

THE GRACE OF GIVING – The Grace Test



2 Corinthians 8:6 So we urged Titus to help **complete your act of grace** just as **he had started it.** **7** But just as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness, and in the love we inspired in you — see that you also excel in **this grace of giving.** **8** I am not making a demand, but I am testing the sincerity of your love in comparison to the earnestness of others. **9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich. **10** And this is my opinion about what is helpful for you in this matter: Last year you were the first not only **to give,** but even to have such a desire. **11** Now finish the work, so that you may complete it just as eagerly as you began, according to your means. **12** For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have. **13** It is not our intention that others may be relieved while you are burdened, but that there may be equality.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8. Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have **decided in your heart to give,** not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Scripture is clear that our giving is in direct relationship to OUR heart motive and HIS grace. When we have grasped the level of Gods giving, it seems trite to minimise it in the resources He has blessed us with. "For God so loved us that He gave His only begotten son" **John 3:16** that's giving!

The THREE grace areas we must reveal to our world are:

1. THE GRACE OF GIVING
2. THE GRACE OF SERVING
3. THE GRACE OF LIVING

THE GRACE OF GIVING

1. Jesus EXPECTS and REQUIRES us to give. Jesus said to His disciples, "**when you give**" not "**if you give**" ([Matthew 6:2](#))

2. Jesus wants us to give for THE RIGHT REASONS. "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them,"([Matthew 6:1](#)). The key is motive.

3. Jesus wants us to GIVE TO THE POOR. Jesus said "**When you give to the poor** " ([Matthew 6:2-3](#)). The term "alms" refers to **aid, charity, or benevolent offerings for the needy.** **G6 is our process of giving "Alms"**

4. Jesus tells us our GIVING IS SEEN BY GOD. "When you give; your Father who *sees what is done in secret will reward you*" ([Matthew 6:3-4](#)). We don't give to a **Church budget**, but giving **"as unto the Lord."** Our The principle of giving is to please Him, and bless others.

5. GIVING is an ACT of WORSHIP. "On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside" ([1 Corinthians 16:2](#)). When we invest in the collection it is an act of worship.

- Our giving meets someone **else's need, and MATURITY is seen in GIVING not ASKING**

6. GIVING is done in light of CHRIST'S DIVINE EXCHANGE.

- Christians that argue giving the tithe (10% of our income) is not applicable, should balance that opinion based on Christ's giving. Paul kills the whole debate in one verse. **"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"** ([2 Corinthians 8:9](#)).
- Christ's giving of his self is **now the standard** for our giving! **The Lord's costly sacrifice?**

7. Giving should be in accordance with OUR MEANS.

Paul said, "For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a person **has**, not according to what he **does not have**" ([2 Corinthians 8:12](#)).

- Paul is saying that you should give in **proportion** to what God has given you. [1 Cor 16:2](#), "each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper." This means at least two things: (1) since we are all supposed to give proportionately, to those who have more.

8. The LIBERALITY of blessing is PROPORTIONATE to liberality of GIVING.

- Giving to the Lord and the Lord's giving to us defines our relationship. [2 Cor 9:6](#) "Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."
- "The desire to be generous and the means to be generous both come from God."

9. GIVING is a FREE WILL act and WE MUST be willing to give

- [2 Corinthians 9:7](#) "Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion."
- Christian giving is not optional? True Christian giving is both mandatory and voluntary.

10. GIVING should be CHEERFUL. As Paul says "God loves a cheerful giver."

- When we fully grasp the correlation between Christ's **measure of giving** and OUR measure of **receiving** that Generosity, GIVING is never an issue.
- The measure of our **GIVING is seen** in the measure of our LOVE and worship **IN CHRIST**.

We can never out give God. Our giving is not a competition it is a heartfelt response to His love. We serve Him not for the benefits to COME, but the work already DONE, and in that grace we advance the Kingdom.