

Doctrinal Studies

Giving Principles

Paul, in 2Cor. 8-9, is presenting a challenge to the Corinthians and using the Macedonians as an example. The Macedonians gave upon the basis of what they had in their souls and Paul saw no reason why the Corinthians could not do the same. They had Spiritual riches and material poverty and God provided so that they could richly give.

When a person desires to give in GRACE, God will make it possible for him to be able to do so.

2Cor. 8:2 "In the midst of great pressure (testing) the superabundance of their Happiness (joy) and their deep poverty they abounded in liberality." This verse appears to be a great paradox but is a profound truth. These Macedonians were under great pressure and yet abounded in inner joy and an attitude of liberal giving. Why?

- Their joy was in the Lord and not in things.

- Truth in the Soul gave great capacity

- Their liberal giving did not depend upon what they had in their pockets but what they had in their souls.

Please note the following Giving Principles:

1. Giving depends on attitude – not possessions 2Cor. 8:2.
2. Giving must be done willingly and without coercion 2Cor. 8:3.
3. Christian giving is a privilege associated with grace 2Cor 8:4.
4. Christian giving is to be based on the character of the one giving. 2Cor. 8:5 (a soul activity).
5. Christian giving is an extension of what's in the soul. 2Cor 8:7 (Daily intake of God's Word).
6. Giving must never be forced 2Cor. 8:8.
7. Giving depends on Grace Orientation 2Cor. 8:9.
8. Money giving must be administered properly 2Cor. 8:19-24.
9. Giving must be done only when a person is in fellowship with the Lord 2Cor. 9:1-2.
10. Giving must not be associated with shame or embarrassment 2Cor. 9:4.
11. Giving according to the principle of grace guarantees blessings 2Cor. 9:6.
12. Giving the grace way depends upon maturity 2Cor. 9:7
13. Spiritual and material blessings provided by God are necessary in grace giving. 2Cor. 9:8
14. The more money a person gives the more God supplies for giving. 2Cor. 9:10 (Grace multiplication – not Grace addition)
15. Receive in grace – Give in grace 2Cor. 9:13f

Conclusions:

1. Giving in Grace is from the Priesthood of the believer and the priesthood must function from free choice and privacy.
2. Giving is a commemoration of God's Grace.
3. Giving, then, must be an expression of choice from orientation to God's plan of Grace.
4. In recognition of Grace, a Christian gives on the basis of His character. What he has on the inside determines response.
5. Giving in Grace, then, is a manifestation of what goes on in the Soul. The issue is not money – it is a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.