前，就是在人面前也是这样。**

Paul just knows that fights and accusations about money will kill off a gospel ministry more quickly than almost anything else. Paul is keen to make sure that nothing hinders the gospel and the glory of God.

保罗知道，对金钱的争斗和指责会比其它任何东西更快地扼杀福音事工。保罗渴望确保没有什么会阻碍福音和神的荣耀。

So how are the Corinthians to respond to this servant-heartedness? Verse 24: ***Therefore, show these men the proof of your love and the reason for our pride in you, so that the churches can see it.***

那么，哥林多人如何回应这种仆人的心意呢？第 24 节：**所以，你们务要在众教会面前向他们显明你们的爱心和我所夸奖你们的凭据。**

In other words, ‘show me the money!’ Time for you to come through for me, for them, for the church, for Jesus, and for yourself. Give like the Macedonians, live selflessly like Jesus.

换句话说，“把钱给我！”是时候你来对现，为他们，为教会，为耶稣，为自己。像马其顿人一样，像耶稣一样无私地生活。

In the beginning of chapter 9 he is simply calling them to do what they know they are supposed to do. Be people of servant-hearted integrity and give.

在第 9 章的开头，他只是叫他们做他们知道应该做的事。成为有仆人心意的正直和给与的人。

## **THE GOSPEL PRODUCES JOYFUL GENEROSITY 福音产生喜乐的慷慨 (9:6-15)**

Give because the gospel produces joyful generosity. Take a look at 9:6:  
给予，因为福音产生喜乐的慷慨。请看 9: 6:

***Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.***

***还有一点：「少种的少收；多种的多收。」 7 各人要随心所欲，不要为难，不要勉强，因为上帝爱乐捐的人。***

In the Western world we live under the mantra of ‘God gives credit to the reluctant and careful giver. Paul has something a bit more freeing and lavish in mind!  
在西方国家，我们生活在“上帝赐予不情愿和细心的给予者”的咒语下。保罗有更自由的东西和更奢侈的想法！

Extravagance is good when it comes to giving. Let me urge you to be a bit more reckless in your giving, and to have a broad smile as you do it.  
奢侈当涉及到给予时是好事。让我敦促你更鲁莽地给予，并在你这样做时有一个灿烂的笑容。

Or if we can't give make sure we see it as missing out. Sad even. Not because we've had to part with our hard-earned money but because we've missed out on great joy from God in not being able to give.  
或者，如果我们不能给予时确保我们认为是错过了。甚至很伤心。不是因为我们不得不放弃我们辛苦挣来的钱，而是因为我们无法给予而错过了从上帝而来的巨大的喜悦。

The fact is, those who sow in gospel generosity and selflessness and servant heartedness and integrity never, ever, ever, miss out.  
事实是，那些在福音中播种的慷慨和无私，以及仆人的心意和正直的人，永远不会错过。

Have a look at 9:8 with me: ***And God is able to bless you abundantly*** - God is able to lavish on you every kind of grace -  
跟我看 9: 8: ***上帝能将各样的恩惠多多加给你们*** - 上帝能够把所有的恩惠加给你 -

***so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.***

***使你们凡事常常充足，能多做各样善事。***

Our God loves to saturate us in good things. Keep reading into v.10: ***Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.***

我们的上帝爱以美好的事物来浸透我们。继续读 10 节：***那赐种子给撒种的，赐粮食给人吃的，必多多加给你们种地的种子，又增添你们仁义的果子。***

***You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.***

***你们必凡事富足，能多多施舍，使人借着我们而生感谢上帝的心。***

God will give us every resource we need for our own growth and that of our brothers and sisters in Jesus. The illusion here is to Isaiah 55:10 where God's word doesn't come back to without accomplishing what he has designed for it.

神会赐予我们一切所需资源来让我们自己，以及我们在耶稣里的弟兄姐妹，去成长。这里的引用的是以赛亚书 55: 10，神的话在没有完成他为它设计的事情前是不会返回的。

This simply means that Paul is talking much more than us finance here. He is referring to our whole lives, and others too, being enriched with every spiritual blessing.

这意味着保罗在这里谈论的比我们的金钱要多得多。他指的是我们的整个生命，和其他人的生命，被所有的属灵祝福所丰富。

Let me just follow up on something I said last week. The prosperity gospel is an evil and a blight on the church.

让我继续我上周说的话。成功神学的繁荣福音是对教会的邪恶和祸害。

It consistently promises what God does not, and in overreaching it blames the lack of blessing on the very ones who have been defrauded by them. Usually the poor and vulnerable.

它一贯地承诺上帝所没有承诺的，过分的把缺乏祝福指责在那些被他们欺骗的人的身上。通常是穷人和弱势群体。

BUT, our problem is we don't expect enough from God. We don't need our expectations of God dampened. We need to take God seriously when he says:

但是，我们的问题是，我们对上帝的期望不够。我们不需要我们对于上帝的期望被削弱。我们需要认真对待上帝所说的：

***Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.***

那赐种子给撒种的，赐粮食给人吃的，必多多加给你们种地的种子，又增添你们仁义的果子。

We need to listen to our God who says we will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way.

我们需要倾听我们的上帝，他说我们将必凡事富足，能多多施舍。

When we give generously, when we give with joy in our hearts, we are demonstrating that we trust the God of the gospel who has promised to do us nothing but good.

当我们慷慨地给予时，当我们在心中以喜悦给予时，我们表明我们相信福音的神，他答应了只做为我们好的事。

Is not that we give, and God gives us more back, but that in giving we demonstrate that we trust the gospel and God's promise to do us good.

不是我们给予了，上帝便给予我们更多的回报，而是在给予时我们证明我们相信福音和神会对我们好的许诺。

The net result of authentic generosity is an overflow of thanksgiving to God. Verse 12: ***This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.***

真正慷慨的最终结果是向上帝感恩的倾巢而出。第 12 节：***因为办这供给的事，不但补圣徒的缺乏，而且使许多人对上帝充满更多的感谢。***

***Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.***

他们从这供给的事上得了凭据，知道你们宣认基督，顺服他的福音，慷慨捐助给他们和众人，把荣耀归给上帝。

***And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!***

他们也因上帝极大的恩赐显在你们身上而切切想念你们，为你们祈祷。感谢上帝，因他有说不尽的恩赐！

Gospel giving flows out of gratitude and multiplies gratitude which of course leads to God being glorified.

福音的给予从感激中流出来，使感激成倍增加，这当然会导致神被荣耀。

Paul's response to the Corinthians lack of generosity is to point them to God's indescribable gift to us...it's the gospel. It's the core of the Christian faith, and the heartbeat of this church.

保罗对哥林多人的缺乏慷慨的反应是把他们指向上帝赐给我们的难以形容的礼物...他的福音。这是基督教信仰的核心，也是这个教会的心脉。

Paul's gospel, the authentic Christian gospel, is the good news that God sent his Son into the world to live a **perfect** life, **die** as a substitute for sinners, **absorb the anger** of God, take away our guilt and shame, provide the gift of right standing before God, and give **eternal joy** through faith in the Lord Jesus alone apart from any works of obedience on our behalf.

保罗的福音，即真正的基督教福音，是神派他的儿子到世上过完美的生活，受死作为罪人的替代，以平息上帝的愤怒，拿去我们的内疚和耻辱，提供在上帝面前正确位置的礼物，通过唯独对主耶稣的信心排除任何我们自我服从的作为所带来永恒的喜悦的好消息。

Paul puts no pressure on your will. He doesn't say *I'm an apostle and you're Christians, you have to give money.*

保罗不对你的意愿施加压力。他不是说我使徒，你是基督徒，你必须给钱。

He doesn't even put pressure on the emotions. He doesn't say *you've got so much and look at these poor (starving) orphans with great big eyes.*

他甚至不给情绪施加压力。他没有说你有这么多，看看这些骨瘦如柴可怜的（饥饿的）孤儿。

He says that if you do not have the **freedom** to give your money away in eye popping proportions it's because something besides Jesus Christ is your functional Lord and Saviour.

他说，如果你没有能把你的钱以令人目定口呆的比例来给予的自由，是因为除了耶稣基督以外有另外一些东西才是你真正的主宰和救主。

The way you break the hold of money over your life is think about the radical generosity of Jesus Christ on the cross **until you get freedom to give**. When we see we are his greatest treasure then he will become ours.

你打破金钱对你生命控制的方式，是思量耶稣基督在十字架上的慷慨，直到你获得能给予的自由。当我们看到我们是他最大的财宝，那么他才将成为我们的珍宝。

## **PRACTICING AUTHENTIC GENEROSITY 实践真实的慷慨**

When Paul first introduced this collection to the church at Corinth he gave them some very simple and practical advice.

当保罗第一次把这个收捐的事介绍给哥林多教会时，他给了他们一些非常简单和实用的建议。

In 1 Corinthians 16:2 he wrote: *On the first day of the week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income.*

在哥林多前书 16: 2 中，他写道：*每逢七日的第一日，每人要照自己的收入抽出若干，保留起来，免得我来的时候现凑。*

Regular, proportional giving is his instruction. We are noticing that the giving patterns here at St Paul's are quite unpredictable.

定期的、成比例的给予是他的指示。我们注意到，在圣保罗堂的捐赠模式是相当不规则难以预测的。

Some months we have a 5-figure deficit, and some we are in surplus. There is no regularity and predictability in our budget because there is irregularity in giving.

有几个月我们有 5 位数的赤字，有些月我们处于盈余状态。我们的预算没有规律性和可预见性，因为捐赠是不规则的。

So, this week, sit down with the cross. Make a decision to take one step forward in showing gratitude for what Christ has given you. 所以这个星期，以十字架在心中坐下来。决定向前迈出一步，表达你对基督的赐予的感恩。

Our grasp of the great eternal treasure that Jesus is will be reflected in a life of generosity.

我们对耶稣是伟大的永恒的宝藏的把握，将反映在慷慨的生命中。

If you are a non-giver, start giving.

如果你是一个非给予者，开始给予。

If you are an irregular giver start giving regularly.

如果你是一个不规则的给予者开始定期给予。

If you are regular but only a small portion of your income take a step forward of getting into God's ballpark of 10%.

如果你是定期的，但只是以你收入的一小部分，向前迈出一步，以上帝定的 10% 作准则。

If you are a regular and proportional giver, take a step towards extravagant giving beyond 10%.

如果你是一个经常和依比例的给予者，向奢侈捐赠超过 10%迈进。

Paul's concern here is not that they won't give in 2 Corinthians, his concern is that they won't excel in giving. May we follow the Macedonians and excel in the grace of giving because we have received God's indescribable gift to us in the Lord Jesus. 保罗在哥林多后书中关心的不是他们不会在给予，他关心的是他们不会在给予方面出类拔萃。愿我们跟随马其顿人，在赐予的恩典中出类拔萃，因为我们在主耶稣中收到了神赐给我们的难以形容的救恩。