Week of Nov 15, 2026 | 5 Day Devotional Guide

Excel | The Grace of Giving

THE BRANCH CHURCH

Day 1: Grace That Overflows
Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

The Macedonian churches were not giving out of abundance. They were giving out of severe trials and extreme poverty. Yet Paul describes their generosity not as a sacrifice they mustered through gritted teeth, but as a grace God had given them. This reframes everything. Generosity is not primarily a discipline we perform but a grace we receive and then express. The Macedonians pleaded for the privilege of giving. When was the last time you experienced giving as a privilege? Ask God today to shift your posture from obligation to overflow. Grace received always seeks to move outward.

- **In what area of your life has God shown you such grace that it would be natural for that grace to overflow toward others?**
- **Identify one person or cause this week and give something, however small, not out of duty but out of gratitude for what God has already given you.**

Day 2: The Rival of the Heart
Reading: Matthew 6:24 and Matthew 6:33

Jesus did not say you cannot serve both God and Satan. He said you cannot serve both God and money. This is a striking distinction. Money is not evil in itself, but its pull on the human heart is powerful enough that Jesus named it as the most common rival to wholehearted devotion to God. The remedy He offered was not to abandon all resources but to seek first the kingdom of God, trusting that everything else would find its proper place. Our relationship with money is a mirror of our relationship with God. What does your mirror reflect today?

- **Honestly assess your heart. Does the way you think about money reveal trust in God or anxiety about provision?**
- **Take five minutes today to write down your top three financial concerns and then surrender each one in prayer, choosing to seek the kingdom first in each situation.**

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Day 3: Worship Through Giving
Reading: Acts 10:1-4 and 2 Corinthians 8:19

Cornelius was a Roman soldier, not a Jewish priest, and yet his prayers and his generosity to the poor rose before God as a memorial offering. The language is the language of the Temple. Paul uses similar priestly language in 2 Corinthians 8 when describing the offering being administered to honor the Lord. This means that the moment you give, you are not simply transferring funds. You are standing before God as a worshiper, placing something on the altar. The offering moment in any church gathering is not a pause in worship. It is worship. Approach it that way.

- **How would your experience of giving change if you approached every act of generosity as a direct act of worship offered to God?**
- **The next time you give, whether in a church service or privately, pause before giving and speak a brief prayer of dedication, offering your gift consciously to the Lord before releasing it.**

Day 4: The One Who Excelled First
Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:9 and Philippians 2:5-8

Before Paul calls the Corinthians to excel in the grace of giving, he points them to the one who excelled first. Jesus was rich beyond all imagination and became poor beyond all dignity, not because He was forced to but because of grace directed toward us. He descended from glory to humanity, from humanity to servanthood, from servanthood to criminal, from criminal to sin-bearer. Every step downward was a gift given on our behalf. Our generosity is not the foundation of the Christian life. It is the response to a foundation already laid in the giving of Jesus Christ.

- **How deeply have you meditated on the personal cost of what Jesus gave up for you? How does that reality shape the way you give?**
- **Spend time today reading through the account of the crucifixion in one of the Gospels slowly and reflectively. Let the weight of His giving move you toward gratitude that expresses itself in generosity.**

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Day 5: Let the River Flow
Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Paul uses agricultural language to describe the spiritual reality of giving. The one who sows sparingly reaps sparingly. The one who sows generously reaps generously. God is described as the one who supplies seed to the sower, meaning the very capacity to give comes from Him. The goal of His supply is not personal accumulation but enlarged generosity that results in thanksgiving to God. Grace flows in, and grace flows out. You are not the reservoir. You are the riverbed. The grace of God is not merely what saved you at a single moment in time. It is the living current meant to move through you for the entirety of your life.

- **Are you functioning as a reservoir, holding what God has given you, or as a riverbed, allowing His grace to flow through you toward others?**
- **Prayerfully consider one concrete step toward excelling in giving in the coming year. Whether giving for the first time, giving more regularly, or increasing your giving percentage, write it down, commit it to God, and take the first step this week.**