

# GRACE IN GIVING

God has been so good to us our whole lives. Most importantly, His gift of grace through His Son and our Savior, Jesus the Messiah. God's loving act of grace has forever changed our lives and motivates our molding into the image of Jesus. God has also taken care of His people's needs in life. You see this throughout the Bible. Sometimes, His people would give free will offerings to accomplish a goal. You see that in the Old & New Testaments. In fact, that's one aspect of giving in the New Testament - it's always a free-will offering motivated by the goodness of God. Today, I'm looking at Biblical examples to encourage a gift of grace because there's a need before us.

This lesson isn't about supporting ministers and elders financially, but it is important to know it's supported by Scripture, and this congregation has opened their hearts to several men (me included) in that way.

## - **Shepherds/Ministers**

- 1 Tim. 5:18 (Elders)
- 1 Corinthians 9:1-18
- 2 Corinthians 11:7-9
- Galatians 6:6
- Philippians 4:10-20

## - **Benevolence**

- Acts 2:44-45 Selling possessions. Distributing to the needy.
- Acts 4:34-37 Selling property. Laying at apostle's feet. Distributing to the needy.
- Acts 11:27-30 Major famine. Antioch sends relief to brethren in Judea.
- Romans 15:25-28 Contribution from Macedonia & Achaia for poor saints in Jerusalem.
- 1 Corinthians 16:1-4 Paul's instruction on how to collect. Also given to churches of Galatia. Gentile Christians helping Jewish Christians.
- 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; 9:6-8 Grace in Giving
  - (1-7)
    - The Macedonians were materially poor but rich in joy.
    - They gave what they could.
    - Took the initiative and asked to help.
    - Follow through with your act of grace.
  - (8-15)
    - Motivated by Jesus (was rich but became poor).
    - Give what you can.
    - God has designed to take care of everyone in a fair manner.
  - (9:6-8)
    - Give what you have decided.
    - Give willingly and cheerfully.
    - God will provide - trust in Him.