



Pastor Phil Carr

**THE INTENTIONAL
INVESTMENTS OF GRACE**

May 25, 2016

Second Ebenezer Church



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I. Introduction

LUKE 10:30-37

³⁰In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.

³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.



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³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.

³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.



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³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii^[e] and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."



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II. KEY OBSERVATIONS ABOUT INTENTIONAL GRACE

A. KEY OBSERVATION #1: THE GIVING SPIRIT OBSERVATION

WE NEED TO CULTIVATE A GIVING SPIRIT TO EXCEL
AT GRACIOUSNESS



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ACTS 4:32-35

³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.

³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all.



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³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales.

³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need



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WHAT KIND OF SPIRIT DO YOU POSSESS?

THE GENERAL SPIRIT

The general spirit is when someone isn't looking to take or give anything to or from others. They're not necessarily looking to do good or bad. They are somewhat neutral in their giving.

THE GRINCH SPIRIT

The Grinch spirit is when someone is looking to get and take as much as they can from others. The focus of their life is primarily about them, and what they want or need.



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WHAT KIND OF SPIRIT DO YOU POSSESS?

THE GRACIOUS SPIRIT

The gracious spirit is when someone is looking to give and help others as much as they can. They give gifts of forgiveness and support as often as they can.



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HOW DO WE INCREASE OUR GIVING SPIRIT?

THE GRACE PRAYER

Giving is actually a spiritual gift that some are given by the Holy Spirit. We should pray for a special anointing in the area of giving. I believe God will honor this prayer if we're sincere.



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THE GRACE PERSPECTIVE

A grace perspective is a gracious way of seeing things. If we want a giving spirit we must embrace a gracious perspective. There is no bigger influence on our spirit than our perspective.

THE GRACE PRACTICE

A grace practice is the application and implementation of God's unmerited favor and inherited power in real life. We must practice God's grace in our thinking, talking and living.



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**B. KEY OBSERVATION #2: THE GRACE GIFT
OBSERVATION**

WE SHOULD VIEW GRACE AS A GIFT WE GIVE
TO OTHERS TO GLORIFY GOD



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WHY SHOULD WE GIVE GIFTS OF GRACE?

1. IT'S OUR REASONABLE SERVICE

It's the least we can do given how much grace God has given to us

2. IT'S HOW WE LET OUR LIGHT SHINE

Giving grace to others is one of the ways we let the goodness of God shine in us

3. IT ATTRACTS GRACIOUSNESS FROM OTHERS

When we give grace to others, God will ensure that grace is returned in some form or fashion to us



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HOW DO WE GIVE GIFTS OF GRACE?

We give the gift of grace excelling at one anothering and each othering.

1. FORGIVING HURTFUL WRONGS
2. WITHOLDING UNNECESSARY CRITICISM
3. SUPPORTING YOUR ENEMIES
4. COMPLIMENTING YOUR OPPOSITION
5. CHALLENGING WRONG DIPLOMATICALLY
6. FORGIVING OTHERS DEBT
7. GIVING SURPRISING GIFTS



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**C. KEY OBSERVATION #3: THE GRACE RATING
OBSERVATION**

WE SHOULD CONTINUALLY STRIVE TO
INCREASE AND IMPROVE

THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF OUR
GRACIOUSNESS



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HOW DO WE IMPROVE OUR GRACIOUSNESS RATING?

BE CARING

The first key to growing in graciousness is being a person who actually care about people. Some of us don't care as much as we should, and therefore aren't as gracious as God would like us to be as His children. We should frequently pray Lord give me a caring heart.



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BE COPIOUS

The second key to increasing our level of graciousness is to give an abundance of grace and graciousness to others. We should seek to give some forms of grace everywhere we go. We must strive to allow copious amounts of God's grace to flow through us into the life of others.

BE CONSISTENT

The third key to taking our graciousness scores to a higher level is to be consistently gracious.. We should strive to be gracious day in and day out. We can't allow moodiness, or the problematic and challenging circumstances of our lives to limit our graciousness.



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**D. KEY OBSERVATION #4: THE GRACE HIT LIST
OBSERVATION**

WE SHOULD BE PROACTIVE AND TARGETED
WITH OUR GRACIOUSNESS



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A GOOD APPROACH TO CREATING A HIT LIST

1. TARGET STRANGERS WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT AN EVENTS
2. TARGET CO-WORKERS BEFORE YOU GO TO WORK
3. TARGET CHURCH MEMBERS WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT CHURCH
4. TARGET FAMILY MEMBERS WHO CAN REALLY USE SOME SUPPORT
5. TARGET FRIENDS WHO REALLY NEED TO BE ENCOURAGED



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E. KEY OBSERVATION #5: THE SPIRIT LED OBSERVATION

WE SHOULD ALLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GUIDE
US IN THE

APPLICATION OF OUR GRACIOUSNESS



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THE KEY ASPECTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADERSHIP

The VERSES of the Holy Spirit

Sometimes the Holy Spirit will bring bible verses to our attention that can be used to guide us in our application of grace and graciousness.

The VALUES of the Holy Spirit

We should allow the beliefs and convictions that we have learned from the Holy Spirit to guide us in our application of grace and graciousness.



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The VISION of the Holy Spirit

Sometimes the Holy Spirit will give us a vision for our life and ministry that can be a guiding force in our application of grace and graciousness.

The VOICE of the Holy Spirit

Sometimes the Holy Spirit will speak to us in a still small voice, and we can use that message to guide us in our application of grace and graciousness.

The VIBE of the Holy Spirit

Sometimes the Holy Spirit will give us a special feeling that can be used to guide us in our application of grace and graciousness.

