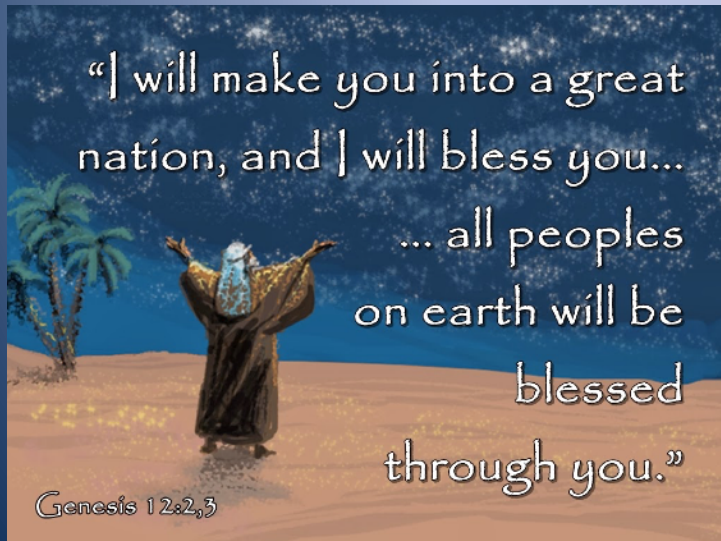


WHAT IS GOD'S PROMISE?



"The promise to Abraham and his family that he would inherit the world...depends on faith in order that the promise should be sure for all his family, not only those who are of the law but also those who are of the faith of Abraham." (Rom. 4:13, 16)

"If you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's family, heirs according to the promise." (Gal. 3:29)


"You Gentiles...were without Christ, aliens from citizenship in Israel and strangers to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world...This mystery has now been revealed, that the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, joint partakers in the promise through Christ Jesus." (Eph. 2:11-12, 3:6)

PAUL

the Apostle

- circumcised the eighth day
- of the nation of Israel
- of the tribe of Benjamin
- a Hebrew of Hebrews
- as to the Law, a Pharisee

Philippians 3:5
Knowing-Jesus.com



Paul

as to the
righteousness
which is in the Law,
found blameless.

Philippians 3:6
Knowing-Jesus.com

Then Paul Said: “I Am A Jew,
Born In Tarsus Of Cilicia, But
Brought Up In This City. Under
Gamaliel I Was Thoroughly
Trained In The Law Of Our
Fathers And Was Just As Zealous
For God As Any Of You Are
Today.

Acts 22-3



“When Rabban Gamliel died, reverence for
Torah ceased and purity and piety died”
(Sotah 9.15)

REMEMBERING THE POOR

“After An Absence Of
Several Years, I Came To
Jerusalem To Bring My
People Gifts For The Poor
And To Present Offerings.

Acts 24-17

In fact, James, Peter, and John, who were known as pillars of the church, recognized the gift God had given me, and they accepted Barnabas and me as their co-workers. They encouraged us to keep preaching to the Gentiles, while they continued their work with the Jews. Their only suggestion was that we keep on helping the poor, which I have always been eager to do.

Galatians 2:9-10

For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

— Acts 20:16 (NASB®)

**ACTS
20:22-23**

22 And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me.

Relief to Judea (Acts 11:27-30)

- Prophets came to Antioch from Jerusalem
- Agabus prophesied that there would be a famine throughout all the world.
- Happened in the days of Claudius Caesar (~A.D. 41-54)
- “Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul”

PAUL'S TRAVEL PLANS

Now concerning the collection for the holy ones: you should follow the directions I gave to the churches of Galatia. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come. And when I arrive, I will send any whom you approve with letters to take your gift (*charis*) to Jerusalem. If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.

I will visit you after passing through Macedonia, and perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may send me on my way, wherever I go. But I will stay here in Ephesus until Shavuot (Pentecost).

(1 Corinthians 16:1-8)



ministry of reconciliation

2 CORINTHIANS 5:6-21



“The Macedonians begged us repeatedly for the *charis* (grace) and *koinonia* (fellowship) of the *diakonia* (ministry) to the holy ones.” (2Cor. 8:4)

LOVE INCARNATE

“Just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this grace.

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.”

(2 Cor. 8:7, 9)

2 Corinthians 9:13

Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, people 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.



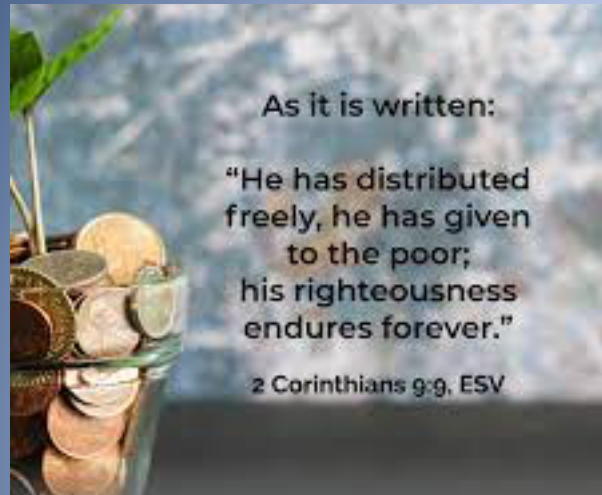
I Corinthians 9:12-12

Giving is Worship

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.



THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH



*and God is able to make
all grace abound to you,
so that . . . you may abound in
every good work.*

2 Corinthians 9:8

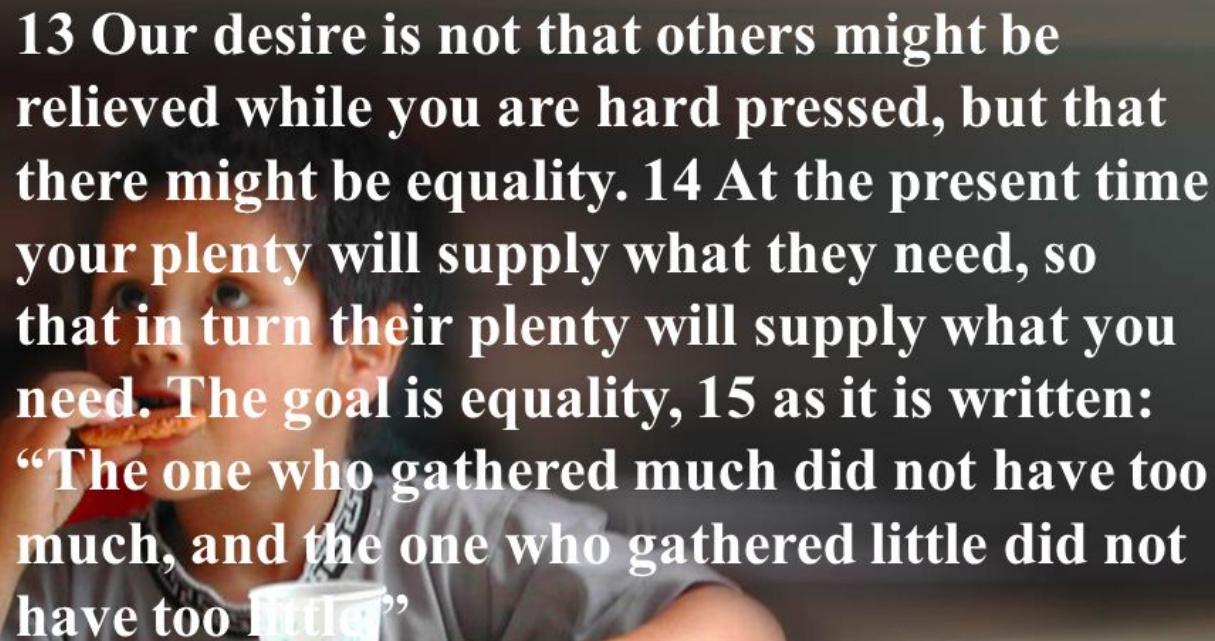
¹³ Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,
¹⁴ while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you.

- II Corinthians 9:13-14

“THE GOAL IS EQUALITY”

I Corinthians 8:13-15

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.”

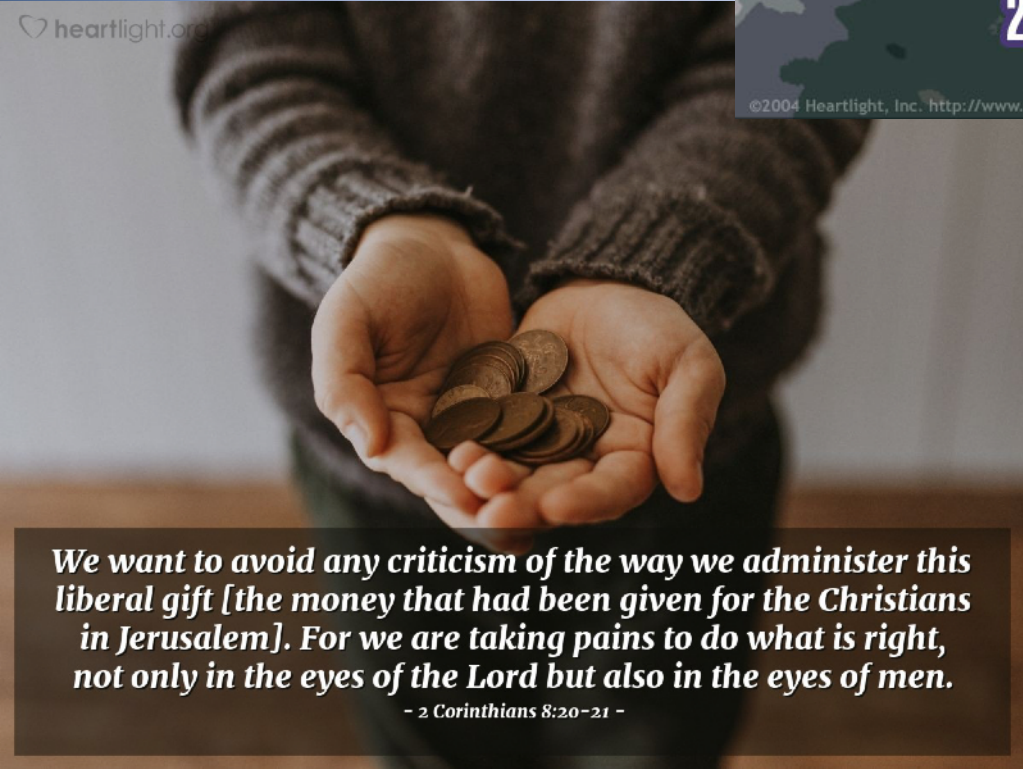
A young child with dark hair and eyes is sitting at a table, eating a slice of pizza. The child is wearing a grey shirt and a necklace. A white cup with a floral pattern is on the table in front of them. The background is dark and out of focus.



And they did not do as we expected,
but they gave themselves first to the Lord
and then to us in keeping with God's will.
2 Corinthians 8:5

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heartlight.org



We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift [the money that had been given for the Christians in Jerusalem]. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men.

- 2 Corinthians 8:20-21 -

PAUL'S TRAVEL PLANS



I desire, as I have for many years, to come to you when I go to Spain. For I do hope to see you on my journey and to be sent on by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a little while. At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem in a ministry to the saints, for Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to share their resources with the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. So, when I have completed this, and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will set out by way of you to Spain. (Rom. 15:23-28)

Romans 15:8-9

⁸ For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

Romans 15:9-12

As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." ¹⁰ And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." ¹¹ And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." ¹² And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."

A BIBLICAL HOPE

2 Samuel 22:50; Psalm 18:49

Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the Gentiles, And sing praises to Your name.

And again he saith,
Rejoice, ye Gentiles,
with His people.

Romans 15:10; Deuteronomy 32:43

Psalms 117

¹Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples.
²For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.
Praise the Lord.

Isaiah 11:10

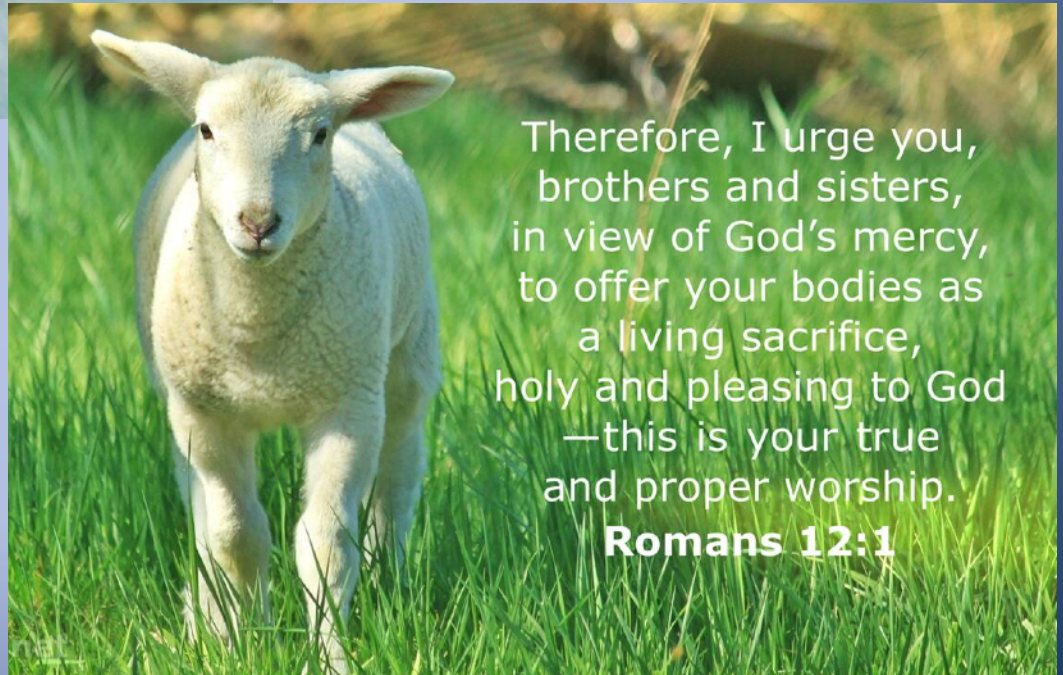
- "And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall arise to rule over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust, and his rest shall be glorious."

• LXX

To be a minister of Christ Jesus
to the Gentiles in the priestly
service of the gospel of God, so
that the offering of the Gentiles
may be acceptable, sanctified by
the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:16

A FELLOWSHIP OFFERING



Therefore, I urge you,
brothers and sisters,
in view of God's mercy,
to offer your bodies as
a living sacrifice,
holy and pleasing to God
—this is your true
and proper worship.

Romans 12:1

ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑ

Koinonia means...



Community



Fellowship/food/sharing



Joined together



Combined strength

Rom 15:26-27 – For it pleased those from Macedonia & Achaia to make a certain *contribution for the poor among the saints* who are in Jerusalem. 27 It pleased them indeed, & they are their debtors. For if *the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things*, their duty is also to minister to them in material things (derived from same Greek word)

Romans 11:17

Good News Bible

Some of the branches of the cultivated olive tree have been broken off, and a branch of a wild olive tree has been joined to it. You Gentiles are like that wild olive tree, and now you share the strong spiritual life of the Jews.