The Grace of Giving





¹There is no need for me to write to you about this service to the Lord's people.

²For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, telling them that since last year you in Achaia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to

action.



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³But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you in this matter should not prove hollow, but that you may be ready, as I said you would be.

⁴For if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to say anything about you—would be ashamed of having been so confident.

⁵So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given.

⁶Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

⁷Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

⁸And 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.

⁹As it is written:
"They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever."

¹⁰Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

¹¹You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

¹²This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

¹³Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and

with everyone else.

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¹⁴And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.

¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

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Principle 1: Generous Giving Encourages Others to be Generous (vss 1-5)

So WHERE are we to direct our giving?
What should be our priority when it comes to
giving financially to gospel work?

³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold

³⁵and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

³⁶Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus,

³⁷sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

⁶Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches.

⁷Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

⁸For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

⁹And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

¹⁰So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

1 Timothy 5:17-18 (ESV)

¹⁷Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

1 Timothy 5:17-18 (ESV)

¹⁸For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages."

Principle 2: You Can't Out-Give God (vss. 6, 8-11)

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Proverbs 11:24 (ESV)

²⁴One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

Principle 3: Giving is a Matter of the Heart (vs 7)

1 Corinthians 16:1-3 (NIV)

¹Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do.

1 Corinthians 16:1-3 (NIV)

²On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

1 Corinthians 16:1-3 (NIV)

³Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem.

Our giving back to God is to be planned, regular giving

Our giving back to God is to be proportional

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