

CHRISTIAN MONEY \$ENSE

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Blessings from the Grace of Giving

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In the last few issues of Christian Money Sense we have examined the *Grace of Giving* found in 2 Corinthians 8 and 9. We can summarize the grace of giving as follows:

- Give as the Holy Spirit directs.
- Give as God has prospered you – think beyond your paycheck.
- Give proportionately to how God has blessed you – sow what you want to reap.
- Give willingly and cheerfully – not grudgingly or by compulsion.

Put these principles into practice on a regular basis, and you will revolutionize your attitude toward giving.

Rod Mckeun said, “The gifts one receives for giving are so immeasurable that it is almost an injustice to accept them.” Consider one more aspect regarding the grace of giving – the blessings.

The first blessing of the *Grace of Giving* is joy (8:2). Giving to meet the needs of others (pastors, missionaries, training institutions, or others with needs), will fill us with great joy. There is little that brings greater satisfaction and joy to another person than the gift of your time, abilities, or finances.

The second blessing of the *Grace of Giving* is an increased ability to give (9:7-11). God says as we faithfully give (sow) he will increase the harvest (reap). Give expecting to see ways in which God

increases your harvest and your ability to give again.

A third blessing of the *Grace of Giving* is an increased attitude of thankfulness to God for His blessings (9:12). Paul used the word abundant in reference to our thankfulness. Abundant means having so much of something that it cannot be contained, and it naturally spills out. Giving, as God leads, will produce an attitude of thankfulness so abundant that it cannot be contained within us. There will be a natural outpouring of praise and thanksgiving to God.

The final blessing of the *Grace of Giving* is glory to Jesus Christ (9:13-14). As you give you provide great testimony and credence to the power of God in your life. Others will take notice of your love, good spirit, and joy, and then glorify God.

God says through the prophet Job, “Who has given to Me that I should repay *him*? *Whatever* is under the whole heaven is Mine” (Job 41:11 NASB). The topic of giving permeates the entire Bible. Remember, everything belongs to God. We are simply His stewards and are to manage all that He has given us to bring Him glory. What changes will you make this week to honor God with your giving? Start now. Develop the *Grace of Giving* in your life and in the life of your family.

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