

2020 Vision
Giving Your Money to What Matters Most, Part 1
2 Corinthians 8-9
Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, Jan. 26, 2020

I. Your Giving is a Reflexive Response and a Glorious Exhibition of God's Grace in Your Life

2 Corinthians 8:1 “We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia.”

Our love for each other and our sacrificial giving are two of the greatest apologetics to a lost and dying world who doesn't know how to love and doesn't know how to give.

It's no accident that Paul replaces the word “give” with the word “grace” as many times as he can in these two chapters. **[See 2 Cor. 8:1, 8:6, 8:7, 8:9, 8:19]**

The Christians in Macedonia did not give the most because they had the most to spare. They gave the most because they were gripped by God's grace.

2 Corinthians 8:3-4 “³For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints”

NIV “... they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing”

“Our giving is a reflexive response to the grace of God in our lives. It doesn't come out of our altruism or philanthropy – it comes out of the transforming work of Christ in us. This grace is the action; our giving is the reaction. We give because he first gave to us...As thunder follows lightning, giving follows grace.”

-The Treasure Principle, Randy Alcorn, p. 30-31

What does your giving put on display or give evidence of?

2 Corinthians 8:8 “I say this not as a command...”

Paul knows that a command to give will never change the heart, and he knows that what God is really after is our heart. God doesn't need our money; money is simply a reflection of what's going on in our hearts!

II. You'll Never Give Your Money to Other People Until You First Give Your Life to God

2 Corinthians 8:5 “And this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.”

Some of you find it so hard to give away your money because you're still holding onto your life.

"Giving is a joyful surrender to a greater Person and a greater agenda. It dethrones me and exalts Him."

-Randy Alcorn

III. Your Level of Joy in the Things Outside of This World Will Determine Your Generosity with the Things of This World

2 Corinthians 8:2 "For in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity."

They were more aware of and moved by the joy of their spiritual riches in Christ than the pain and suffering of their immediate circumstances and financial condition.

[See Ephesians 1:3-8, 11-12]

For you to give generously and sacrificially, you'll need more than a new view of money. You'll need a new view of you—who you are in Christ and what you have in Christ.

The only people who are ever characterized as "givers" are people who have been born again by the grace of God, and are being transformed more and more to be like the greatest giver – Jesus Christ.

IV. Your Giving is One of the Biggest Indicators of Your Spiritual Maturity and Growth in Christ

2 Corinthians 8:7-8 "⁷ But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. ⁸ I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine."

There can be no significant spiritual growth until you put your money, and your attitude towards it, into God's hands.

"Don't give it back to me until I can love people by the way I use money, instead of consuming money as I use people."

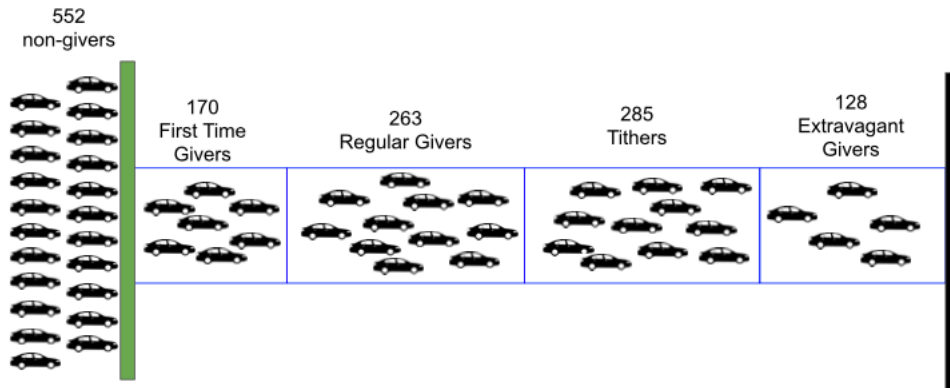
2 Corinthians 8:9 "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich."

Christianity is characterized by a sacrificial, generous, giving Savior!

Next Steps for Growing in Your Grace of Giving

- Find yourself on the giving chart below and make plans to grow to the next level of giving this year.

2019 GFC Giving Units We have 1,400 Households that call GFC home



\$0 | < \$500/yr | \$500-3,000 | \$3,000-10,000 | > \$10,000

40% of our households give nothing
 10% of our households give < \$500/yr
 50% of our households carry over 90% of the budget
 30% of our households tithe (give at least 10% of their income)

- Sign up for the five-week **“Life. Money. Legacy.”** class that runs from **March 9 - April 6** on Monday evenings, meeting in the Florence Campus Chapel by Entrance C.
- Purchase and read ***The Treasure Principle*** by Randy Alcorn (copies are available in our Resource Center).
- Read **2 Corinthians 8 & 9** three times before next Sunday.
- Sign up to make your giving regular and automatic by going to: **graceky.org/give** or text **GRACEKY** or **GRACEMISSIONS** to **77977**.