

**BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS**  
**PRINCIPLES OF GRACE OR FAITH GIVING**  
**2 CORINTHIANS 8-9**

**Introduction**

In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians he had dealt with the importance of giving. Paul had challenged them to receive a collection for the poverty-stricken Church at Jerusalem!

*1 Corinthians 16:1-2* 1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

The Corinthians had at first enthusiastically responded to the need. Circumstances had arisen, however, which had caused them not to complete their service or ministry in this area! (cf. 2 Corinthians 8:10, 11; 9:1-5)

In these two chapters we find the most detailed and significant teaching in the Word of God about what Paul calls the grace of giving.

So, let's look at *THE PRINCIPLES OF GRACE OR FAITH GIVING*:

**I. OUTWARD PROBLEMS OR DIFFICULTIES SHOULD NOT KEEP US FROM GIVING! (8:1-4)**

The Macedonian Christians were giving out of their POVERTY and not their ABUNDANCE.

They did not give because they HAD TO but because they WANTED TO! (i.e. It was a blessing and a privilege not an obligation)

Their giving exceeded their ability! It was an expression of "grace." It was given with joy!

*"do you to wit"* = simply means *"make you to be aware of"*.

The word "grace" used here is not in reference to the "grace" that provides salvation, but rather to one of Christian character.

It presents one aspect of *grace* that should be exhibited in every believers life.

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**The Bible speaks of showing grace in word:**

*Colossians 4:6* Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

**The Bible speaks of showing grace in deed! (9:8)**

**The Bible speaks of growing in grace in the Christian life as a whole!**

*2 Peter 3:18* But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Here in chapters 8 and 9, Paul is especially referring to "this grace also" (2 Corinthians 8:6,7), meaning the grace of giving.

The "churches of Macedonia" included Thessalonica and Berea and especially the church at Philippi, from which Paul was writing this.

**II. FINANCIAL GIVING SHOULD BE PRECEDED BY FIRST GIVING OF OURSELVES! (8:5)**

**III. ALL BELIEVERS SHOULD SEEK TO EXCEL IN GIVING BY FAITH! (8:6-7)**

**IV. PROMISES MUST BE KEPT! (8:6, 10-11; 9:5)**

**V. GIVING IS A PROOF OF OUR LOVE! (8:8-9, 24)**

A church that is stingy, is a church without true love, just as a stingy person is a selfish person.

A giving spirit is a Christ like spirit. It is the fruit of love. You can give without loving but you cannot love without giving.

**VI. WE ARE TO GIVE BECAUSE THE LORD HAS GIVEN TO US! (8:8-9)**

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- VII. THE ATTITUDE (WILLINGNESS) OF THE HEART IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE AMOUNT GIVEN! (8:12)**  
Spiritual giving is not limited to affordable giving. The greatest givers are those who are the greatest sacrificers. It is not nearly as important how much we give, as it is how much we have left, after we give.
- VIII. FAITH GIVING ALLOWS FOR TOTAL EQUALITY IN GIVING! (8:13-15)**
- IX. GIVING SHOULD BE DONE WISELY! (8:16-21)**
- A. To Honor The Lord!**
  - B. To Provide For The Ministry!**
  - C. To Avoid Criticism!**
- X. FAITH GIVING WILL ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO GIVE! (9:1-2)**
- XI. FAITH GIVING SHOULD BE DONE THROUGH FORETHOUGHT OR BY CAREFUL PLANNING AND PREPARATION! (9:5)**
- XII. REWARDS FOR GIVING ARE IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO WHAT IS GIVEN! (9:6)**
- XIII. AMOUNT OF FAITH GIVING IS DETERMINED BY ONES HEART! (9:7)**
- XIV. FAITH EMPOWERS GOD TO DO EVEN MORE FOR US! (9:8-11)**
- XV. FAITH GIVING IS A FORM OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING TO GOD! (9:11-14)**