



2 Corinthians 8:12 tells us, *“For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.”*

We can likely all agree that family finances, and so perhaps church finances, are being stressed today. One of the outcomes of this situation may be guilt over what has been left undone, or perhaps never even attempted in the first place. It’s comforting to know that the Lord sees the heart and not a ledger when he views our giving. The question really is about willingness, or, as some translations read, eagerness to give.

We know that the Holy Spirit gives even the gift of giving and the willingness to do so. But we must remain open to the Spirit’s prompting by staying in the Word and Sacraments that are offered to us in even the grace of giving. Mission 1-1-1 weekly giving should never leave behind a trail of guilt, but rather a path to freedom to respond out of thanksgiving to what we have been given.

We read in Philippians 1:6, *“being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”*