



Sermon Excerpts:

“Biblical Generous Grace Monetary Giving”

Examples of Living a Generous Life

July 25, 2021

Proverbs 3:9 *“Honor the LORD with your wealth, possessions, and everything you own; give God an offering with the first and best part of all your income.”*

Biblical Generous Grace Monetary Giving is the action of people with resources and people in need to engage in the regenerative and circulatory flow of material, human, financial, and natural resources led by people of faith.

- Going through a difficult financial season
- Have too much debt
- Growing in your faith in Christ about giving
- Not knowing why you should give
- Not be sure how to give to your church
- Needing an awareness of the Lord’s work through the local church

Luke 12:48 *“...When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.”*

Acts 4:32-37 *“All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s*

grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales, and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet."

- Barnabas gave generously to the early Christian movement (Acts 4:36-37)
- Barnabas vouched for the integrity of a persecutor-turned-Christian named Saul (later known as Paul; 9:26-27)
- Barnabas partnered with Saul to teach believers at Syrian Antioch (11:25-26);
- Barnabas joined with Saul in bringing famine relief to the Christians in Judea (11:30)
- Barnabas took a lead role with Saul in the first recorded missionary journey of the early Church (12:25; 13:1-3)

Acts 16:13-15, 39-40 *"On the Sabbath we went a little way outside the city to a riverbank where we understood some people met for prayer; and we taught the Scriptures to some women who came. One of them was Lydia, a businesswoman from Thyatira, a merchant of purple cloth. She was already a worshiper of God and as she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted all that Paul was saying. She was baptized along with all her household and asked us to be her guests. "If you agree that I am faithful to the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my home." And she urged us until we did." So, they came to the jail and begged them to go and brought them out and pled with them to leave the city. ⁴⁰ Paul and Silas then returned to the home of Lydia, where they met with the believers and preached to them once more before leaving town.*

- She was an entrepreneur.
- She was faith-preneur revealed by living generously. A faith in the Lord's work.
- Not all women in the Bible were poor.
- She is another example of using her means of income to support the work of ministry in the moment and beyond.
- She was not married and still was recognized for her great service to the Kingdom of God.
- Take notice of the range of women in the Bible that we must honor no matter their social and marital status.

When it comes to a generous life, it is essential to study Bible verses about tithing, giving, offerings, and support of Lord's work with money. This is known as stewardship.

The second-best thing to do is to pray about what you have studied to receive guidance. God will guide you through the Word and give you the grace you need to live a generous life.

Lastly, we are invited to seek counsel about life. When it comes to your finances and your thoughts around biblical giving getting advice from a friend, pastor, or financial advisor can make a significant difference. Someone looking at your situation from the outside can provide new insight or confirm what you are already thinking.

As a Christian, our goal is to be like Jesus. Jesus modeled a generous life, and he calls us to reflect his generosity. **Matthew 23:23** *“Woe to you, teachers of the law...You give a tenth/tithe...But you have neglected the more important matters-- justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.”*

- Biblical Generous Grace Monetary Giving will strengthen the ministry, outreach, and stability of the Tabernacle of Glory congregation.
- Biblical Generous Grace Monetary Giving is not a money-raising scheme. It is a soul-growing, character-developing program.
- Biblical Generous Grace Monetary Giving is to honor God with your substance; it is worship—a concrete expression of my love to God.
- Biblical Generous Grace Monetary Giving is an external act reflecting internal conditions that we give tangibly that God may be publicly glorified.