
PROJECT HOPE: The First Project Hope

*New Hope Community Church
Dr. Jack Bracy, November 26, 2017*

I Am Fascinated by What Causes People to Give Freely,
Generously, And Abundantly

The 1st Project Hope Recorded in The NT Was an Offering for The Believers in Jerusalem

“Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through **the churches in Macedonia**. They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.” **2 Corinthians 8:1-5, NLT**

1. The Most Unlikely Givers

“Poor People Are Often Most Generous Because
They Know What It's Like to Have Nothing.” - *Unknown*

2. Attitude

“You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.””
2 Corinthians 9:7, NLT

Where Does This Kind of Attitude Come From?
Understanding of The Grace That Has Been Given to Me

3. Priorities

They Discovered That When God Comes First
Everything Else Falls into Place

The Secret to The Christian Life:

The Growing Desire to Give Demonstrates the Difference the Spirit of God Is Making in Me

It's Not the Outside Event
but The Inside Change

“And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.” *Acts 2:44–45, NLT*

If I Am Trying to Fabricate a Desire to Give,
I Am Disconnected from God

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2
Corinthians 9:7, ESV

Attitude + Priorities + Holy Spirit =
Fulfilling God's Purposes

I Need a Project Hope Attitude All Year Long

“Give to those who ask, and don't turn away from those who want to borrow.” *Matthew 5:42, NLT*

“Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your rich neighbours—for they will invite you back, and in this way you will be paid for what you did. When you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind; and you will be blessed, because they are not able to pay you back. God will repay you on the day the good people rise from death.” *Luke 14:12–14, GNB*

What Kind of Giver Does God Want Me to Be?

God's Attitude About Money and Giving Is Different
Than Anyone Else I Know

Do I Want Their Attitude or Do I Want
God to Shape My Attitude?

