**Mid-week Stewardship Thought**

**Excel in the Grace of Giving**

In Paul’s letter to the people in Corinth, he encouraged them to excel in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7). Through the work of the Holy Spirit within us, we can also excel in the grace of giving. One of the first characteristics of those who excel in the grace of giving is that they give to God the first portion of their incomes. (Proverbs 3:9). God desires that we honor Him with the first portion of what we receive. We are to honor our commitment to God before buying the things we desire. Our great God is dishonored by leftovers (Malachi 1:6-14).

We excel in the grace of giving when we give generously. Generous giving implies that we will give not just a minimum but freely, just as we receive (2 Corinthians 9:6).

We excel in the grace of giving when we give cheerfully. 2 Corinthians 9:7 reads, *“Each one should give as he has decided in his heart , not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

We excel in the grace of giving when we give worshipfully. Once our hearts belong to the Lord, the giving of our money follows naturally.

**Prayer:** Father, You are my creator and redeemer. Thank You for blessing me with many blessings and help me to excel in the grace of giving with what You’ve entrusted to me. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

**Blessings on your Journey as a Steward!**