

NEW HOPE CHRISTIAN CENTER



PASTOR HENRY BROWNE

SERMON NOTES FOR

A close-up photograph of a person's hands, likely of African descent, holding several coins. The hands are cupped together, and the coins are visible between the fingers. The background is dark and out of focus.

PRINCIPLES OF GIVING

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It's a voluntary Christian attribute based upon our love for God and the sincerity of our faith.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT “GIVING”:

1. Giving is a Grace.
 2. Giving was imposed by the Law in the old testament (mandatory), Christian Giving is now voluntary.
 3. Giving is a universal privilege of every believer belonging to rich or poor and all in between alike.
 4. Giving is supposed to be in proportion to income.
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And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ²In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.

- 2 Corinthians 8 (NIV)

Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: ² that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.

- 2 Corinthians 8 (NKJV)

³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵ And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. ⁶ So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. ⁷ 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 8:3-7 (NIV)

⁸ I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. ¹⁰ And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. ¹¹ Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. ¹² For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have. ¹³ Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. ¹⁴ At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, ¹⁵ as it is written: "The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little."

- 2 Corinthians 8:8-15 (NIV)

There is no need for me to write to you about this service to the Lord's people. ² For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, telling them that since last year you in Achaia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action.

- 2 Corinthians 9:1-2 (NIV)

⁵ So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given.

- 2 Corinthians 9:5 (NIV)

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."

- 2 Corinthians 9:6-9 (NIV)

¹² For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.

- 2 Corinthians 8:12 (NIV)

The first mention of giving pre-dates the law.

We see it first in *Genesis 14:18-20*

¹⁸ Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, ¹⁹ and he blessed Abram, saying,

*“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
Creator of heaven and earth.*

²⁰ *And praise be to God Most High,
who delivered your enemies into your hand.”*

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

- *Genesis 14:18-20 (NIV)*



Giving should be a Joy

⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

- 2 Corinthians 9:7-11 (NIV)

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.

- 2 Corinthians 9:12 (NIV)



God is glorified.

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.

- 2 Corinthians 9:13-14 (NIV)

Things to Remember:

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.”

- 2 Corinthians 9:6-9 (NIV)

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