



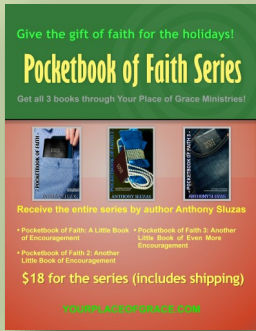
Anthony Sluzas  
Proclaiming the Message of Grace, Faith, and the Cross of Christ



December 2018  
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Let's talk about one of the most common and biggest fears that a great many of us deal with. What is this crazy fear? It is the fear of giving. "Excuse me?" you may be saying right now. "I pick up the check at restaurants once in awhile, and I even toss a couple bucks in the offering plate at church sometimes."

You give. I give. We all give. I am not talking about just giving. I am speaking of giving joyfully and generously. As little children, one of the very first words we all learn is "mine!" Actually we never do quite get over that word. Twenty or thirty years later we are still throwing our temper tantrums in our homes, schools, and work places—shouting, "MINE!"

Are you a giving person? In 2 Corinthians 8:7, Paul writes: *Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving.*

If you "excel" at something, you go above and beyond what is required to bless others. Our God desires for us all to excel through our giving, and be truly generous people. He wants us to make giving a lifestyle.

You may be asking, "How should I give of myself? Where should I give? What should I give?"

First, the Bible teaches us that we should give of our time. We only have a finite amount of time to make a difference, and we need to make it count!

Second, we should spend quality time with those we love. We need to have that time to connect and bond emotionally.

Third, we need to spend time in worship. Every one of us should be part of a Bible-believing local church.

We also use our talents, gifts, and abilities as part of our giving to others. As we think about giving this time of year, how can you excel in your giving to better someone else? Don't be afraid, get out there and give!

Laborers together in Christ,  
— Tony

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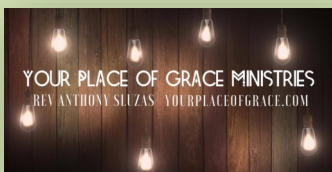
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