

The Grace of Giving

Abound in this grace also

2 Corinthians 8:7

LESSON 4 – IMPLEMENTING GRACE GIVING

1. A Review of Biblical Facts

- Material and financial giving to the Lord has always been a response to grace and an act of grace.
- The Jewish people under the Old Testament system were required to “tithe,” which means give 10%, of their material and financial possessions to the Lord. There were actually three tithes, so they gave more than just 10%. There is no requirement for New Testament Christians to tithe.
- The Old Testament followers of God also gave free-will offerings, which were voluntary contributions to show worship, devotion, and thanks.
- Jesus had a lot to say about giving, especially the importance of it and motive for it.
- The New Testament church, described in the Book of Acts, practiced voluntary giving according to people’s individual ability. The offerings were received and distributed through the church.
- There are three targets of New Testament giving: The work of and ministers in the local church; people spreading the Gospel; and Christians and others in need.
- The key word in the New Testament that is associated with financial and material giving is **grace**. The motivation for giving is not obligation or manipulation, but a willing heart.
- Every Christian should regularly practice the grace of giving.
- Biblical giving is willing, voluntary, responsive, and generous.

2. Key Bible Passages

Acts 2:40-47; 4:32-37; 11:27-30

1 Corinthians 16:1-4

2 Corinthians 8-9

Philippians 4:10-20

Hebrews 13:15-16

3. Practical Steps

- _____ over key passages and _____ for the Holy Spirit to lead you.
- _____ with anyone who shares your spiritual and financial decisions.

- Consider biblical giving _____.
- Consider the _____ of the ministry.
- Answer the questions: What do I _____? What can I _____?
- _____ ahead as much as possible.
- Choose a _____ date.
- Set _____ your gift.
- _____ it to the Lord.
- _____ for additional needs and opportunities.
- Rejoice!

4. Special Considerations

- Stages and phases of life
- Decreased income – decrease your _____ or your living?
- Increased income – increase your _____ or your giving?
- Giving while in debt

Psalm 37:21 The wicked borrows and does not repay, but the righteous shows mercy and gives.

- Have a plan and a time period for eliminating debt.
 - Include aggressive debt elimination payments (not minimum payments, not maintenance of debt lifestyle).
 - Give what you can, when you can.
 - Evaluate status each month.
 - Change your lifestyle from “debt living” to “grace giving.” (Eph. 4:28)
- People who prosper more than you
 - Recognize and rejoice in their gift of giving. (Romans 12:8)
 - Recognize the varying distribution of talents. (Matt. 25:14-30)
 - Do not envy. (1 Cor. 3:3; 13:4)
 - Do not judge. (Romans 14:4, 10-13)
 - Give from what you have. (2 Corinthians 8:12)

5. Where it Goes