**Taking the Next Step in Financial Wisdom**

**The Next Step in Giving[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Four Key Principles of Stewardship**

1. God owns everything, you own nothing.

2. God entrusts you with everything you have.

3. You can either increase or diminish what God has given you; God wants you to increase it.

4. You can be called into account at any time, and it may be today.

“Someone who sees the pattern of your spending can fairly well discern the moral direction of your life.” John MacArthur – *Whose Money Is It, Anyway?*, pg. 4

Five characteristics of giving that honor God:

**I. Biblical Giving is a Matter of Grace**

A. God’s grace is the source

B. Grace is the defining characteristic

**verse 6** - *complete in you this gracious work*

**verse 7** - *abound in this gracious work*

**2 Corinthians 9:7** - *...not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*

C. Grace is the model

**2 Corinthians 8:9** - *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.*

**II. Biblical Giving is a Matter of Faith**

A. Faith that transcended their circumstances

**verse 2** - *in a great ordeal of affliction...*

**verse 2** - *in deep poverty...*

1. A belief that God would be true to His name – cf. Genesis 22:14

2. A belief that God would supply their need

**Psalm 37:25** - *I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread.*

**Philippians 4:19** - *And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

3. A belief that Jesus’ teaching was true

**Mark 12:43-44** - *So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.”*

B. Faith that demonstrated they really were redeemed

**verse 5** - *they first gave themselves to the Lord.*

**III. Biblical Giving is a Matter of Mission**

**Matthew 28:19** - *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...*

**Acts 1:8** - *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

A. They begged to be involved

**verse 4** - *begging us with much urging*

B. They saw it as God doing them a favor

**verse 4** - *for the favor of participation.*

**Luke 12:33-34** - *Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

**Matthew 6:19-21** - *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

**IV. Biblical Giving is a Matter of Growing**

A. This is an area in which we should seek to excel

**verse 7** - *see that you abound in this gracious work also.*

B. We can be overflowing

**verse 2** - *overflowed in the wealth of their liberality*

**V. Biblical Giving is a Matter of Finishing**

**2 Corinthians 8:6** - *So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well.*

**2 Corinthians 8:11** - *but now you also must complete the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have.*

1. Dr. Steve Viars [↑](#footnote-ref-1)