

RECEIPTS:

What I Give

November 14, 2021

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Notes:

The Christian churches in Macedonia were impoverished. But that did not stop them from being generous. So often, we create excuses not to be generous. But if we truly took stock of what we had, we might just find that we can give in ways we never imagined!

¹ And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ² In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵ And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. ⁷ 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.

- 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 7

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- Galatians 2:20

My Next Step(s):

- I will give with a spirit of generosity.
- I will give in proportion to my earnings (which are a gift from God).
- I will give sacrificially—giving up something that I wanted for myself.
- I will give freely—not out of compulsion or guilt.
- I will pray for God to give me a heart of generosity.

Memory Verse: 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. - 2 Corinthians 9:7

(continues on back)

(This message uses materials provided The Preaching Project, San Antonio, TX.)



RECEIPTS\$

HOW WHAT YOU SPEND REVEALS WHO YOU LOVE



1
HOW MANY
SLICES
WOULD YOU LIKE?

2
ANY COMBINATION OF
TOPPINGS?

3
ANYTHING TO
DRINK?

4
WOULD YOU LIKE TO
BUY ANOTHER SLICE
FOR SOMEONE ELSE?

¹ We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that was given to the churches of **Macedonia**: ² During a severe trial brought about by affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-2





Their abundant joy and their extreme poverty
overflowed in **a wealth of generosity**.

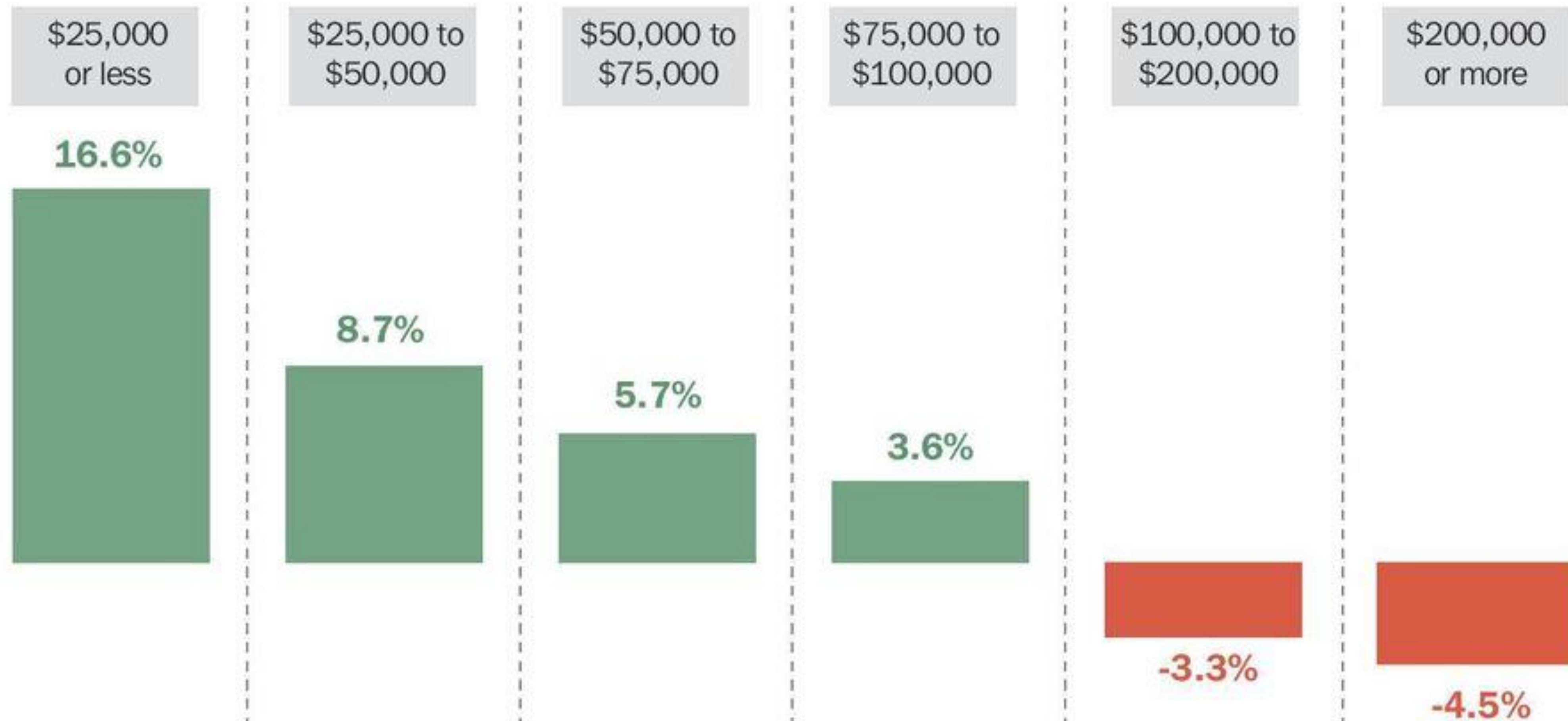
2 CORINTHIANS 8:2

Abundant Joy + Extreme Poverty =

Wealth of Generosity

Big Divide in Giving Trends by Income

Change in share of income given to charity from 2006 to 2012



SOURCE: Chronicle analysis of Internal Revenue Service data

$$2x - 3 = 11$$

$$2x - 3 = 11$$

$$x = 7$$

$$4x + 6 = 18$$

$$4x + 6 = 18$$

$$x = 3$$

$$2x + 3 = x + x + 3$$

$$2x + 3 = x + x + 3$$

$$x = \infty$$

$$2x + 3 = x + x + 3$$

$$2 \times 2 + 3 = 7 \quad 2 + 2 + 3 = 7$$

$$2x + 3 = x + x + 3$$

$$2 \times 3 + 3 = 9 \quad 3 + 3 + 3 = 9$$

Abundant Joy + Extreme Poverty =

Wealth of Generosity

Abundant Joy + x =

Wealth of Generosity

³ I can testify that, according to their ability and even beyond their ability, of their own accord,
⁴ they **begged** us earnestly for the **privilege** of sharing in the ministry to the saints.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:3-4

#1

A spirit of
generosity is
proportional.

I can testify that, **according to their ability...**

2 CORINTHIANS 8:3

A gift is acceptable **according to what a person has,**
not according to what he does not have.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:12

⁴² A poor widow came and dropped in two tiny coins worth very little. ⁴³ Summoning His disciples, He said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴ For they all gave out of their surplus, but she out of her poverty has put in **everything she had** – all she had to live on.”

MARK 12:42-44

#2

A spirit of
generosity is
sacrificial.

I can testify that, according to their ability and **even beyond their ability...**

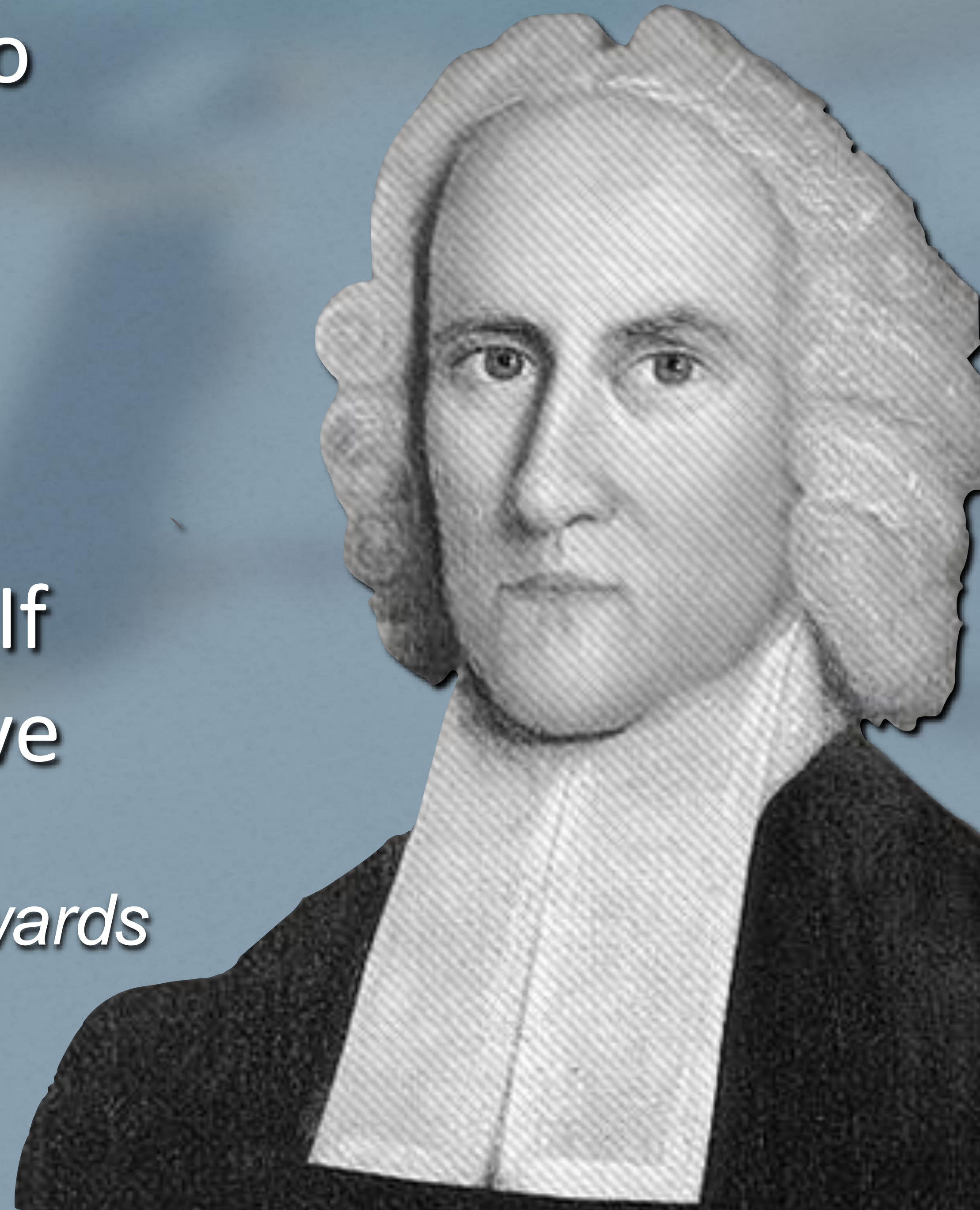
2 CORINTHIANS 8:3

Carry one another's **burdens**; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

GALATIANS 6:2

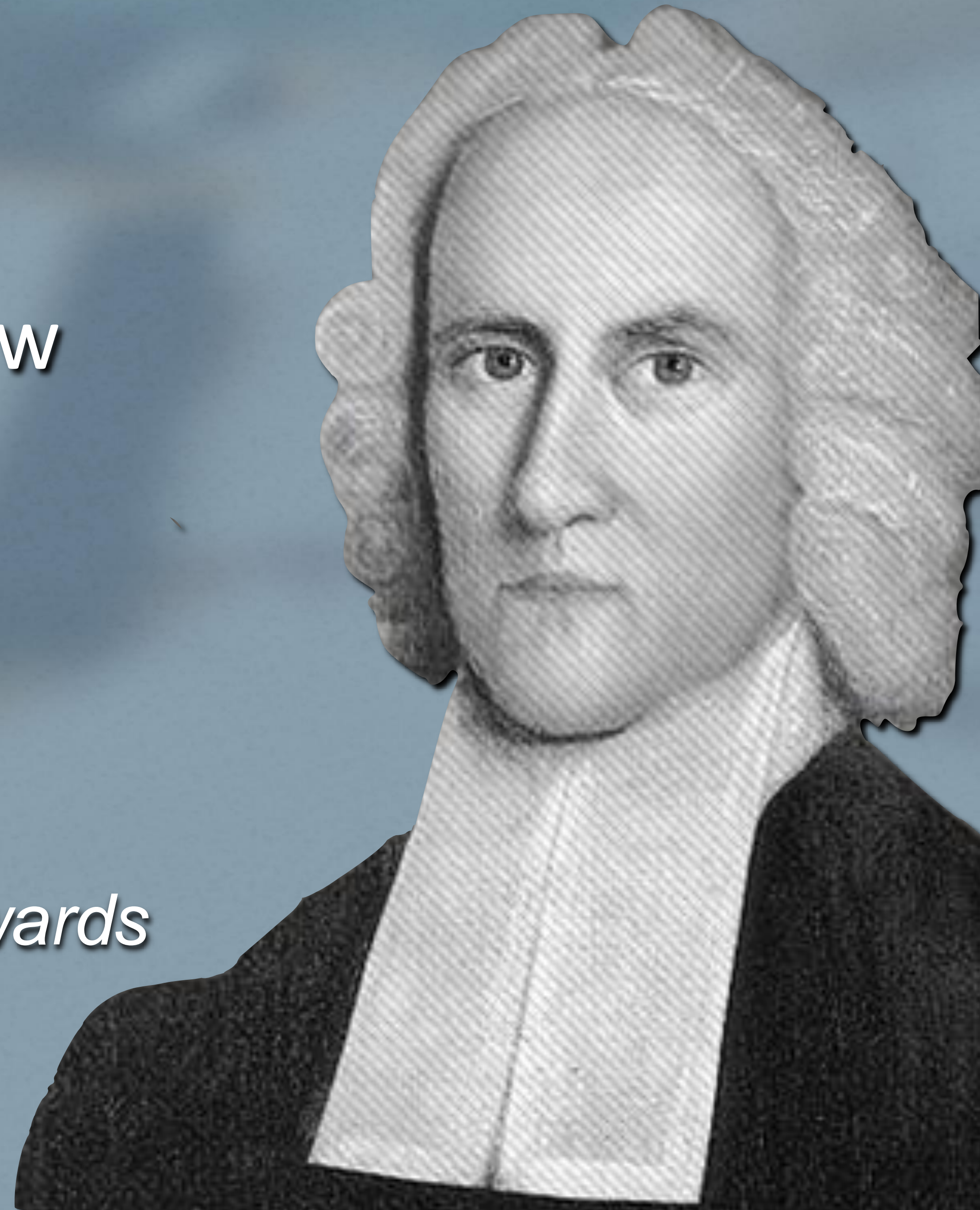
“We may be obliged to give to others when we cannot do it without suffering ourselves...Otherwise, how is that rule of ‘bearing one another’s burdens’ fulfilled? If we are never obliged to relieve others’ burdens except

- *Jonathan Edwards*



when we can do it without
burdening ourselves, then how
do we bear our neighbor's
burdens when we bear no
burden at all?"

- *Jonathan Edwards*



#3

A spirit of
generosity is
volitional.

I can testify that, according to their ability and even beyond their ability, **of their own accord...**

2 CORINTHIANS 8:3

Abundant Joy + Extreme Poverty =

Wealth of Generosity

Abundant Joy + Extreme Poverty =

Wealth of Generosity

Each of you should give what you have decided in **your heart** to give.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

If I give away all my possessions, and if I give over my body to be burned, but do not have **love**, I gain nothing.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:3

The Son of God **loved** me and **gave** Himself for me.

GALATIANS 2:20

Christ **loved** us and **gave** Himself for us.

EPHESIANS 5:2

Christ **loved** the church and **gave** Himself for her.

EPHESIANS 5:25

For God so **loved** the world that He **gave** His one
and only Son...

JOHN 3:16

HAPPY

10th

ANNIVERSARY

11 / 18 / 99

Love gives ...

Proportionally
Sacrificially
Freely