

“Lightning & Thunder”

(Grace & Giving)

A special series on Stewardship – Part 12

7/15/07

Text: Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35; topical

Update/Review.....where we’ve been, where we’re going....

NEW TESTAMENT PATTERN OF GIVING

(a pattern that is “timeless”)

1. **GIVE** – 2 Corinthians 9:7 – “⁷*Each one must GIVE as he has made up his mind....*”

When we – individually – give, we are surrendering what we have been given, back to the Giver Himself – all the while blessing Him, others and ourselves.

2. **GIVE G** _____ – Mark 14 (3-9)

3. **GIVE R** _____ – 1 Corinthians 16:2 – “²*On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income...*” (NIV).

4. **GIVE D** _____ – 2 Corinthians 9:7c - ⁷*Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*
Give with your heart attached to the activity.

5. **GIVE V** _____ - 2 Corinthians 9:7b - ⁷*Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*”

As we come to understand in greater measure the vision of God’s grace, we will give beyond a sense of duty. That’s spiritual growth.

6. **GIVE S** _____ – 2 Corinthians 8:1-3 – “...³*For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will...*”

Three levels of giving –

- (1) L _____ than our ability,
- (2) A _____ to our ability, and
- (3) B _____ our ability.

7. **GIVE E** _____ – 2 Corinthians 8:7 – ⁷*Since you excel in so many ways—you have so much faith, such gifted speakers, such knowledge, such enthusiasm, and such love for us—now I want you to excel also in this gracious ministry of giving.*”

8. **GIVE W** _____ – Acts 10:4 – ^d*At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius...²a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously (gave much of his money) to the people, and prayed continually to God. ³About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, “Cornelius.” ⁴And he stared at him in terror and said, “What is it, Lord?” And he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God.”*”

Giving is a response of the heart triggered by God’s grace.