

(16:1-24) Now concerning the **collection for the saints**, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you are to do as well. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save as he may prosper, so that no collections need to be made when I come. When I arrive, whomever you approve, I will send them with letters to take **your gift** to Jerusalem; and if it is appropriate for me to go also, they will go with me. But I will come to you after I go through Macedonia; for I am going through Macedonia, and perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may send me on my way wherever I go. For I do not want to see you now just in passing; for I hope to remain with you for **some time**, if the Lord permits. But I will remain in Ephesus until Pentecost; for a wide door for **effective service** has opened to me, and there are many adversaries. Now if Timothy comes, see that he has no reason to be afraid while among you, for he is doing the **Lord's work**, as I also am. So do not look down on him, anyone. But send him on his way in peace, so that he may come to me; for I expect him with the brothers. Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly encouraged him to come to you with the brothers; and it was not at all his desire to come now, but he will come when he has the **opportunity**. Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. All that you do must be done in love. Now I urge you, brothers and sisters: you know the household of Stephanas that they are the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to **ministry to the saints**; I urge that you also be subject to such as these and to everyone who **helps in the work and labors**. I rejoice over the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, because they **have supplied** what was lacking on your part. For they have **refreshed my spirit and yours**. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brothers and sisters greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The greeting is in my own hand—that of Paul. If anyone does not love the Lord, he is to be accursed. Maranatha! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

--- GIVING according to the Law and The Gospel ---

- **The Law says \_\_\_\_\_ and then \_\_\_\_\_.**  
(Deuteronomy 14:22-23)
- ✓ **The Gospel says \_\_\_\_\_ and then \_\_\_\_\_.**  
(Galatians 6:6-10)
- **The Law says \_\_\_\_\_ to do this.**  
(Deuteronomy 14:28-29)
- ✓ **The Gospel says \_\_\_\_\_ to do this.**  
(2 Corinthians 8:1-6)

(2 Corinthians 8:7-9 NLT) Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving. I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches. You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.

--- Genuine Love ---

1. **We give \_\_\_\_\_.**  
(2 Corinthians 9:7) Each one must do just as he has decided in his heart,
2. **We give \_\_\_\_\_.**  
(2 Corinthians 9:7) Each one must do just as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion,
3. **We give \_\_\_\_\_.**  
(2 Corinthians 9:7) Each one must do just as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
4. **We give \_\_\_\_\_.**  
(2 Corinthians 9:6) Now I say this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows generously will also reap generously.

(2 Corinthians 9:10-15 NLT) For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God. As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!

- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_.

--- Greatest Giver & Greatest Gift---

1. **Christ gave up His \_\_\_\_\_.**  
(Philippians 2:6) He already existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
2. **Christ gave up His \_\_\_\_\_.**  
(Philippians 2:7) but emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant and being born in the likeness of men.
3. **Christ gave up His \_\_\_\_\_.**  
(Philippians 2:8) And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross.