

# RSMI Biblical Principles Concerning Giving

We have chosen to draw on 2 Cor. Chaps. 8-9 as our primary model for donations and giving.

1. **Giving is to be entirely upon the conviction of the individual (2 Cor. 8:3)**

2 Corinthians 8:3 (ESV) — 3 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord

2. **One is to completely give themselves to the Lord (2 Cor. 8:5a) with the result that they will act in keeping with the will of God (2 Cor. 8:5b)**

2 Corinthians 8:5 (ESV) — 5 and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

3. **Giving is a grace that is placed in someone's life by the Lord (2 Cor. 8:7).**

2 Corinthians 8:7 (ESV)—7 But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

4. **Giving exemplifies the heart and love of the Savior (2 Cor. 8:8, 9)**

2 Corinthians 8:8–9 (ESV) — 8 I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

5. **Our giving is not acceptable to God if we do not will to give (2 Cor. 8:12).**

2 Corinthians 8:12 (ESV) — 12 For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.

- 6. Giving is to be according to what one has, not according to what one does not have (2 Cor.8:12).**

2 Corinthians 8:12 (ESV) — 12 For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.

- 7. When we have abundance we are to give liberally and in return when we have lack, abundance will be supplied to us (2 Cor. 8:13-15).**

2 Corinthians 8:13–15 (ESV) — 13 For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness 14 your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. 15 As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”

- 8. When we give it brings honor to God (2 Cor. 8:19).**

2 Corinthians 8:19 (ESV) — 19 And not only that, but he has been appointed by the churches to travel with us as we carry out this act of grace that is being ministered by us, for the glory of the Lord himself and to show our good will.

- 9. Giving is a proof of love: Love of the body, Love of those that do not know Him, and Love of Christ Himself (2 Cor. 8:24).**

2 Corinthians 8:24 (ESV) — 24 So give proof before the churches of your love and of our boasting about you to these men.

- 10. We must honor the commitments we have made to give (2 Cor. 9:1-5).**

2 Corinthians 9:1–5 (ESV) — 1 Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints, 2 for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year. And your zeal has stirred up most of them. 3 But I am sending the brothers so that our boasting about you may not prove empty in this matter, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be. 4 Otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—for being so confident. 5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead

to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction.

- 11. If we sow sparingly we will reap sparingly – conversely, if we sow generously we will reap generously (2 Cor. 9:6).**

**2 Corinthians 9:6 (ESV) — 6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.**

- 12. Giving, and the amount given, is an individual decision. If we are pressured to give a specific amount the gift is not given from the heart and therefore the gift is not acceptable before God (2 Cor. 9:7-9).**

**2 Corinthians 9:7–9 (ESV) — 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 9 As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”**

- 13. Our provision comes from God. As we are obedient to sow according to His will He has promised to enrich us in every way. As a result, those who receive the gift will glorify God (2 Cor. 9:10-11).**

**2 Corinthians 9:10–11 (ESV) — 10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.**

- 14. As we supply the needs of others, i.e., those who are called to labor in the word and in prayer, as well as the widow, the stranger, and the orphan, it enhances the spread of the Gospel and God receives praise (2 Cor. 9:12-14). Simply put, if we give into a work of God in a particular body we must have the assurance it will be used not only for the support of the ministry within the walls of the church, to train up the body of Christ, but also for outreach: to feed the poor, and clothe the naked, to shelter those who have no home, and to promote the spreading of the Gospel.**

**2 Corinthians 9:12–14 (ESV) — 12 For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. 13 By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, 14 while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you.**

**15. Ultimately thanks should be given to God at all times, and in all manners for the gracious gift of His Son, Jesus Christ the Lord (2 Cor. 9:15).**

**2 Corinthians 9:15 (ESV) — 15 Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!**

## To sum up RSMI's stance on offerings and giving

It is up to the individual or the family to determine what they are to give at any particular time, according to the will of the Lord for them. He knows our individual needs, and is the source of all supply.

They are expected to pray for direction and then, give in harmony to His revealed will. It is in this revealed will, and our obedience to it, that we find liberty.

The Lord is found faithful to give direction as far as the amount, yet, the Spirit led obligation is incumbent upon all those who claim the name of Christ to support His work, being directed by Him.

**If we are faithful to act in obedient response to His direction, He will supply not only our need but also the need of the ministry as well.**