

BLESSED HOPE



BIBLE CHURCH

**Learning of Christ, Loving in Christ, Leaning on Christ, Living for Christ, Leading to Christ
Based on the Word of God**

A close-up photograph of golden wheat stalks, with the word "Giving" overlaid in a large, white, serif font. The wheat is in sharp focus, showing the texture of the grains and the long, thin awns. The background is a soft, out-of-focus field of wheat under a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Giving

A SIGN OF DEVOTION

The word "GRACE" is rendered in large, three-dimensional wooden letters. The wood has a warm, reddish-brown tone with visible grain and some darker, weathered areas. The letters are set against a dark, textured background that appears to be a wall or a large piece of wood. The lighting is dramatic, coming from the side, which highlights the texture of the wood and creates deep shadows between the letters and on their surfaces.

GRACE

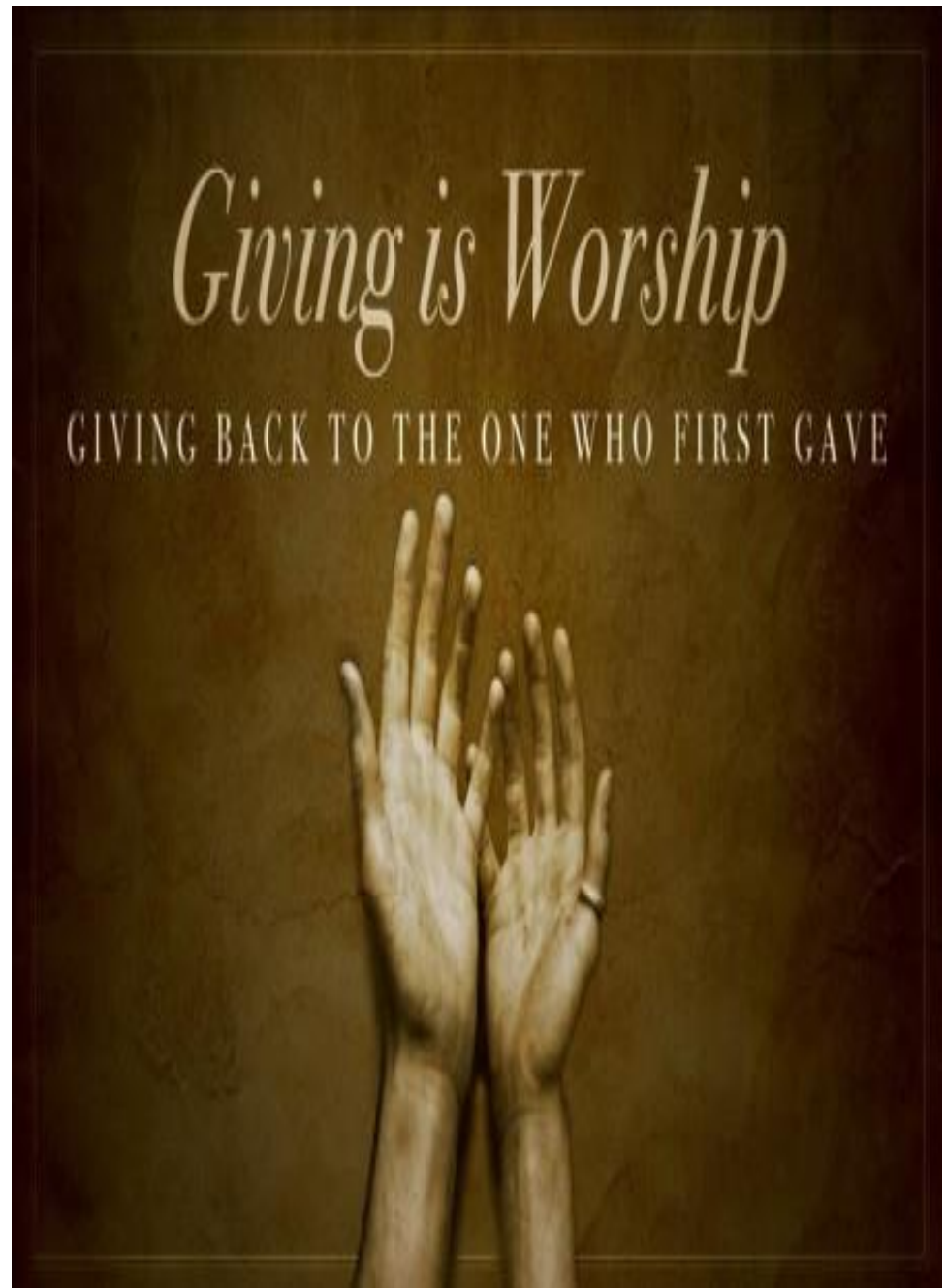
**OUR GIVING OVERFLOWS FROM
GOD'S GRACE**

INTRODUCTION

- When the preacher preaches about giving many may get a bad attitude...
 - He is begging for money
 - He is manipulating us to give more money
 - He is trying to make us feel guilty
 - The church must be going bankrupt



- First, I want to thank all of you who have given to our church.
- Second, the church cannot run without money, however, the church does NOT exist just to collect money.
- Third, our faith and devotion to the Lord compels us to give to the Lord's work.





- **Our purpose as believers is to be co-laborers with one another in the support of the work of the Lord. And that cost money**
- **It is all right for a Christian to live comfortable, make good money, have nice things in life, and go on nice vacations ...**
- **It is not all right to have all these things and fail to support the work of the Lord.**

- Giving is not something we do out of guilt, or obligation, or pressure ...



- It is an expression of the grace of God at work in our lives.



Giving is the Result of the Grace of God at Work in His People (2Cor.8:1-4)

- The **Example** of the Macedonian Churches
 - They experienced the grace of God in salvation
 - As a result, they wanted to be eager channels of God's blessing to others
 - Their attitude in giving was evidence that the grace of God was at work in them



- Some Lessons

- Notice their attitude in giving...

- In spite of great affliction
 - With great joy
 - In spite of deep poverty
 - According to their ability
 - Even beyond their ability
 - Freely and willingly
 - With urgency—begging Paul to receive their offering.

- This attitude showed that God's grace was at work in their lives.

- They are an example to us of giving based upon experiencing the grace of God



Giving is the Result of a Life of Dedication to the Lord (2Cor.8:5)

- The **Example** of the Macedonian Churches
 - They gave themselves to the Lord
 - In salvation
 - In daily living
 - In service
 - They gave themselves to the apostle Paul and his team
 - Allowing him to minister to them.
 - Making themselves available to help him, without him even asking





- Some Lessons
 - Giving is the result of a life dedicated to the Lord
 - In worship
 - In prayer
 - In Bible study
 - In service to others
 - Our giving is a reflection of a heart of true dedication and love for the Lord.

Giving is the Result of an Encouragement to Spiritual Growth and Maturity (2Cor.8:6-7)

- The Example of the Macedonian churches
 - Paul is using the attitude and the dedication of the Macedonian churches as an example to the Corinthian church
 - Paul sent Titus to Corinth to encourage them to give as the Macedonian churches have given.



- Some Lessons:
 - God wants all believers to grow in spiritual things:
 - In faith—learning to trust Him in the good, the bad, and the ugly!
 - In speech—able to speak the word of God with confidence and boldness.
 - In knowledge—know clearly what we believe and why we believe it.
 - In diligence—being faithful in our duties without excuses
 - In love—loving and respecting those who have spiritual charge over us.
 - Our giving is an expression of our spiritual growth and maturity.



A Challenge for you

- Does your giving reflect the grace of God at work in your life?



In order to truly give from a willing heart, you must first receive God's grace with a willing heart.

