

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a US dollar bill. The focus is on the text "IN GOD WE TRUST" printed in a dark, serif font. The bill's intricate security patterns, including a scalloped border at the top and a grid-like pattern at the bottom, are visible but out of focus. The lighting is warm, highlighting the texture of the paper.

IN GOD WE TRUST

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We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

Excellent Giving – 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

IN GOD WE TRUST

Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you— see that you excel in this act of grace also. I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. 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 by his poverty might become rich.

Excellent Giving – 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

IN GOD WE TRUST

And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.

Excellent Giving – 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

IN GOD WE TRUST

For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. As it is written, "Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack."

(2 Corinthians 8:1-15, ESV)

Excellent Giving – 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

IN GOD WE TRUST

**As Christ followers, we
acknowledge all that
we have belongs to
God.**

IN GOD WE TRUST

Principle #1: As Christ followers, we honor God when we are content with what He has provided for us.

IN GOD WE TRUST

Principle #2: As Christ followers, we honor God when we conduct ourselves financially in a responsible and accountable manner.

IN GOD WE TRUST

Principle #3: As Christ followers, we honor God when we excel in our giving and give sacrificially.

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Excellent Giving – 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

IN GOD WE TRUST

The Macedonian Example

1. They gave sacrificially.

Excellent Giving – 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

IN GOD WE TRUST

The Macedonian Example

- 1. They gave sacrificially.**
- 2. They gave out of their own initiative.**

Excellent Giving – 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

IN GOD WE TRUST

The Macedonian Example

1. They gave sacrificially.
2. They gave out of their own initiative.
3. **They gave out of their commitment to God.**

Excellent Giving – 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

IN GOD WE TRUST

Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you— see that you excel in this act of grace also.

(2 Corinthians 8:6-7, ESV)

Excellent Giving – 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

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I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. 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 by his poverty might become rich.

(2 Corinthians 8:8-9, ESV)

Excellent Giving – 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

IN GOD WE TRUST

“As Christians, our giving reflects our view of the value of God’s Kingdom.”

Excellent Giving – 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

IN GOD WE TRUST

And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.

(2 Corinthians 8:10-12, ESV)

Excellent Giving – 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

IN GOD WE TRUST

“Every New Testament example of giving goes far beyond the tithe. However, none falls short of it. Tithing isn’t the ceiling of giving; it’s the floor. It’s not the finish line of giving; it’s just the starting blocks. Tithes can be the training wheels to launch us into the mind-set, skills, and habits of grace giving.”

(Randy Alcorn, *The Treasure Principle*)

Excellent Giving – 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

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(2 Corinthians 8:13-15, ESV)

Excellent Giving – 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

IN GOD WE TRUST

Principle #3: As Christ followers, we honor God when we excel in our giving and give sacrificially.



How are You Doing?

1. Excelling in Your Giving.

- **How much do you give in relationship to the overall blessing you feel you have received from God?**
- **Are you comfortable that you are excelling in this act of grace?**
- **How have you grown in this grace over the years?**
- **Do you feel that your giving reflects your current state of spiritual maturity?**

Excellent Giving – 2 Corinthians 8:1-15



How are You Doing?

2. Giving Sacrificially.

- **Have you ever made sacrifices to give to the work of God?**
- **How did it affect your view of God and His work?**
- **Did you suffer financial hardship because of your sacrifice?**
- **What would you consider a sacrifice at your current level of income?**

Excellent Giving – 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

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