

severe + extreme + overflowing = rich
trial poverty joy generosity

1

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trial poverty joy generosity

God-given grace (v1)

2

They gave:

- As much as they were able, even beyond their ability (v.3)
- More than Paul expected (v.5)
- Out of overflowing joy (v.2)
- Entirely on their own – of their own free will (v.3b)
- Like it was a privilege (v.4)

3

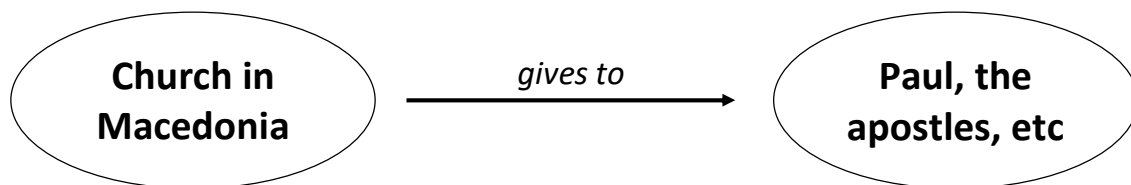
“they gave themselves first of all to the Lord”

4

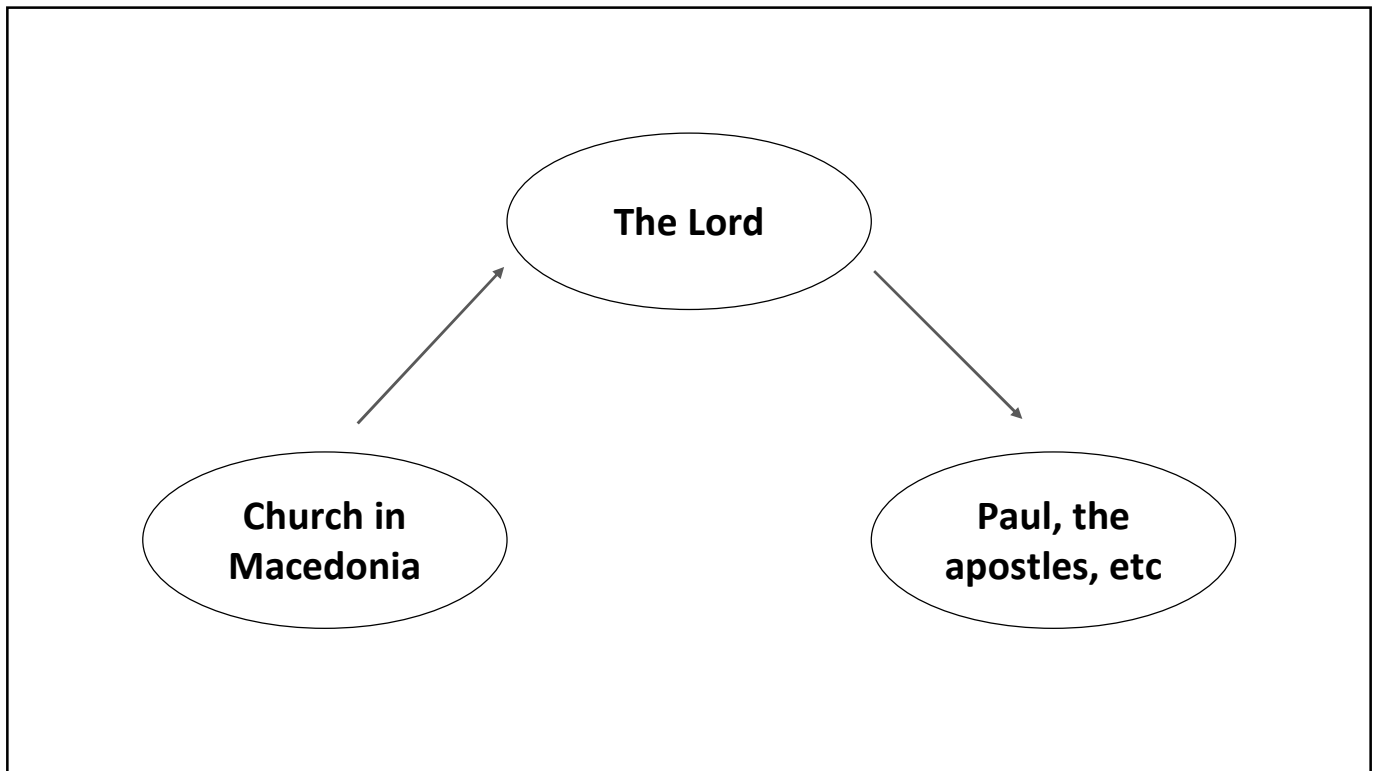
“they gave themselves first of all to the Lord”

Generosity is not just an exercise in giving our stuff away,
but an exercise in giving our selves to God.

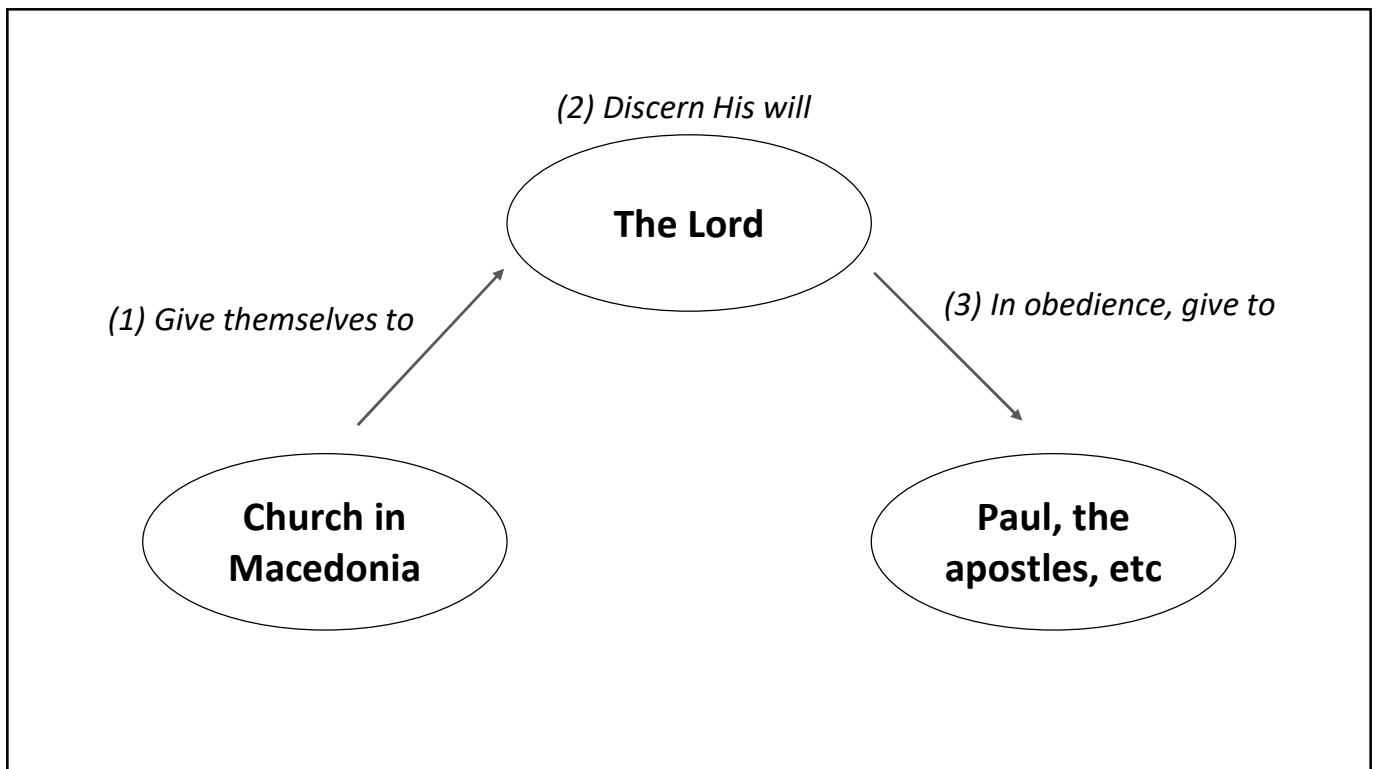
5



6



7



8

Giving requires trust.



Giving ourselves to God requires trust in God.



**Our giving is not measured by how much stuff we give, but
how much trust we have.**

*“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious
cornerstone, and the one who **trusts** in him will never be
put to shame.”*

- 1 Peter 2:6

*“Once you were not a people, but now **you are the people of God**; once you had not received mercy, but now **you have received mercy**.”*

- 1 Peter 2:10

11

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise;

you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down;

you are familiar with all my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue

you, Lord, know it completely.

- Psalm 139:1-4

12

*“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. **Test me in this**,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.*

- Malachi 3:10

13

*Lord, we give joyfully because You have held nothing back
from us*

*Lord, we give generously because we want to become like
You*

*Lord, we give sacrificially because we want others to taste
the life of Your Kingdom*

Father, receive our gifts and use us for Your glory.

14