



New Testament Theology of Giving
(II Corinthians 8-9)

I. Giving is Graceful

a. In response to the Grace of God

- i. 8:1 We want you to know, brothers, about **the grace of God that has been given among the churches** of Macedonia,

b. Empowered by the Grace of God

- i. 8:6-7 Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you **this act of grace**.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**.
- ii. 9:8 And God is **able to make all grace abound to you**, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

c. Christ is our example of Graceful Giving

- i. 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.

II. Giving is Genuine

a. A Sincere Response

- i. 8:8 I say this **not as a command**, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine.

b. A Candid Method

- i. 9:7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, **not reluctantly or under compulsion**, for God loves a cheerful giver.

III. Giving is Gauged

a. Predetermined Accordingly - Amount and Extent

i. Individual Heart

1. 9:7 **Each one must give as he has decided in his heart**, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

ii. Individual Ability

1. 8:13-14 It is acceptable **according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have**.¹³ For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness¹⁴ your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness.

iii. Consistently for all

1. 9:5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and **arrange in advance for the gift you have promised**, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction.
2. 8:10-11 this benefits you, who **a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it**.¹¹ **So now finish doing it** as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have.

IV. Giving is Generous

- a. Sacrificially in extent
 - i. 8:3 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, **and beyond their means**, of their own accord,
- b. Joyfully in manner
 - i. 8:2 for in a severe test of affliction, **their abundance of joy** and their extreme poverty **have overflowed in a wealth of generosity** on their part.
 - ii. 9:7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, **for God loves a cheerful giver.**

V. Giving is Gainful

- a. Personal Participation
 - i. 8:4 begging us earnestly for **the favor of taking part** in the relief of the saints
- b. Personal Reward
 - i. 9:6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and **whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.**
- c. Personal Growth
 - i. 9:10-11 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.** ¹¹ You will **be enriched in every way to be generous in every way.**

VI. Giving is Glorious

- a. Directly - We love God
 - i. 9:12-13 For **the ministry of this service is** not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also **overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.** ¹³By their approval of this service, **they will glorify God because of your submission** flowing from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others
 - ii. 8:19 And not only that, but he has been appointed by the churches to travel with us as **we carry out this act of grace** that is being ministered by us, **for the glory of the Lord** himself and to show our good will.
 - iii. 8:21 For **we aim at what is honorable** not only **in the Lord's sight** but also in the sight of man.
- b. Indirectly - We love Others
 - i. 9:12-13 For **the ministry of this service is** not only **supplying the needs of the saints** but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission flowing from your confession of the gospel of Christ, **and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others**
 - ii. 8:19 And not only that, but he has been appointed by the churches to travel with us as **we carry out this act of grace** that is being ministered by us, for the glory of the Lord himself and **to show our good will.**
 - iii. 8:21 for **we aim at what is honorable** not only in the Lord's sight but also **in the sight of man.**