

# 2 Corinthians 8:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

## Analysis

**Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints**—Remarkably, the Macedonians begged Paul (deomenoi hēmōn, 'entreating us') to accept their contribution. The phrase tēn charin kai tēn koinōnian (τὴν χάριν καὶ τὴν κοινωνίαν, 'the grace and the fellowship') treats giving as both divine gift and communal participation. Koinōnia (κοινωνία, 'partnership, sharing, communion') appears throughout Paul's writings as a key ecclesial term—here applied to financial assistance.

The Macedonians understood something profound: participating in relief for Jerusalem saints was a privilege, not a burden. The phrase tēn diakonian tēn eis tous hagious ('the ministry to the saints') uses diakonia (service) to elevate mundane charity to sacred ministry. They wanted to share in the koinōnia of serving—the same word used for 'fellowship with Christ' (1 Corinthians 1:9). This theological vision transforms giving from duty to worship, from obligation to opportunity.

## Historical Context

The Jerusalem collection served multiple purposes:

1. practical relief during famine

2. demonstration of Gentile-Jewish unity in the early church
3. fulfillment of Paul's commitment to remember the poor (Galatians 2:10),
4. symbolic representation of Gentile tribute to the mother church, echoing Isaiah's vision of nations bringing wealth to Zion.

Paul saw it as essential to gospel mission.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. Do you view giving as a privilege to be sought or a duty to be avoided?
2. How does understanding financial generosity as 'koinōnia' (fellowship) change your perspective?
3. What 'ministry to the saints' might God be inviting you to participate in through sacrificial giving?

## Interlinear Text

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μετὰ πολλῆς παρακλήσεως δεόμενοι ἡμῶν τὴν χάριν  
 with much intreaty Praying us G3588 the gift  
 G3326 G4183 G3874 G1189 G2257 G5485

καὶ τὴν κοινωνίαν τῆς διακονίας τῆς εἰς  
 and G3588 take upon us the fellowship G3588 of the ministering G3588 to  
 G2532 G2842 G1248 G1519

τοὺς ἀγίους δέξασθαι ἡμᾶς·  
 G3588 the saints would receive that we  
 G40 G1209 G2248

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 24:17** (Parallel theme): Now after many years I came to bring alms to my nation, and offerings.

**2 Corinthians 9:1** (Holy): For as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you:

**Hebrews 6:10** (Holy): For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

**1 Corinthians 16:15** (Holy): I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)

**Galatians 6:10** (Parallel theme): As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

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