

- Order of Service -

Call to Worship

Welcoming Prayer

Scripture Reading II Corinthians 8:1-15

- *Ancient of Days*
- *God the uncreated One*
- *459, I Need Thee Every Hour*
- *418, My faith has found a Resting Place*

Bible Quiz

Announcements and Prayer requests

Greeting

Message in the Word – II Corinthians 8:1-15

Fellowship: The happy fellowship of giving

Reveling in the stewardship of God's riches

Sending prayer

You may notice we don't pass an offering plate

The Lord loves a cheerful giver. God's grace and provision motivate His people to give generously to His work and the needs of His Body, as He enables, not under obligation or social pressure.

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -

Grace Bible Fellowship

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- Teaching -

Eric Peterman

Fellowship #7: The happy fellowship of giving

Reveling in the stewardship of God's riches

II Corinthians 8:1-15

- February 27th, 2022 -

Fellowship #7: The happy fellowship of giving
Reveling in the stewardship of God's riches
II Corinthians 8:1-15

The Christian is in the unparalleled position to be both the inbound receiver, and a happy channel of God's outbound grace to others. This special grace, including financial and other material blessings from God, is a stewardship that we can and enjoy and revel in. Giving shows our faith!

Paul gives nine (9) points relating to giving in 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

1. **Giving to fellow believers and for the gospel is a particular grace of God!** V1
2. **Poverty is not an excuse not to give.** Look at the Macedonians: out of their poverty they still practiced grace giving. V1-2
3. **Giving is a spiritual opportunity to be sought and chased after!** V3-4 ("Participation" here is *koinonian* – fellowship)
4. **Give of yourself first to the Lord, and to the brethren** v5
5. **Giving is tangible proof of your love of God.** V6-8
See James 2:15-17
6. **Christ is our example of a Great Giver.** V9
7. **Be willing to make a pledge and more willing to fulfill it as God provides.** V10-11
8. **Give willingly, graciously and expectantly.** V12
However, if we give grudgingly, it may help the one who receives it, but it does not put the giver in good standing before the Lord. It is better not to give than to give grudgingly, because there is no faith there!
9. **Don't give to the point of poverty but to the point of equality** v13-15

Paul gives seven (7) points relating to giving in 2 Cor 9:6-14

1. **What you sow you will reap** v6. If you sow bountifully, you will reap bountifully (but the inverse is also true: if you sow sparingly..)
2. **Give as you purposed in your heart to give, but not grudgingly** v7a
3. **God loves a cheerful (hilarious) giver** v7b
4. **God will supply the giver's needs** (not wants) 8-11
5. **Giving is a form of worship of God** v12
6. **Our giving is proof of one's love for God, & it brings glory to God** v13
7. **Giving is fellowship with other believers who are not present** v14

Prayer Requests, Praises - Hebrews 4:16

- Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
- Remember those who are ill or aged and cannot meet with us.
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