



2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>7</sup> Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And **God is able** to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

## I. Generosity

Proverbs 11:25 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>25</sup> A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>6</sup> Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

## II. A Principle

### A. Old Testament

Deuteronomy 11:10-16 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>10</sup> The land you are entering to take over is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you planted your seed and irrigated it by foot as in a vegetable garden. <sup>11</sup> But the land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that **drinks rain from heaven**. <sup>12</sup> It is a land the LORD your God cares for; the eyes of the LORD your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end. <sup>13</sup> So **if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today--**to love the LORD your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul-- <sup>14</sup> **then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and oil.** <sup>15</sup> **I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied.** <sup>16</sup> Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them.

### B. New Testament

Matthew 6:31-34 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But **seek first his**

kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.<sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

### III. Learning to Give

#### A. Pleasing God

Genesis 4:2-7 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>2</sup> Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. <sup>3</sup> In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. <sup>4</sup> But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. <sup>6</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? <sup>7</sup> If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

#### B. Expression of Honor

Hebrews 7:4-5 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>4</sup> Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder! <sup>5</sup> Now the law requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people—that is, their brothers—even though their brothers are descended from Abraham.

#### C. Jacob's Revelation

Genesis 28:20-22 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>20</sup> Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear <sup>21</sup> so that I return safely to my father's house, then the LORD will be my God <sup>22</sup> and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and **of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.**"

#### D. Hezekiah's Awakening

2 Chronicles 31:4-5 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>4</sup> He ordered the people living in Jerusalem to give the portion due the priests and Levites so they could devote themselves to the Law of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> As soon as the order went out, the Israelites generously gave the firstfruits of their grain, new wine, oil and honey and all that the fields produced. They brought a great amount, a tithe of everything.

#### E. Nehemiah's Restoration

Nehemiah 13:12 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>12</sup> All Judah brought the tithes of grain, new wine and oil into the storerooms.

#### F. Repentance & Generosity

Luke 19:1-10 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>1</sup> Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup> A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. <sup>3</sup> He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming

that way. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." <sup>6</sup> So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. <sup>7</sup> All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.'" <sup>8</sup> But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You are my security and my strength. All the provision for my life comes from You. I choose to be joyful in Your abundant provision. Holy Spirit lead me toward a generous life that I might know the rest which comes from trusting my Creator. I rejoice in the abundance of my God, my future is secure in Jesus Christ my Lord, amen.

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