

December 8, 2019

**Thanksgiving/Christmas/Giving 2019**  
**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV) Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**

**Introduction**

**Psalm 84:11 (ESV) For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.**

To give is God's nature

His gifts are beyond our imagination

He gives grace, all kinds of grace: saving grace, comforting grace, preserving grace, sanctifying grace, directing grace, instructing grace, assisting grace!

**Psalm 84:11 (KJV) For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.**

Then look at what else He gives if He gives grace!  
**the Lord will give grace and glory**

If you have saving grace you have glory

Charles Spurgeon says, "*Grace and glory go together! The Lord will never deny a soul eternal glory, to whom He has freely given His saving grace.*"

**Psalm 107:1 (ESV) Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!**

We have much in hand but more reserved in heaven

Thomas Brooks says, "God has given to us: Jesus to save us, His grace to adorn us, His promises to assure us, His mercy to pardon us, His righteousness to cloth us!"

We are His; friend, son, brother, bride, and heir

**1 Chronicles 16:34 (ESV) Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!**

James Smith, *O, give thanks to the Lord, Christian, for He has not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities!*

He has forgiven us, justified us, renewed us and given us everlasting life

### **2 Corinthians 8:1-9**

***So considering goodness, grace, and promised glory what is our logical response?***

***1 We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia,***

Look at what had been given to them

***2 for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.***

In that time of trouble God's grace led them to give generously

***3 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, 4 begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—***

They gave according to what they had

***5 and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.***

Here we see that the Lord's grace is at work

**6 Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. 7 But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.**

If the grace of God is at work in other areas, faith speech, knowledge, earnestness and love

**8 I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. 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 by his poverty might become rich.**

Giving in this manner is proof our love is real  
Love for God, His Son Jesus and the brethren

### **2 Corinthians 9:6-11**

**6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.**

Generous giving will be blessed

**Proverbs 3:9-10, Proverbs 11:25, Proverbs 22:9**

**7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.**

Giving systematically will call for a determined decision, **he has decided**

Giving to be blessed must be cheerful

**8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.**

**9 As it is written,**

**"He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."**

**10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.**

Giving brings God's grace in spiritual matters  
Our good works will be blessed  
Our righteousness will be increased  
We will be enriched in every way that we might be generous in every way

**2 Corinthians 9:15 (ESV) Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!**

**2 Corinthians 9:15 (KJV) Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.**

**2 Corinthians 9:15 (NIV) Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!**

We have talked about the Lord's grace and glory  
We have seen all He has given us and now this!

The inexpressible gift!

The unspeakable gift!

The indescribable gift!

What is this gift?

Remember Context, Context, Context

For a year now you have been consumed with an offering for the poor saints in Jerusalem

Could we just have a time of quiet reflection of all that God has given us?

**1 Corinthians 4:7 (ESV) For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?**