

Returning to the Authentic Gospel

The Activation of Grace Giving

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Second Corinthians

Returning to the Authentic Gospel

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Giving is not an ACT to RECEIVE God's grace, but rather the ACTIVITY of God's grace once RECEIVED

1. Grace giving is the EXPECTATION of a restored FAITH

2 Corinthians 8:1–7 (ESV) — 1 We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, 2 for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. 3 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, 4 begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the

saints— 5 and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. 6 Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. 7 But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

When they were restored to the faith that they received from Paul their hearts were turned to give!

Luke 18:18–24 (ESV) — 18 And a ruler asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 19 And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. 20 You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.’ ” 21 And he said, “All these I have kept from my youth.” 22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” 23 But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. 24 Jesus, seeing that he had become sad, said, “How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!

Luke 19:5–10 (ESV) — 5 And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” 6 So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. 7 And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” 8 And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” 9 And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has

come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

2 Corinthians 8:6–7 (ESV) — 6 Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. 7 But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

Matthew 6:19–21 (ESV) — 19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

2. Grace giving is the EXAMPLE of our redeeming SAVIOR

2 Corinthians 8:8–9 (ESV) — I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Grace → Love → Generosity

John 3:16 (ESV) — For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 5:8 (ESV) — But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Stinginess in giving exposes a coldness in heart

3. Grace giving is the ECONOMY of a redeemed CHURCH

2 Corinthians 8:10–15 (ESV) — And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”

2 Corinthians 8:15 (ESV) — As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”

➤ PERSPECTIVE – It all BELONGS to God

1 Peter 2:9 (ESV) — But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession,

that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

➤ **PRIORITY – It all comes AFTER God**

Matthew 6:9–11 (ESV) — Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread,

➤ **PROVISION – It all comes FROM God**

Philippians 4:19 (ESV) — And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

➤ **PROSPERITY – It all comes FOR God**

Proverbs 3:9–10 (ESV) — Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

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**Giving is not an _____ to _____ God's grace, but rather
the _____ of God's grace once _____.**

**1. Grace giving is the _____ of a restored
_____**

**2. Grace giving is the _____ of our
redeeming _____**

**3. Grace giving is the _____ of a redeemed
_____**

➤ _____ – It all _____ to God

➤ _____ – It all comes _____ God

➤ _____ – It all comes _____ God

➤ _____ – It all comes _____ God