

THE GRACE AWAKENING
THE CHARMING JOY OF GRACE GIVING
2 CORINTHIANS 8:1–9; 9:3–8, 13–15



The Heart of the Matter

There is no way we can remove giving from grace. Giving is the essence of grace. God doesn't charge us for His grace; He gives it to us. When we come to Him, by faith in His Son, God doesn't frown and say, "That'll be \$2,500, please . . . plus tax!" No, He gives us His forgiveness. He gives us His love. He gives us eternal life with the promise of heaven. We've established that kind of grace as vertical grace . . . God's *giving* to us what we do not deserve, what we can never repay. We've also examined horizontal grace—our giving to others. We don't give in order to reciprocate. We give because we have received grace as a gift from God. That gift motivates us to be people of grace, and where there is grace there *must* be giving. It's like love—God first loved us when we were unlovely and unattractive. Because He continues to love us, we, in turn, should love one another. God also gave to us—and continues to give—in spite of our waywardness, rebellion, and ingratitude. In turn, that kind of "grace giving" ought to flow from our hands to others' hearts.



Discovering the Way

1. What Makes Us So Defensive?

Why do we get defensive about messages on giving? Requests for giving can seem boringly repetitive, giving has become commercialized, and there always seems to be a hidden agenda.

2. What Makes Giving So Addictive? (2 Corinthians 8:7–9; 9:5–6)

Giving is addictive when we keep a healthy balance, when we model the same grace as Jesus Christ, when we counteract selfishness and covetousness, and when we become increasingly more generous.

3. What Makes Grace So Attractive? (2 Corinthians 9:7–15)

Grace individualizes the gift, makes the action joyfully spontaneous, enables us to link up with God's supply line, and leads to incomparable results.



Starting Your Journey

Remember: Jesus is God's greatest demonstration of grace to every one of us.



Tools for Digging Deeper



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hardcover book



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