



Needing help
When do people need help?
What do you do
when you need help?
In what matters most,
who can actually help us?
Will they help??
Pray: "Hear my cry for help."

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**The Generosity
of God**
2 Corinthians 8:9

bib.ly/2Co8.NIV
tiny.cc/cmchandouts

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	God	humanity
Creation	Holy God who made a good world	turned our own way (sin)
Redemption	Jesus died for us (grace)	faith in Jesus
New creation	Making all things new	join in the mission of God

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2 Corinthians

Letter responds to the claim:

Paul's suffering showed that he was not a good Spirit-filled apostle

1-7: Paul defended his role and ministry as an apostle

8-9: Collection for the poor Jewish believers in Jerusalem

10-13: Paul appealed to those who rejected his authority

Why should Christian be generous?

Paul pointed to Jesus...

4

2 Corinthians 8:9

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 **through his poverty**
 might **become rich**.

Jesus moved: riches → poverty

5

A few of Christ's riches replaced with poverty

Overwhelming beauty



no beauty

“One thing I ask from the Lord...

to gaze on the beauty of the Lord”

Psalm 27:4

“He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
 nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.”

Isaiah 53:2

6

A few of Christ's riches replaced with poverty

Overwhelming beauty



no beauty

All surpassing glory



no glory

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb

be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”

Revelation 5:13

“He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.”

John 1:10

“He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.”

Isaiah 53:3

7

A few of Christ's riches replaced with poverty

Overwhelming beauty



no beauty

All surpassing glory



no glory

Perfect joyful blessedness



deepest anguish

“God [is] the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords”

1 Timothy 6:15

“And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.”

Luke 22:44

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A few of Christ's riches replaced with poverty

Overwhelming beauty	→	no beauty
All surpassing glory	→	no glory
Perfect joyful blessedness	→	deepest anguish
Being the delight of God the Father	→	crushed to suffering

“You are my Son, whom I love;
with you I am well pleased.”

Luke 3:22

“Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him
and cause him to suffer,
...the Lord makes his life an offering for sin”

Isaiah 53:10

9

A few of Christ's riches replaced with poverty

Overwhelming beauty	→	no beauty
All surpassing glory	→	no glory
Perfect joyful blessedness	→	deepest anguish
Being the delight of God the Father	→	crushed to suffering
Worshiped by all people	→	rejected by His own people

“Before me every knee will bow;
by me every tongue will swear.”

Isaiah 45:23

“He came to that which was his own,
but his own did not receive him.”

John 1:11

10

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Worshiped by all people	→	rejected by His own people
Living in heaven as God	→	no home on earth

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.”

John 1:1-2

Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to **lay** his **head**.” *Luke 9:53*

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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 through his poverty
might become rich.

Jesus moved: riches → poverty
so that we can move: poverty → riches

13

Some of our poverty replaced with riches

Spiritually dead



truly alive

“For although they knew God, they neither glorified him
as God nor gave thanks to him...”

Romans 1:21

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

Romans 3:23

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.”

Ephesians 2:1

“because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,
made us alive with Christ”

Ephesians 2:4

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Some of our poverty replaced with riches

Spiritually dead → **truly alive**
Separated from God by our sin → **loved children of God**

“They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God”

Ephesians 4:18

“[nothing] in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:39

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Some of our poverty replaced with riches

Spiritually dead → **truly alive**
Separated from God by our sin → **loved children of God**
Deserving God’s wrath → **cleansed and made holy like God**

“All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.”

Ephesians 2:3

“Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the Lord.

“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”

Isaiah 1:18

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Some of our poverty replaced with riches

Spiritually dead → **truly alive**
Separated from God by our sin → **loved children of God**
Deserving God's wrath → **cleansed and made holy like God**
Troubled by our sins → **completely forgiven and healed**

“Simon Peter...fell at Jesus' knees and said,
 ‘Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!’.”

Luke 5:8

“Praise the LORD...who forgives all your sins
 and heals all your diseases.”

Psalms 103:3

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Some of our poverty replaced with riches

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Troubled by our sins → **completely forgiven and healed**
Separated from others → **restored in relationships**

“The acts of the flesh are obvious: ...hatred, discord, jealousy,
 fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy;
 drunkenness, orgies, and the like.” *Galatians 5:19-21*

“For he himself is our peace...and has destroyed the barrier,
 the dividing wall of hostility.”

Ephesians 2:14

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Some of our poverty replaced with riches

Spiritually dead → truly alive
Separated from God by our sin → loved children of God
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Separated from others → restored in relationships
Without hope and without God → empowered by the Holy Spirit

“remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship..., without hope and without God in the world.” *Ephesians 2:12*

“you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you”
Acts 1:8

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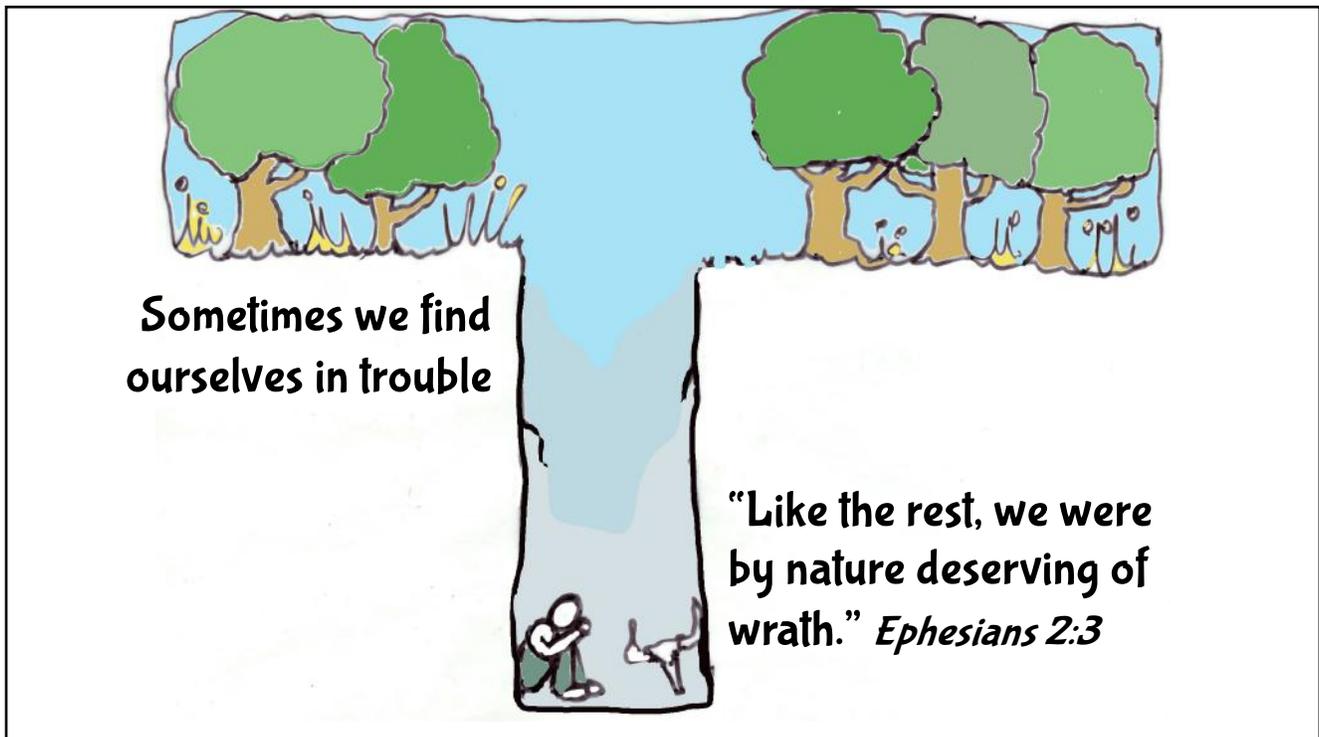
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The Big Idea

Jesus gave up His glory and He died
to give us life and glory with God forever
then Jesus rose again to life and glory forever

Sacrificial generosity is at the heart of God and the Gospel

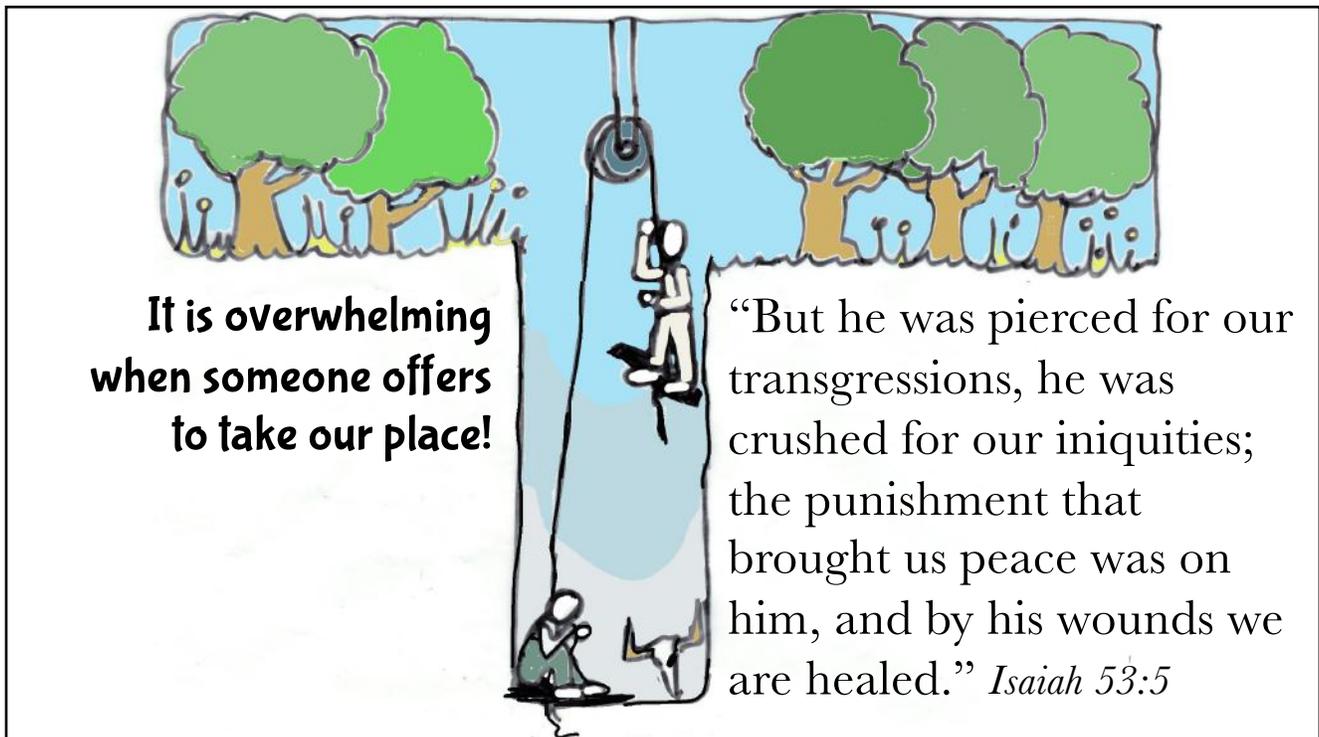
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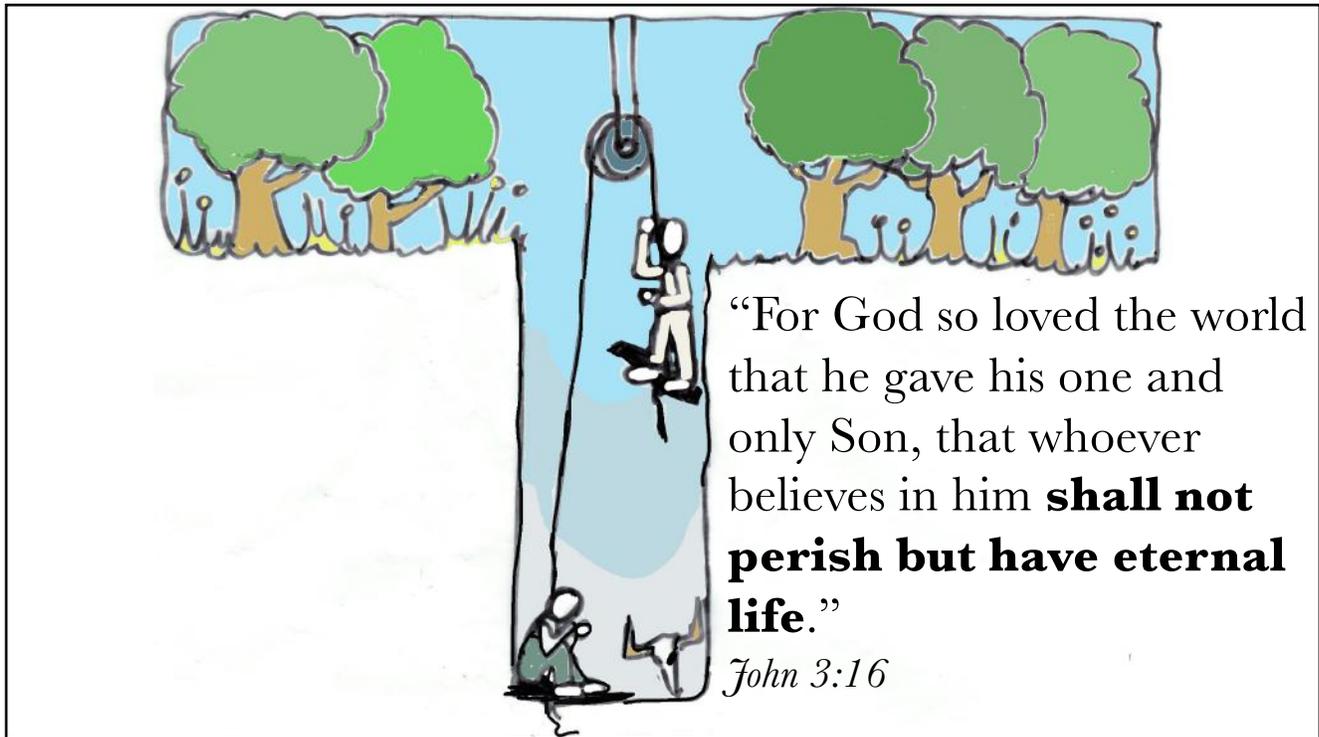
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Application

Rejoice in Christ's sacrifice that gives us life

- “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” *Romans 5:8*
- “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” *Acts 4:12*
- “Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!” *Romans 7:25*
- Have you trusted in Jesus as Savior?
 - “Jesus, you took the punishment that I deserve”
 - “Please save me by your death”

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Application

Rejoice in Christ's sacrifice that gives us life Excel in the grace of giving

- “see that you also excel in this grace of giving” 8:7
- “they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.” 8:4
- **Wisely:** “For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man.” 8:21
- **Trusting God:** “And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” 9:8

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Application

Rejoice in Christ's sacrifice that gives us life

Excel in the grace of giving

- Kindness. Time. Attention. Service. Resources.
- Some possibilities:
 - Care for people
 - Serve
 - Give to people you know who are in need
 - Give to organizations you trust for refugees (near and far), food banks, ...
 - Give to Crossway / External Ministry

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**In your relationships with one another,
have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:**

Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something
to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

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Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:5-11

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The Big Idea

**Jesus gave up His glory and He died
to give us life and glory with God forever
then Jesus rose again to life and glory forever**

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