***THE GRACE OF GIVING***

INTRODUCTION

A. Our financial giving to God is God's grace working in our lives. (2 Cor. 9: 14-15, 2 Cor. 8:6-7)  It is a gift from God: the same grace that brings forgiveness of sin and salvation allows us to  give financially to God and His Kingdom.

FOUR PRINCIPLES OF SACRIFICIAL GIVING

A. Acceptable giving is always sacrificial giving.

a. 2 Corinthians 8: 1-2

The example of the Macedonian churches deep sacrifice served as a call to the  Corinthian church to do likewise. Is your giving sacrificial?

b. 2 Corinthians 8:8-9

Remember the sacrifice Jesus made for you in order for you to be made spirituall  rich. Just as Jesus sacrifices for you. your sacrifice will allow others to be rich  through a knowledge of Jesus.

*In our world, giving is only acceptable in the presence of plenty and security. Disciples must realize that giving is only acceptable to God when it is sacrificial. Remember the example of  the widow and the two copper coins. (Luke 21: 1-4)*

B. Give yourself first to the Lord.

a. 2 Corinthians 8:5

Sacrificial giving in the face of poverty and hard times comes only after one has  given themselves to the Lord. Without a deep commitment to Jesus, you will not  be consistently sacrificial.

C. God loves a cheerful giver.

a. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Giving cheerfully. while being sacrificial. is the real challenge of giving  Remember God's grace when being sacrificial. A contribution with regrets or  doubts is one that does not please God.

D. God is Able

a. 2 Corinthians 9:8-11

Sacrificial giving in the face of financial hardship or even during the times of  plenty is only possible when God is part of the process. We must trust all the promises of God, even those concerning sacrificial giving.

PRACTICALS

1. Proverbs 3:9 First Fruits-Set aside your contribution as soon as you get paid.
2. 2 Corinthians 9:7 Give according to your income, not according to your expenses. Give based on  your entire income (gross), not after taxes and bills.
3. Luke 16:10-13 Get your finances in order. We are stewards of what God has given us.
4. 2 Corinthians 8:7 Do your best. Excel in the grace of giving. Keep high standards for yourself.
5. Malachi 3:10 Ten percent (a tithe) is a good place to start; however, the goal is sacrificial giving.
6. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 Give every week.
7. Proverbs 16:20, Proverbs 11:14 Get advise about your giving plan.
8. 2 Corinthians 9:7, Psalm 116:17-19 Pledge your giving to God and keep your pledge.
9. Set aside money monthly for the annual missions contribution.