



## *The Grace of Giving*

### **2 CORINTHIANS 8:7,8**

*H*ow we manage our finances reflects upon our spiritual condition. The Word of God tells us that the 'love' of money is the root of all evil. (1 Timothy 6:10) In the Parable of the Unjust Servant, Jesus tells us no one can serve God and Mammon at the same time. He will hate one master and love the other. He will be devoted to one and despise the other. (Luke 16:10-13) Also, when speaking of Satan's fall, the Bible states he was 'corrupted by the vastness of his commerce'. (Ezekiel 28:16) Are you pridefully looking to yourself and others for provision or humbly receiving the Father's affectionate care from His Heavenly account? Are you obedient and faithful to follow God's directions? Is Jesus the Lord of your finances?

Where is your treasure? Where is your heart? (Matthew 6:21) Think about God's love. He gave the ultimate gift. (John 3:16) Jesus our Savior gave himself because he loved the Father and because he loved us. (John 15:13) For while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to God, through the death of his Son. (Romans 5:10)

The woman who anointed Jesus with the expensive perfume was deeply grateful for what he had done for her and wanted to express her great thankfulness in a generous way. Jesus said about her, "She has done a beautiful thing to me." He honored her as she honored him. He said there would be a memorial for her giving. (Mark 14:6) We also see the Lord honors those who honor him in their thoughts and in their giving.

(Malachi 3) An offering is defined as a gift presented as an act of worship or devotion. Make a conscious effort to remember all of God's benefits towards you and he will create in you a thankful heart. Live in constant continuous and increasing gratitude; always mindful of his great gift to us and give accordingly. The Lord loves a hilariously cheerful giver! (2 Corinthians 9:6...)

Pray: Lord God, awake in me the grace of giving. Rise up in me, heart of God. Generous, hilarious and free!!!

THANKFUL PEOPLE GIVE TO THE WORK OF THE LORD.