

Intro: Couple weeks ago talking with Pastor Orin about this series on giving, Perfect timing! **FIRST**

- *Thanksgiving for all the incredible abundance we have...MORE than anyone ever need*
- *Black Friday...Go out to buy even MORE things we can't afford and don't really need*
- *Small Business Saturday, to go get even MORE stuff*
- *Cyber Monday...to order online the things we didn't really need and couldn't in stores*
- *Finally, when we are broke...spent all we have for what we don't need: Giving Tuesday!*

Somewhere in there...we go to church on Sunday...think to ourselves...I should give something...**BUT IM BROKE!**
Today I want to finish the second half of our series **GENEROUS** by talking about Grace Giving

1. First, Grace Giving Is A Positive Attitude Toward Giving, Not a Negative Outlook! 2Cor 8-9

I have heard it many times in my ministry, *"Oh no...here we go again, messages on giving!"* Listen, if you will actually LISTEN to what I'm sharing from the Scripture, and PUT it into practice...You will understand...I'm helping you see one of the biggest blessings of your spiritual life! : **GRACE GIVING!** Understanding the **BIBLICAL** perspective on Giving!

Paul, as he teaches Grace Giving to the Cor church first tells them what it is **NOT!** It's amazing to me how accurate this passage is, and how little has changed since it was written!

Grace giving is an **ENTIRELY** different outlook on giving. Once you "get" it, start giving this way, gratitude overflows!

- Not a Command 8:8 Lit = *An authoritative decree or command; injunction of necessity*
- Not grudgingly 9:5 Lit = *Not something given out of extortion, or extracted without willingness*
- Not Reluctant 9:7 Lit = *From heaviness; sorrow or grief,*
- Not Under compulsion Lit = *From necessity or distress; to extract something (like pulling teeth!)*

Grace Giving is an overflow of the heart, a **THANKFULNESS** to God for everything He has blessed you with!

2. Grace Giving Is A Willing Gift of The Heart

9:7 *"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give!"*

Grace giving is a gift from the heart, an investment I choose to make in Kingdom things... not a cost I incur because I'm a follower of Jesus! So many of us fail to understand this principle. Giving to God isn't a **COST** you incur...It is an **INVESTMENT** you are invited into which will pay dividends far beyond anything financial. It will open the door of God's blessing in your life in **EVERY** area...

>Def of Cost: *Payment of money, time, effort or resources before something is acquired or owned*

>Def of Investment: *Act of devoting time, effort, energy or resources to a particular undertaking with the expectation of a worthwhile result*

9:10-11 *"He who supplies will enlarge your harvest of righteousness so that you can be generous...!"*

- Enlarge: Lit = *to multiply; to increase, to cause to overflow*
- Harvest: Lit = *the fruit of the harvest; the outcome of growth (plural) Many fruits*
- Righteousness: Lit = *to be just, right, correct in behavior, action and outcome*
- Generous: Lit = *to be bountiful; abundant; to be just, right*

- Investment in Self: We don't give for this reason...But God does bless us when we give
Vs 10: *God will increase our resources, and enlarge our harvest!*
- Investment in Kingdom: 9:1 Service to Saints: Vs 11: We can be generous in every way...All people!
- Investment in Others 8:13-15: Others might have their needs met through YOU!

Once we understand We are investing, not paying our dues...everything changes in our attitude of Giving

3. Grace Giving Is An Intentional Decision, Not A Casual Afterthought. 9:6-9

9:7: *Each one should give what He has decided in his heart to give!*

Intentional Decision: For many of us giving has never reached the level of being a spiritual discipline in which we train ourselves. Instead it is a casual afterthought, something we do as the opportunity arises and the mood strikes us.

We don't give intentionally and consistently. We give occasionally and accidentally!

We never sit down and consider...How has God blessed me...and How can I use what He has given me to express my gratitude to him, bless others, advance Kingdom!

Planned Giving: All of what Paul is saying to the Cor church is about intentionality in their giving! Ch 9:3 he says to them, listen, I have been bragging about your desire to give to the Macedonians, and they are coming with me. None of us want to be in the position of having us show up...and you guys not being ready!

Sowing Bountifully : In 9:6 ff Paul uses the example of the farmer going to sow the seed...Have you ever seen what they do? They don't just randomly walk through the field and go...oh...I think it feels good here...and one over here...one over there! NO! They intentionally go to great pain to prepare the field, to get everything ready...A LOT

And ... The principle of Sowing and Reaping proves true every time. If you sow sparingly...reap sparingly...So what does the farmer do....sows bountifully...so he can reap a better harvest

If you are struggling financially...if it feels like you have more going out than coming in...the answer is NOT to SOW less...but to SOW more! You see, some of you are not experiencing God's blessing...because you aren't generous!

4. Grace Giving Begins With a Tithe and We Build Upon That! Mal 3:10

Last week I shared with you my negative tithing story, College...It's ok not to tithe

Today I want to share with you my POSITIVE tithing story! Wanted a House, Couldn't afford...Cut Tithe!

My heart...every MONTH...Every Tithe Check...Money Gone...NEVER see THAT equity, Kept tithing

Time to buy a house...God worked in absolutely miraculous ways...So that I got it...Equity: 10X over day I moved in!

The Tithe is NOT an OT Mosaic Law That was done away with in the NT

- *Originated with Abraham long before the OT Law! Gen 14:20 (Argument: OT Law...NO...Long before)*
- *Incorporated into the OT Law by God, through Moses Lev 27:30*
- *Not the goal...even in the OT, along with tithe were other sacrifices and offerings throughout the year*
- *Issued as a CHALLENGE...which God has NEVER failed to honor Mal 3:10*
- *Endorsed by Jesus Matt 23:23*
- *Expanded on by the rest of NT authors...Esp Paul 2 Cor 8:7*

Principle of Grace Giving: Grace giving begins with a 10% tithe upon which we build as God gives us the ability.

CONCL: SO HOW DO YOU BEGIN GRACE GIVING?

- **Be Intentional!** Decide: I am going to make this an intentional part of my budget, not a casual "whatever"
Get Envelopes: Take The Sheet Provided and PLAN your giving! Give To God FIRST...
- **Start where you are** and where you can: Start with a Tithe: Some say, I can't afford that: Can't afford not to!
>For some...you could start right now with a tithe, and it would change nothing...
>Others...You are so underwater that you have to be intentional about giving what you can...
Giving in this way will make you rearrange your priorities and your values!
Illus: *I talked with a couple just last week...they said...we used to...stopped...fell apart...started again...amazing to see God working our the things we could never imagine...*
- **Stretch Yourself:** God can do more than you ever imagined. You Cannot Outgive God!
- **Rearrange your life** to make this kind of giving possible Maybe don't get that new car, take Cruise
- **Test God:** If you have never tried it do this: You Tithe for one year...if He doesn't faithfully do His part...and you feel like you have tested Him...and He let you down...Let me know...I will call Judy and tell her to write you a check back for every single penny!

THE RETURN MAY NOT BE FINANCIAL, BUT IN OVER 30 YEARS PREACHING THIS...NEVER ASKED FOR REFUND!