I. Generous - Voluntary, un compelled; Openhanded, marked by abundance or ample proportions.

A. **Prov 11:24-25 Message** 24 The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller. 25 The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped.

1. **Matt 6:21** 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

II. **2 Cor 8:1-7 - Grace of Giving**

A. **V1** - Churches in Macedonia - Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea

B. **V2 - Abounding in affliction**

1. **Trial** - dokime - Test; Prove the worth of, that which causes something to be true or genuine.
2. **Affliction** - thlipsis - To crowd or pressure; persecution, trouble
   a) Physical or mental distress; weight of circumstance
3. **Abundance** - perisseia - To superabound, be in excess
4. **Joy** - chara - Cheerfulness, calm delight, gladness
5. **Poverty** - ptocheia - Beggary, hardship and deprivation
6. **Abounded** - perisseuo - To be or exist in abundance, with the implication of being considerably more than what would be expected
7. **Riches** - ploutos - Fullness; money, possessions; abundance
8. **Liberality** - haplotes - Generosity, singleness of purpose and motivation
   a) You can be in “great trial of affliction” and “deep poverty” and still abound in the riches of their liberality

C. **V3 - Our choice**

1. **Ability** - dunamis - Force; miraculous power
2. **Freely willing** - authairetos - Voluntary, choose for yourself

D. **V4-5 - Not about us**

1. **2 Cor 8:5 AMP** 5 Nor [was this gift of theirs merely the contribution] that we expected, but first they gave themselves to the Lord and to us [as His agents] by the will of God [entirely disregarding their personal interests, they gave as much as they possibly could, having put themselves at our disposal to be directed by the will of God]

E. **V6 - Urged Titus**

1. **Urged** - parakaleo - To call, invite, “beseech”
2. **Complete** - epiteleo - To fulfill, execute, accomplish
F. **V7 - Abound in everything!**
   1. **Abound** - *perisseuo* - To superabound; be in excess
   2. **Faith** - *pistis* - Belief, convictions
   3. **Speech** - *logos* - Words, something said, message
   4. **Knowledge** - *gnosis* - What is known
   5. **Diligence** - *spoude* - Speed; eagerness, excellence, bring your best, “A” game
   6. **Love** - *agape* - Love feast, unconditional, Godly love for others.

G. **V8 - The generosity test**
   1. **Testing** - *dokimazo* - Regard something as genuine or worthy through testing; Prove
   2. **Sincerity** - *gnesios* - Legitimate; genuine

H. **V10-15 - Bringing desires to completion**
   1. **Complete** - *epiteleo* - To fulfill, execute, accomplish

III. **APPLICATION:**
   A. Am I abounding in the grace of giving?
   B. Am I being generous with my portion?
   C. Am I passing the generosity test?
   D. Am I just desiring to do something or am I completing it?