

February 11, 2018
Series: **Breakthrough**
The Process of Breakthrough
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2 Corinthians 8:1 -7

Surrender all to the Lord

Matt 16:24-25 John 12:24

Follow The Leaders

Heb 13:17 Eph 4:11

Follow Through In Your Commitment

1 Peter 4:10 Acts 2:42-45

The Process of "BREAKING THROUGH"

The Christians in Jerusalem were suffering from a famine, and Paul felt it would be a marvelous way of expressing the oneness of the body of Christ for the churches of Macedonia to help them out. The Macedonian churches had a major "breakthrough" in their commitment to give, out of their own poverty, to the Jerusalem churches. Not begrudgingly, carelessly, miserly, or wildly, but true, generous, gracious, and abundant giving.

2 Corinthians 8:5 says "And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us."

What does giving yourself to the Lord look like in your life? What steps do you take in your life to obtain that? What do we give up, if anything?

Read-Matthew 16:24-25; Philippians 3:7; and John 3:30.

What in these passages helps us to work toward the goal of being more like Christ? How do we do this in our daily lives?

John 3:16 and 1 John 3:16-17 talk about the incredible generosity that God showed us. What should our response be to that kind of generosity? How does knowing God's generosity effect our own generosity?

We have great examples of the generosity of the Lord. Name times when the Lord gave "above measure" in your life.

Now reflect on 2 Corinthians 8:1 "We want you to know, brethren, about the grace of God which has been shown in the churches of Macedonia." Our true motive for giving should be because of the grace of God, the goodness of God to us. If God has not done anything for you, then for goodness sake, do not give Him a dime.

But if HE has, then pour it out according to the measure you have received.

The churches of Macedonia heard the cry from their leaders and committed themselves to the mission. Hebrews 13:17 states: "Continue to follow and be submissive to your leaders, since they are watching over your souls as those who will have to give a word of explanation.

Why do you think we have difficulty following our leaders?

How can we get passed speculation to a place of trust in leaders?

What do you think leaders need to do in order to earn the trust necessary to lead the flock?

James 1:5 says "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him." We need to pray for and have trust in our leaders, as they seek God's will, for our future.

Read 2 Corinthians 8:7

if you were Paul, what would you hope the church would excel in? What are your "top five" things the church should work hard at? Why does Paul say - Excel in giving?

What does that have to do with anything?

These Macedonians gave because their hearts were moved by the grace of God. They gave beyond their means...they dug deep. The churches had been so blessed that they wanted to give and do it abundantly.

Consider Matthew 6:19-20 as you pray about your Breakthrough involvement.