

## DAY 7

### Excelling in the Grace of Giving

*But since you excel in everything...see that you also excel in this grace of giving. 2 Corinthians 8:7*

From Pray the Word for Your Church by Tiece L. King

Father God, I come before You with praise and thanksgiving, in my heart for the great grace and love that You have lavished on me through Christ Jesus. As I have received this day, Lord, may I also freely give to those around me.

I ask also, Father, for my church community (*at First Presbyterian Church*), that we, Your people, would become generous in all things.

Pry our fingers off of our possessions that we might increasingly share with those who are in need.

Forgive us for our selfishness with our time and talents, Father. May we turn from self-focused living, generously give of ourselves and engage with the work of Your kingdom.

Remove the fear of “not enough” from our lives, O God! May we joyfully bring our tithes and offerings before You as an act of worship. May we not give out of obligation or reluctantly, but instead, eagerly look for ways to increasingly give more. Help us to deny ourselves.

May those who have never obeyed You in this way be prompted by the Holy Spirit to enter into this discipline of giving back to You. As we do so, Father, throw open heaven and pour out blessings on us that we might be encouraged and our faith strengthened, I pray! (*Pause and pray for our church community, that obedience in regard to the giving of finances, time, and giftings, caring for others---giving in every way---might increase.*)

Forgive us for hoarding and spending our resources without thought of other’s needs or expansion of Your kingdom among us. Teach us to lay up treasure in heaven, Lord, for truly, where our treasure is, our hearts will also be engaged. Prompt us by the Holy Spirit that we might set our minds on things unseen and put into action this eternal focus. May we become a community of faith that sows generously into Your work, that we might also reap generously.

May we give to You with great joy, a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and *running over*---that the same might be poured back onto us---and Your kingdom work increase all the more! May we be generous in all things and, in doing so, experience Your great blessing.

For the sake of the world that is still in darkness, use us, Lord, and the resources that You have entrusted to us for everything comes from You, Lord, and belongs to You. *All things are Yours.*

In the name of Jesus, Who became poor that I might be rich. Amen.

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Ephesians 1:8; 1 John 3:1; Romans 12:13; Matthew 10:8; 2 Corinthians 9:6; Mark 8:34; Malachi 3:10; Matthew 6:20; Luke 12:34, 6:38; Proverbs 22:9; 1 Chronicles 29:14; 2 Corinthians 8:9