

Seven Principles of Grace Giving

February 6-7, 2010 | 2 Corinthians 8:1-11 | Pastors Scott Nelson, Ken Engelking, Wayne Robbins, Jon Martinez, Jared Vogt, David Libby, Jared Boltman and Rocky Wing

¹Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, ²that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. ³For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, ⁴begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, ⁵and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God. ⁶So we urged Titus that as he had previously made a beginning, so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well. ⁷But 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 gracious work also. ⁸I am not speaking this as a command, but as proving through the earnestness of others the sincerity of your love also. ⁹For 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. ¹⁰I give my opinion in this matter, for this is to your advantage, who were the first to begin a year ago not only to do this, but also to desire to do it. ¹¹But now finish doing it also, so that just as there was the readiness to desire it, so there may be also the completion of it by your ability. *2 Corinthians 8:1-11 (NASB)*

Principle #1: *Grace giving can always take place in spite of circumstances.*

Principle #2: *Grace giving always exceeds our own abilities.*

Principle #3: *Grace giving is a result of first giving oneself to Jesus Christ.*

Principle #4: *Christian character is not complete without grace giving.*

Principle #5: *Grace giving operates above the law.*

Principle #6: *The motive for grace giving is the example of Jesus Christ.*

Principle #7: *Action, not intention, distinguishes a true grace-giver.*

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Community Group Questions

1. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-11. For a little background on this passage, read 1 Corinthians 16:1-4 (written about a year before 2 Corinthians 8) and Romans 15:25-27 (written either during or shortly after Paul had revisited Corinth). What was this collection all about? What do you learn from the Macedonians about their giving?

In light of some of the struggles in Corinth, why would Paul call their attention to the Macedonian example?

What might this test of generosity reveal?

2. What would be the first thing you would want to do if you found out that you'd won a million dollars? If you're married, what would your spouse do?
 3. What is the difference between tithing and grace giving? What does this difference mean to you personally?
 4. Read through the Seven Principles. Which one is easy—a no-brainer—for you? Why? Which one is the most difficult? Why?
 5. We try to review these Seven Principles once a year, at the first of the year, to help us remember the Lord's teaching about this vital area of discipleship. Was there anything you decided to do last year that still needs to be done? How do you plan to integrate these Principles into your life this year?
 6. How can others pray for you in regards to grace giving and how you manage the treasures entrusted to you? Now take some time and pray for one another, and for the needs in our church family, the needs of God's ministry at Morning Star, and the needs of others around the world (please remember the people of Haiti and those who are ministering there, too).
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