

**LESSON #3: DISCOVER THE GRACE OF GIVING YOUR SUBSTANCE—  
PART 1**

**CONTROL TRUTH:** The living grace of God is the desire, the ability, and the power to do God’s will.

**TEXT:** II Corinthians 8 and 9

**THEME VERSE:** *“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”* II Corinthians 9:6

**PURPOSE:** You can be a joyful giver. The discovery in your life that giving is a grace, and that it does not have to come as the result of obligation, necessity, guilt, pressure, coercion, or emotion, will turn giving into an exciting spiritual experience.

We have seen this grace of giving in the lives of the Macedonian believers. This same truth was to be taught to the Corinthian church by Titus. The lesson today, and also next week, is a study of II Corinthians 8 and 9, where Paul, the master teacher, communicates basic principles of giving by grace.

**I. GRACE GIVING IS SACRIFICIAL (II Corinthians 8:1-3)**

**a. Negative Principle**

i. Human nature resists giving sacrificially

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**b. Positive Principle**

i. Grace enables a believer to give sacrificially

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- a. Joyfully
- b. Liberally
- c. According to their ability
- d. Beyond their ability
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**II. GRACE GIVING IS SPONTANEOUS (II Corinthians 8:3, 4: II  
Corinthians 9:7)**

**a. Negative Principle**

i. Human nature is the reason we give grudgingly or of necessity as Paul warns.

1. II Corinthians 9:7

**b. Positive Principle**

- i. God's grace is the great motivational force of scriptural giving.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

III. **GRACE GIVING IS SELFLESS** (II Corinthians 8:4)

**a. Negative Principle**

- i. Human nature finds its focus in our own needs.

**b. Positive Principle**

- i. Grace finds its focus in the needs of others.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IV. **GRACE GIVING IS SPIRITUAL** (II Corinthians 8:7)

**a. Negative Principle**

- i. Human nature relegates giving to a "necessary evil" in the church program (results in the attitude that gives grudgingly or of necessity).

**b. Positive Principle**

- i. Grace elevates giving to a level with such spiritual concepts as faith, knowledge, diligence, and love.

- 1. II Corinthians 8:7

V. **GRACE GIVING IS SINCERE** (II Corinthians 8:8, 9)

**a. Negative Principle**

- i. Human nature fosters hypocrisy, improper motives, pretentiousness, and giving to be seen of men.

**b. Positive Principle**

- i. Grace provokes the believer to generosity, which confirms the sincerity of his love.

**CONCLUSION:** The Macedonians, by their abundant generosity, left no doubt as to the sincerity of their heart. Paul exhorts the Corinthians to confirm their love by completing the promise they made. In verse 9, Paul could not have used a better illustration as he reminds us that Christ Himself is the personification of this truth, having become poor that through His poverty we might be made rich. How could we fail to follow such a grand example?