

**The Redeemed Christian Church of God
Open Heavens Assembly
Troyeville, Johannesburg**

Digging Deep

The Grace of Giving

Bible Texts: 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 7

INTRODUCTION

As Christians, God is interested in our prosperity and financial well-being. In 3 John 2, Apostle John, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit wrote “I wish above all things that you prosper and be in health even as your soul prospers. This means that God wants us, not only to prosper physically, emotionally and spiritually but also financially. However, the key to God’s financial prosperity is by giving according to Bible principles.

THE FOUNDATION OF CHRISTIAN GIVING

Acceptable biblical giving is based on acknowledgement of God and His provision of salvation by grace. Grace is unmerited favour that proceeds from God’s unconditional love. God demonstrated His grace by giving up Jesus as a sacrifice for the redemption of mankind. As recipients of God’s grace, we must be willing to give promptly and liberally like the Macedonian Christians described in our Bible text.

WHY DO WE GIVE? : We give because:

1. We give in obedience to God. We give because we love God and others (Lk 6: 38, 1John 3 :17)
2. It is more more blessed to give than to receive (Act 20:35)
3. We want to build and expand the Kingdom of God on earth. (Haggai 1:2-11)
4. We want to finance the preaching of the gospel and missionary activities (Acts11: 29)
5. We want to uplift the poor and the needy. (Deut 15:11;Prov.14:21b)

WHAT DO WE GIVE?

1. Money (Act 4:32-35)
2. Material things such as food , clothing, shoes, vehicles, properties etc (James 2:15-17, Prov 22: 9)
3. The totality of ourselves: our life, time,energy; skills and expertise (Rom 12:1-2; Galatians 2:20)

HOW SHOULD WE GIVE?

1. Give in humility (Matthew 6:1-4)
2. Give cheerfully and willingly (2 Corith 9:7)
3. Give liberally and generously (Prov.21:26; 2 Corinthians 9:10-11; Romans 12:8)
4. Give sacrificially (Luke 21:4; 2 Samuel 24:24.)
5. Give according to our ability (Deut 16:17; 2 Corinthians 8:12).

CONCLUSION

Giving is the flow line to financial prosperity. The more you give, the more you receive. Giving must not be an occasional exercise but a continuous daily lifestyle made in obedience to God’s commandment .We must look for every opportunity to give. As you invest in people and the work of God through giving, the more the rewards you will receive in this world and in the world to come. Are you a giver?