

The Grace of Giving

History

This was a specific offering for the hurting church in Jerusalem

There was much poverty in Jerusalem, Acts 4:32-34

Paul's passion was to help poor, Gal 2:10

Mention of this gift Acts 11:27-30; 2 Cor 8-9:15; Acts 24:17; Romans 15:25-27

Much time, energy and effort was put into this special collection.

This does not refer to the regular collection for the local church's needs. We learn much about giving nonetheless.

Regularly

On the first day of every week

Not hit and miss, not off and on

Universally

Each one of you

Paul states that everybody should take part.

Systematically

Set aside

They had a system, a plan, a method.

They didn't wait until the offering plate was passed to decide

Proportionally

In keeping with his income

Some make more, some make less

Tithing (10%) is a guideline, not a straight jacket.

Some ought to give a great deal more than 10%

Joyfully

God loves a cheerful giver, 2 Cor 9:7

Sacrificially

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 Cor 8:9

So what?

***God can have your money and not have your heart, but
God cannot have your heart and not have your money.***

Why would you not give something regularly?

Fear? Don't you trust God to meet your needs?

Covetousness? You love yourself and your possessions more than the kingdom of God?

Selfishness? You want what you want.

At the end of the day, all of these are marks of an unbeliever.