

Family Baptist Church: October 12, 2025

God's Plan for Providing for His Church – GRACE GIVING: 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Proposition: Ministry takes place when divine resources meet human needs through loving channels for the glory of God.

THE BACKGROUND OF GRACE GIVING:

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ²for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.

Like Paul, the Macedonian churches had learned that God's grace is sufficient to take their weaknesses and through them to display God's power (4:7-12; 12:9; Phil. 4:13).¹

“We want you to know” – (pres. Act. Ind) we draw your attention to

“the grace” – the generous giving on the part of Christians

“that has been given” – (per. Pass. Part) the state or condition with ongoing results

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ABOUT GRACE GIVING:

1. Grace is a gift from God. (God's Riches At Christ's Expense; 2 Cor. 1:2)
2. Grace is empowered by the Holy Spirit. (2 Cor. 3:4-6)
3. Grace is modeled by Jesus Christ. (2 Cor. 8:9)
4. Grace is administered through believers. (2 Cor. 1:15; 7:6-7; 8:1, 7)
 - a. Grace can be administered through believers by means of companionship, words of comfort, and financial support.

¹Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. 1983-c1985. *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures*. Victor Books: Wheaton, IL

THE BACKGROUND OF GRACE GIVING:

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ABOUT GRACE GIVING:

GUIDELINES FOR GRACE GIVING: (2 Cor. 8:3-7)

³ For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴ begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— ⁵ and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. ⁶ 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.

1. [v.3a] “According to their means” **GIVE PROPORTIONATELY** (Explain the tithe from OT perspective) – Make Giving a Priority in your house!
2. [v.3b] “Beyond their means” **GIVE SACRIFICIALLY** (Phil 4:9)
3. [v.3c] “Of their own free will” **GIVE VOLUNTARILY** – God’s people are not to give out of compulsion, manipulation, or intimidation. Freewill giving has always been God’s plan (9:6; **Gen 4:2-4**; Num 18:12; Deut 16:10, 17; Prov 3:9, 10; Luke 19:1-8)
4. [v.4] “Begging us earnestly... to take part” **GIVE EAGERLY** (9:6-7) – They pleaded for the privilege of sharing!
5. [v.5] “They gave themselves first to the Lord and then, by the will of God, to us” **GIVE WORSHIPFULLY** (note the priority of God first... then neighbor – Matthew 22:37-40)
6. [v.6] “Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace” **GIVE DILIGENTLY** (finish what you start)
7. [v.7] “But as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you (or love for us) – see that you excel in this act of grace also” **GIVE HOLISTICALLY** (giving is one of the many ways we demonstrate our appreciation for God’s grace)

The Grace Giving Formula:

- Great affliction and deep poverty
- Grace
- Abundant joy and abounding generosity

Application:

- Giving must be motivated by the grace of God not a fixed percent. (2 Cor 8:1-9:15)
- Giving must be measured by the attitude of the giver not the amount of the gift.
- Are you participating in the joy of grace giving?
 - If not, take some time to reflect on the grace you have received from our Triune God and take advantage of the opportunity to share it with those around you.

The best way to inventory your willingness to give is through your personal journal (aka your checking account 😊).

Make a budget.

- If you are not keeping track of your money, you have no idea how much you are giving.
- If you are keeping track of your money, what does the bank account reveal about your understanding of God's grace (your willingness to give)?