

Lesson 7 Grace Giving

**2 Corinthians 9**

<sup>1</sup>For it is superfluous for me to write to you **about this ministry to the saints;**

<sup>2</sup>for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, namely, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them.

<sup>3</sup>But I have sent the brethren, in order that our boasting about you may not be made empty in this case, so that, as I was saying, you may be prepared;

<sup>4</sup>otherwise if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we--not to speak of you--will be put to shame by this confidence.

<sup>5</sup>So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, so that the same would be ready as a bountiful gift and not affected by covetousness.

**<sup>6</sup>Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.**

**<sup>7</sup>Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.**

**<sup>8</sup>And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;**

<sup>9</sup>as it is written,

"HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR,  
HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER."

**<sup>10</sup>Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;**

**<sup>11</sup>you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.**

**<sup>12</sup>For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.**

**<sup>13</sup>Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,**

**<sup>14</sup>while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you.**

<sup>15</sup>Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

- I. **Grace Giving is giving freely and joyfully of our resources (monetary or otherwise) to those in need or into ministries.**
  - A Giving is usually addressed in terms of giving to the needs of the saints (vs. 1)
  - B We reap to the degree that we sow (vs. 6)
  - C We give as we purpose in our hearts (vs. 7)
  - D We give as sowing seed, expecting a harvest (vs. 8-11).

**II. New Covenant giving is something in which we are encouraged to abound.**

**2 Corinthians 8:7**

*But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you **abound in this grace** also (referring to giving to the needs of the saints).*

**Acts 9:36**

*Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated in Greek is called Dorcas); this woman was **abounding with deeds of kindness and charity** which she continually did.*

**1 Thessalonians 3:12**

*And may the Lord cause you to **increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you.***

**1 Timothy 6:17-18**

*Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. <sup>18</sup>Instruct them to **do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share.***

**III. Just as we love because God loves us so we give because Jesus has given to us. Part of God’s undeserved favor to us is to make us rich. Being rich has a purpose and that is grace giving. Giving is a demonstration of love. God GAVE His Son, and we give to each other as there is need.**

**2 Corinthians 8:7-9**

*But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you **abound in this grace** also. <sup>8</sup>**I am not speaking this as a command, but as proving through the earnestness of others the sincerity of your love** also. <sup>9</sup>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.*

**1 John**

**3:17-19**

*But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? <sup>18</sup>**My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.** <sup>19</sup> And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.*

But

**IV. Grace Giving emphasizes giving to those in need.**

**A To our family:** Sometimes we deemphasize this. We are to be generous with our spouses and children.

**1 Timothy 5:8**

*But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

**B To those in need, especially to the household of faith:** We don’t need to pray and ask God if we should give. If a fellow believer is destitute and we are able to help, it just makes perfect sense that we will help them.

**James 2:15-17**

*If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? <sup>17</sup> Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

**Galatians 6:9-10**

Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary (relax, faint). <sup>10</sup>So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

**1** In this context, “doing good” would be sharing resources for spiritual purposes which would include helping others, especially fellow believers.

**2** “While we have opportunity”  
 “The exhortation is not merely to do good for others when the opportunity presents itself, but to look for opportunities to do good for others.”  
 Wuest's Word Studies - Volume 1: Word Studies in the Greek New Testament.

**3** “Especially”  
 Especially, chiefly, most of all, above all—  
 Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon

Be set free from traditional teaching about giving. You might not always get a tax deduction, but you will always be a blessing and be blessed. Be free to ABOUND in good deeds (Eph.2:10).

**V. Grace Giving also includes participation in the ministry. We are blessed with the same blessing by partaking (fellowshipping) in another's ministry.**

**A Peter's companions benefitted from helping Peter.**

**Luke 5:2-3, 5-7**

He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup>And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And He sat down and began teaching the people from the boat... <sup>5</sup>Simon answered and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down the nets." <sup>6</sup>When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to break; <sup>7</sup>so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink.

**B We give to those who teach the word of God.**

**Galatians 6:6-9**

The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him. <sup>7</sup>Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. <sup>8</sup>For 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. <sup>9</sup>Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

**1** Those who teach “the word”. . . There is a widening chasm in these last days between what is taught in some books, TV and radio, from the pulpit, and truly teaching the word. Evaluate what you hear and teach. **2**

**Timothy 4:1-4**

Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. <sup>3</sup>For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; <sup>4</sup> and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

**Acts 17:11**

*These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*

1

**Thessalonians 5:21**

*But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good.*

**2** *Those who are taught the word of God should “share” ALL good things with the one who teaches. The word “share” is koy-no-neh'-o which is from the same Greek word as is koy-nohn-ee'-ah (koinonia) which we commonly translate “fellowship”.*

- Both words are from **koy-no-nos'**—a sharer, that is, associate: - companion, fellowship, partaker, partner. This is a person.

- 1) **koy-no-neh'-o**: to share with others (objectively or subjectively): - communicate, distribute, be partaker. Usually used in NT to refer to giving goods or finances

- koy-nohn-ee'-ah**: partnership, that is, (literally) participation, or (social)

- intercourse, or (pecuniary) benefaction: - (to) communicate (-ation), communion, (contri-), distribution, fellowship.

**3** *There is no doubt that this sharing included finances, but it goes deeper than that. The one who shares enters into partnership/association and actually partakes-reaps with that person in ministry. This is more than, “I speak. You give an offering.” There is fellowship and communion between the giver and the one who teaches the word and they both reap eternal rewards.*

**C** *We need to consider to what causes we give our resources because we not only share in their ministries, but reap with them. Here is the guideline we personally use. We obviously should not be supporting ministries that are teaching “another gospel” because we become partakers with them.*

**1** *Ministries that teach THE gospel, not “another” gospel*

**2** *Ministries that help the needy (poor, imprisoned, widows, orphans, etc.) and advance THE gospel while doing this*

**3** *To the household of faith/fellow believers (bearing one another’s heavy burdens)*

**4** *To all men, including non-believers (obviously not to further the lust of their flesh, but to show God’s love for them)*

**VI. We reap to the degree we sow, but this is not quantity. We give as we purpose in our hearts for God loves a cheerful giver.**

2

**Corinthians 9:6 (in discussing giving)**

*Now this I say, he who sows sparingly (stingily) will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*

**Philippians 4: 16-20**

*For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. <sup>17</sup> Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. <sup>18</sup> Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. <sup>19</sup> And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. <sup>20</sup> Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

**A** Paul makes this statement about God supplying all of their need based on the fact that they had given. They would reap what they had sown. Paul was encouraging them to continue giving, not so that he could receive, but so that they would have “the fruit that abound to their account”. Having sown into spiritual things/Paul’s ministry, God would thus provide all of their need.

**VII. Sowing in famine**

**A** Throw your net on the other side.

**John 21:3, 6**

*Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will also come with you." They went out and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing. <sup>6</sup>And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a catch." So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish.*

**B** Feeling like your resources have dried up? God will provide.

**1 Kings 17:7, 9**

*It happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land. <sup>9</sup>"Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and stay there; behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.*

**C** Give even when it seems you don’t have much to give.

**2 Corinthians 8:1-4**

*Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the **grace** of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, <sup>2</sup>that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and **their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.** <sup>3</sup>For I testify that according to their ability, and **beyond their ability**, they gave of their own accord, <sup>4</sup>begging us with much urging for the favor of **participation in the support of the saints.***

**VIII. Believe in God’s love and Grace toward you, and that He is committed to provide abundantly for all your needs. Give as you are able and as you purpose in your heart.**

**A** He has promised to meet all the needs APART FROM SOWING AND REAPING of those who have sought His kingdom and His righteousness (those who have been born again (**Matthew 6:33**)).

**B** He has promised to never leave us or forsake us (this has a financial context) (**Hebrews 13:5**).

**C** He has promised to provide seed for the sower. As we sow into His kingdom, He provides more seed for us to sow (**2 Corinthians 9:10**).

**D** He has promised that we will reap as we sow (**2 Corinthians 9:6**).

**E** He has promised us mercy and grace at His throne in time of need (**Hebrews 4:16**). This means that we do not have to fear if we have not managed money perfectly in the past. Even if we have made severe mistakes in this area, we can trust in His mercy and grace to help us in time of need.

**IX. Tithing is NOT a New Covenant requirement. It is part of the OLD COVENANT. Christians are NOT under the Old Covenant (*Romans 6:14*).**

**Malachi 3:8-12**

*"Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup>"You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! <sup>10</sup>"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. <sup>11</sup>"Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the LORD of hosts. <sup>12</sup>"All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land," says the LORD of hosts.*

**A** It is interesting how this law is singled out along with its curses, and it is not even part of the Ten Commandments (from which we have also been set free). We don't hear of the curses for not observing the Sabbath day and setting it apart as holy (a law which we are also not under). Amazing the inconsistencies!

**Exodus 35:2**

*For six days, work is to be done, but the seventh day shall be your holy day, a Sabbath of rest to the LORD. **Whoever does any work on it must be put to death.***

**Galatians 5:18**

*But if you are led by the Spirit, **you are not under the Law.***

Let us all praise God  
that we are NOT  
under the law  
or the curse of the law.

**X. Many times, spiritual leaders will say things like the following to try and motivate believers to tithe instead of follow New Covenant guidelines. →→→Keep in mind: the underlined statements are FALSE.**

**A** "The New Covenant requirement is to give 100%."

**1** *The main examples used*

- *The Rich Young Ruler: This scripture is used to say that as Christians we must sell all we possess and give it away.*

**Mark 10:21**

*Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."*

- *Jesus was not saying that if we want to follow Him we need to sell all our possessions and follow Him. He was addressing this individual's problem of holding fast to his possessions. Notice Jesus did not only tell him to sell all he had and give to the poor, but also to come and follow Him. His problem was that he was not willing to give up what mattered to him most, his money, in order to follow Jesus. Jesus had this conversation with no one else that He asked to follow Him. He was addressing this man's personal need.*
- *Likewise, when we come to Jesus, we yield to Him all we are and all we have, but it is obviously not required for salvation to sell all we have and give to the poor.*

Otherwise, we would be saved by works and **Ephesians 2:8-9** states that we are **NOT SAVED BY WORKS**.

**B The Early Church gave 100%**

**No, they did not.** We know that at the beginning of the early church, believers sold their lands to help those who were poor. It says they had all things in common and no one had need. This scripture is used to manipulate and to warn people that if they REALLY want to follow New Covenant standards instead of tithing, then they need to give ALL. **The sickness in this comment is they are actually asking believers to compromise and give less than this SUPPOSED New Covenant requirement. It is used as a motivator to get people to accept that giving ten percent is better than giving all!!!**

- However, this is not advocated in the writings of Paul. In fact it is clearly understood that individuals had money to manage in that they are encouraged to give as they purpose in their hearts.

**C “Ten percent is what we owe God, and then we have to give offerings on the side.”**

**1** Under the New Covenant, Jesus paid every debt we could ever owe, so now we are free to give whatever we want. We don't give because we OWE God, but because He has given to us.

**D “The people” will not know how much to give if we don't suggest (require) 10%.**

**1** He writes His laws and desires in our hearts under the New Covenant (**Jeremiah 31:31-34**).

**2** We are His sheep. We hear His voice and we follow Him (**John 10:27**).

**3** The Holy Spirit leads us (**Romans 8:14**).

**4** God works in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure. (**Philippians 2:13**).

**E We will be cursed with a curse if we don't give 10%**

**1 Galatians 3:13**

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree” )

**F “You can't expect God to heal you or help you if you aren't tithing.”**

**1 RIDICULOUS!!!** All of God's graces/gifts toward us are based on grace through faith and not on works or righteousness.

**G “Jesus endorsed tithing for the New Covenant.”**

**1** No He did not!!! He told Jews who were under the law of tithing that they did well to tithe their mint and rue.

**Luke 11:42**

But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

- Jesus also told someone healed of leprosy to go and be cleansed according to the Jewish law (**Matthew 8:4**).

**H “Paul endorsed tithing in Hebrews by showing Abraham tithed to Melchizedek before the law was established.”**

**1** No he did not!

*Paul speaks of Abraham tithing to Melchizedek, not to encourage us to tithe, but to show the superiority of Jesus' priesthood, that Jesus was not from the tribe of Levi (as Melchizedek was not). Furthermore, Abraham only tithed the spoils of one battle (not from his vast wealth) to Melchizedek and he only tithed to him once, and Melchizedek is never again mentioned. To say that Paul was teaching about our need to tithe is to completely miss the context and intent of these scriptures (Hebrews 7).*

**XI. The following statements are TRUE about tithing.**

- A** Tithing was a practice mandated in the Law of the Old Covenant (**Numbers 18:28**). New Covenant believers are free from the requirements of the Law.
- B** Under the Law one was cursed for not tithing. Christians are under no curse of the Law (**Romans 6:14, Galatians 3:13**).
- C** Tithing is nowhere commanded in the New Covenant, it is not even taught or encouraged, nor is it even given as a "starting point" or suggested amount.
  - 1** *Jesus did not tell his disciples to tithe.*
  - 2** *There are no recorded instances in the books of Acts of people tithing.*
  - 3** *Although Paul wrote frequently about money, he never instructed the believers to tithe. He did not even mention giving "first fruits".*
  - 4** *The other writers of the New Testament such as John, Peter, or James never gave instruction to tithe.*
  - 5** *In the book of Revelations where believers are corrected for how they are falling short, not one mention is made of not tithing (not even for not giving).*

We are to give as we purpose in OUR hearts.  
 If you WANT to give 10%, you are free to do so  
 ...or 9%...or 11%...or 20% or 100%.  
 Give as YOU are able and beyond. Give as YOU purpose.  
 Give joyfully expecting a proportional harvest.  
 It truly is "more blessed to give than to receive".  
**EXCELL IN THIS GRACE!**