

SOLID ROCK

GOSPEL
WEEK FIVE

Unhealthy motivations that drive many to give:

- To **control God, have a better lifestyle, or to have things go well for them.**
- To **achieve morality or to feel better about themselves.**

SERIES BIG IDEA:

God is generous and He wants me to excel in the grace of giving.

But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

2 Corinthians 8:7 (NIV)

Grace-based giving is giving in response to everything that God has given you.

Grace-based giving is more about the heart we are giving from than it is the need we are giving to.

¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9:12-15 (NIV)

Giving that is motivated by the gospel of Jesus Christ will do three things:

1. Meet real needs.

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people

2 Corinthians 9:12 (NIV)

2. Glorify God.

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2 Corinthians 9:12-13 (NIV)

3. Promote unity with all Christians.

And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.

2 Corinthians 9:14 (NIV)

When we give from a stated gospel-centered motivation to people who do not believe like us, look like us, like us, or even stand against us, then the gospel is proclaimed through our giving.

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

My lifestyle of giving is all about Jesus, His Gospel, and His mission through His Church.

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9:15 (NIV)

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MY NOTES

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TEACHING SUMMARY:

We can give from the wrong motivations, such as attempting to control God or seeking personal gain. While emphasizing God's generosity and the call to excel in the grace of giving, the Apostle Paul urges the Corinthian church to contribute to the needy church in Jerusalem while underscoring that the heart behind the offering matters more than its destination.

Grace-based giving is our response to God's blessings. The multifaceted impact of grace-based giving meets real needs, glorifies God, and fosters unity among Christians.

Grace-based giving culminates with a call for a lifestyle of surrender and faith, acknowledging that the church's unshakeable nature stems from its confession of Jesus as Savior and Lord.

A life of giving is centered on Jesus, His Gospel, and His mission, celebrating God's indescribable gift. The church is not just funding the mission out there, the church itself is the mission.

TALK-IT-OVER:

Have you experienced or fallen into either of the two unhealthy motivations to give (control and achieve morality)?

Does your practice of generosity Glorify God?

What would need to change in you for your lifestyle of giving to be all about Jesus, His Gospel, and His Mission?

What is one next step you need to take today?

Who do you need to tell about what you've learned?

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:

Day 1) Luke 6:43-49

Day 2) 2 Corinthians 9:6-12

Day 3) Galatians 4:2-7

Day 4) Romans 6:5-13

Day 5) Ezekiel 11:17-21, 36:25-27

Day 6) Ephesians 2:10; Hebrews 13:20-21