

## GRACE GIVING

**Request:** I understand you do not teach tithing. What do you teach regarding giving?

We don't teach tithing because we understand that it was part of the Old Covenant for the Jewish Age and for the priest nation of Israel (Lev.27:30-34).

We teach grace giving because we understand that it is part of the New Covenant for the Church Age and for the local church of Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 8-9).

In Paul's farewell address at the pastor's conference of Ephesus, he gave a grace principle that encompasses both covenants – "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

We will examine our lesson text by the following four homiletical points.

- Commitment "To God and to the word of His grace."
- Covet "No one silver, gold, or clothes."
- Compensation "These hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me."
- Comment "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Paul suggested that these were well-known words of Jesus – "And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said." (Acts 20:35)

<b>This lesson will study five aspects of Grace Giving of the New Covenant.</b>
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**1. Paul didn't say that YOU would be more blessed - by giving. He said IT was 'more blessed' to give.**

The Greek word for blessed is makarios. Makarios refers to spiritual blessings that rest within the promises of the Will of God, resulting in happiness or a joyful attitude with giving (John 20:26-29; James 1:25; Luke 11:27-28). "God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:7)

**2. Grace giving is based on understanding NEW COVENANT grace salvation (2 Cor. 8:1, 5, 9; 9:13-15).**

"They first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God." (2 Cor. 8:5)

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich." (2 Cor. 8:9, 12, 20; 9:5, 14-15; Eph. 2:8-9)

**3. Grace giving is listed as 1 of the 6 virtues of the Christian Way of Life (CWL) in 2 Cor. 8:6-7.**

"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 gracious work** also." (2 Cor. 8:7)

Giving is not commanded of NC believers but rather is a test of the sincerity of God's love (2 Cor. 8:8-9, 19).

#### 4. Paul mentions eight key attitudes involved in grace giving.

“That in a great ordeal of affliction their **abundance of joy** and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their **liberality**.” (2 Cor. 8:2)

“But now finish doing it also; that just as there was the **readiness to desire** it, so there may be also the completion of it by your ability.” (2 Cor. 8:11-12; 9:2)

“Let each one do as he has **purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion**; for God loves a **cheerful giver**.” (2 Cor. 9:7)

“And not affected by **covetousness**.” (2 Cor. 9:5)

#### 5. Grace giving works from the supply side of the grace of God (2 Cor. 9:6-15).

Grace giving is called a ministry of service to the saints – “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.” (2 Cor. 9:12-15)

Paul illustrated grace giving by the law of sowing and reaping (2 Cor. 9:6-11).

Paul gives five keys to grace giving – “And **God is able** to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.” (2 Cor. 9:8)

“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.” (2 Cor. 9:10)

“You will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is **producing thanksgiving to God**.” (2 Cor. 9:11-12)

“**Surpassing grace** of God in you.” (2 Cor. 9:14)

“And do not neglect doing good and sharing; for with **such sacrifices** God is pleased.” (Heb.13:16)