

# "THE GIFT OF GIVING"

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## GOD GIVES US THE GRACE OF GIVING SO WE CAN BE GIVERS LIKE HIM.

**2 Cor. 8:7** *You are rich in everything – in faith, in speaking, in knowledge, in truly wanting to help, and in the love you learned from us. In the same way, be strong also in the grace of giving.* (NCV)

**2 Cor. 9:8** *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.* (NASB)

**2 Cor. 8:9** *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.* (NLT)

## IT IS IN OUR ACT OF GIVING THAT WE ARE MOST GODLIKE.

**John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* (NKJV)

### 1. Giving to God - Abraham

**Heb. 11:17** *By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son.* (NASB)

**Gen. 22:12** *The angel said, "Don't kill your son or hurt him in any way. Now I can see that you trust God and that you have not kept your son, your only son, from me."* (NCV)

### 2. Giving to God's Work - David

**1 Chron. 29:1-6** *Then King David turned to the entire assembly and said, "My son Solomon, whom God has clearly chosen as the next king of Israel, is still young and inexperienced. The work ahead of him is enormous, for the Temple he will build is not for mere mortals – it is for the LORD God himself! Using every resource at my command, I have gathered as much as I could for building the Temple of my God. Now there is enough gold, silver, bronze, iron, and wood, as well as great quantities of onyx, other precious stones, costly jewels, and all kinds of fine stone and marble. And now, because of my devotion to the Temple of my God, I am giving all of my own private treasures of gold and silver to help in the construction. This is in addition to the building materials I have already collected for his holy Temple. I am donating more than 112 tons of gold from Ophir and 262 tons of refined silver . . . Now then, who will follow my example and give offerings to the LORD today?" Then the family leaders, the leaders of the tribes of Israel, the generals and captains of the army, and the king's administrative officers all gave willingly.* (NLT)

**1 Chron. 29:14-16** *"But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make this freewill offering? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. For we are aliens and transients before you, as were all our ancestors . . . O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for*

*your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own."* (NRSV)

### 3. Giving to Our Brethren - The Macedonians

**2 Cor. 8:1-5** *We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints – and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us.* (NRSV)

### 4. Giving to the Needy - The Good Samaritan

**Luke 10:33-35** *"Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.'"* (NLT)

### 5. Giving Our Best to Christ - Mary

**John 12:3** *Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.* (NASB)

**Luke 7:47** *"I tell you, her sins – and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love."* (NLT)

## IT IS IN OUR ACT OF FORGIVING THAT WE ARE MOST CHRISTLIKE.

**Luke 23:34** *Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."* (NLT)

**Ex. 32:31-32** *So Moses went back to the LORD and said, "How terribly these people have sinned! They have made for themselves gods from gold. Now, please forgive them of this sin. If you will not, then erase my name from the book in which you have written the names of your people."* (NCV)

**Acts 7:60** *He fell on his knees and cried in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." After Stephen said this, he died.* (NCV)

**Eph. 4:32** *Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.* (NRSV)

## IT IS IN OUR ACT OF GIVING LOVE TO OTHERS THAT WE FULFILL OUR DIVINE DESTINY.

**1 John 4:12** *No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.* (NLT)

**Rom. 8:29** *For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son.* (NASB)

**Matt. 10:7-8** *"And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give."* (NASB)