

Worship God with your Treasure

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Churches avoid talking about money for a variety of reasons. And yet, the Bible is filled with instructions about money. There are about 500 verses on prayer. They are fewer than 500 verses on faith. But there are 2,300 verses that deal with money and possessions. Jesus said more about money than he did any other subject including heaven and hell combined. Scripture indicates that money is a barometer of our spiritual health.

A theology of giving

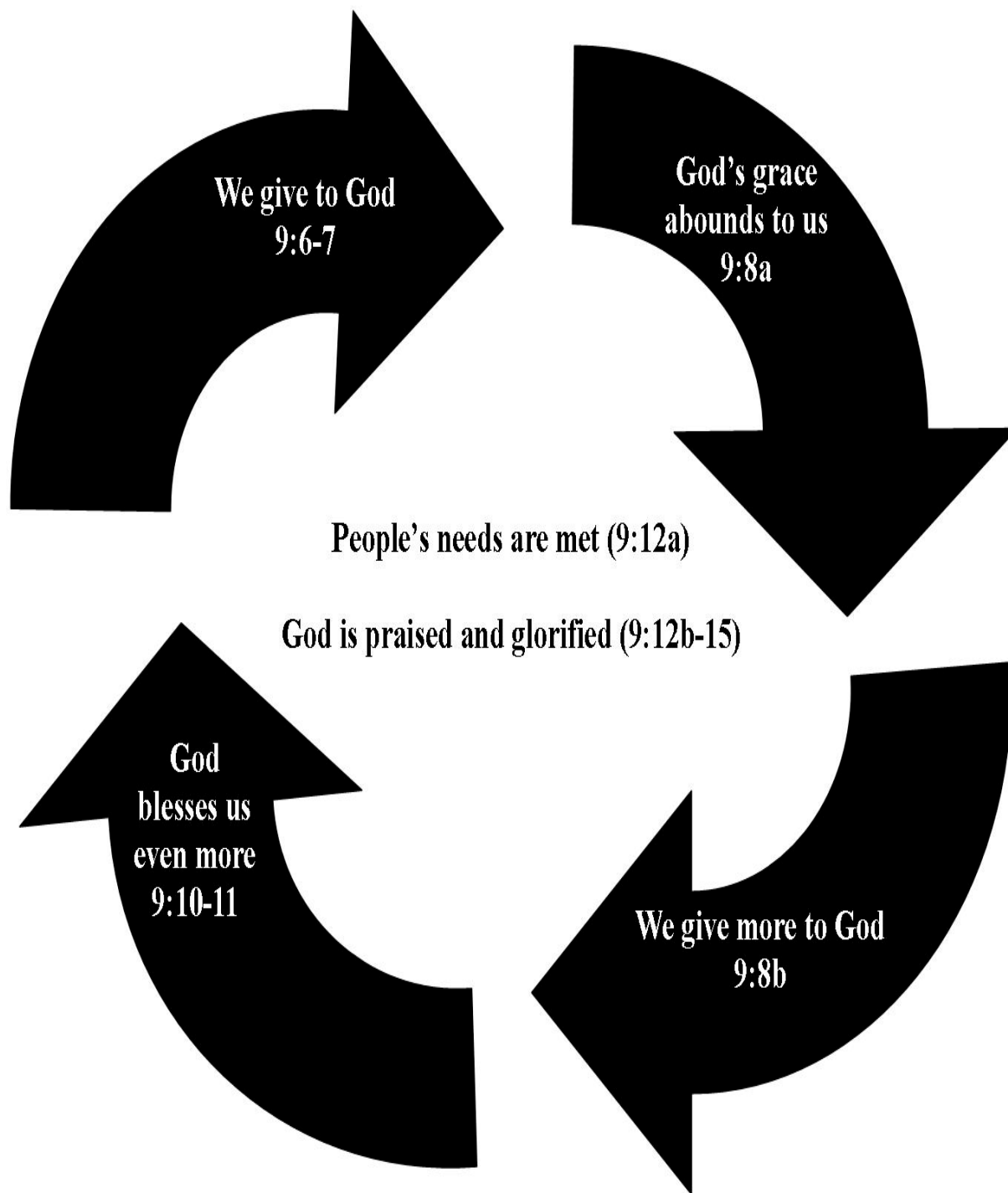
1. God owns it all (Psalm 24:1)
2. Giving is an act of worship (Proverbs 3:9-10)
3. When we don't give, we rob God and demonstrate our lack of trust (Malachi 3:8-10)
4. The principle of the tithe (giving 10%) existed before the Law (Genesis 14:17-24; 28:10-22)
5. The Law included two tithes, and possibly a third:
 - A tithe of Israel's crops, herds, and flocks (Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 12:4-18; 14:22-23)
 - A second tithe (?) of produce for the Levites who served at the Tent of Meeting (Numbers 18:27-28)
 - A third tithe (charity tithe) for the fatherless, aliens, and widows taken every third year (Deuteronomy 14:28-29; 26:12-13)
 - The tithe ranged from 10 to 23 percent
6. Jesus taught numerous parables and lessons about money and possessions

7. Paul wrote to the Corinthians on two occasions to teach about finances (1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9). His instructions provide key principles on giving.¹

Paul's Teaching on How to Give	
Generously	2 Corinthians 8:2-4; 9:6
Regularly/systematically	1 Corinthians 16:2
Proportionately	1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 8:11-12
Sacrificially	2 Corinthians 8:3-5
Willingly	2 Corinthians 8:11-12
Voluntarily	2 Corinthians 9:7
Cheerfully	2 Corinthians 9:7
Eagerly	2 Corinthians 8:10-11; 9:2
Enthusiastically	2 Corinthians 9:2
Excellently	2 Corinthians 8:7
Strategically	2 Corinthians 9:12-15
Scrupulously	1 Corinthians 16:3-4; 2 Corinthians 8:18-21
Paul's Teaching on How Much to Give	
A proportional amount	1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 8:11-12
A generous amount	2 Corinthians 8:2-3; 9:5-6, 11
A heartfelt amount	2 Corinthians 9:7
A sacrificial amount	2 Corinthians 8:3
Paul's Teaching on the Benefits of Good Giving	
God's generous blessing	2 Corinthians 9:6-11
The supply of people's needs	2 Corinthians 9:12a
Praise to God	2 Corinthians 9:12-15

¹ The following charts are taken from *Money Matters in Church: A Practical Guide for Leaders*, by Aubrey Malphurs and Steve Stroope. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 2007, p. 200-202.

The Cycle of Grace Giving (2 Corinthians 9:6-15)



Principles of Worship

We tend to equate worship with:

- Music. When the music stops, worship ends.
- Church building. We focus on corporate worship.
- Sunday. We limit worship to one hour per week.
- Our preferences. We dismiss anything outside our “likes.”

Worship is a celebration of God:

- Worship is focused on who God is and what he has done (Revelation 4:8-11).
- Worship is an active response to God whereby we declare his worth (Psalm 96:4, 8).

Worship should include a wide range of expression:

- Musical—stringed instruments (Psalm 98:5); trumpets, brass (Psalm 98:6); cymbals, tambourines, percussion (Psalm 150:4, 5).
- Verbal—praise, singing (Psalm 138:1-2); joy, gladness, singing (Psalm 100:1-2); creativity and new songs (Psalm 96:1; 98:1); continual expression (Revelation 4:8-11); silence (Habakkuk 2:20).
- Physical—bowing, kneeling (Psalm 95:6); dancing (Psalm 150:4); clapping (Psalm 98:8); service (Romans 12:1-2); gifts (Philippians 4:18).
- Emotions—joy, gladness, singing (Psalm 100:1-2); humility (2 Chronicles 7:3); brokenness (Job 1:20).

Definition of Worship:

Worship is an act of reverence (adoration) by men and women (creature) to God (Creator) made in response to God’s revelation of himself (his person and his works) expressed by an offering (sacrifice) of ourselves through our life (personality, abilities, gifts, obedience; Romans 12:1-2, 6-8), substance (time, resources, finances; Philippians 4:18), praise (adoration, thanksgiving; Hebrews 13:1), and service (good works, evangelism; Romans 15:16; Hebrews 13:16).