

## LESSON #4: DISCOVER THE GRACE OF GIVING YOUR SUBSTANCE – PART II

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

**TEXT:** II Corinthians 8 and 9

**THEME VERSE:** "Every man according as he purposes in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver." II Corinthians 9:7

**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.

- I. GRACE GIVING IS NEVER NEGLECTED BECAUSE OF ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCE (II Corinthians 8:1,2)
  - a. Negative Principle
    - i. Human nature is quick to take advantage of circumstances in order to find release from an obligation to give.
  - b. Positive Principle
    - i. Grace motivates the believer to rise above the circumstances and realize the seriousness of an obligation to give.
- II. GRACE GIVING IS SHARING WITH OTHERS (II Corinthians 8:12-15)
  - a. Negative Principle
    - i. Human nature tempts the believer to keep his abundance to satisfy his selfishness.
  - b. Positive Principle
    - i. Grace motivates the believer to let God use his abundance to meet the needs of others.
- III. GRACE GIVING IS SENSIBLE ADMINISTRATION (II Corinthians 8:16-24)
  - a. Negative Principle
    - i. Human nature completes its responsibility entirely in the act of giving.
  - b. Positive Principle
    - i. Grace continues past the act of giving to promote a genuine sense of responsibility in the wise and honest administration of the gift.
- IV. GRACE GIVING IS STIMULATING TO OTHERS (II Corinthians 9:1-5)
  - a. Negative Principle
    - i. Human nature discourages giving in others because it's negative giving attitudes are contagious.
  - b. Positive Principle

- i. Grace promotes giving in others because its spiritual giving attitudes are an inspiration.

V. GRACE GIVING IS SATISFYING TO ALL INVOLVED (II Corinthians 9:6,7)

a. Negative Principle

- i. Human nature sows sparingly with a grudging heart or of necessity, and therefore reaps sparingly.

b. Positive Principle

- i. Grace sows bountifully with a cheerful heart, and therefore reaps bountifully.

VI. GRACE GIVING IS SUFFICIENT FOR ALL NEEDS (II Corinthians 9:8-15)

a. Negative Principle

- i. Human nature that sows sparingly results in unfulfilled needs.

b. Positive Principle

- i. Grace that sows bountifully results in complete sufficiency.