Stewardship Talk #5

This is another “short talk” on the topic of stewardship. We are looking at 7 habits for generous hearts. The first habit (presented last week) was: **Giving is an act of worship which expresses the giving of our whole self.**

the 2nd habit is:  **Giving comes from gratitude. We give in response to God’s grace, not to earn God’s grace.**

One person tells the story that when he was a boy, he did most of the cooking for his family since both parents worked late hours. Sometimes he would not have the ingredients needed for cooking and would go to their neighbour to borrow the item. Without exception he was always sure to replace it within the next day or two. Our human tendency is to think that somehow our relationship with God works the same way. We believe that we must either earn God’s approval and acceptance or we must somehow pay God back the way we might return a cup of sugar to a neighbour. We must keep the record straight, so to speak.

Such an attitude leaves us wanting because we could never pay God back for the grace we have received. We could never give enough. That is why Paul emphasizes that the primary characteristic of giving is gratitude, certainly not guilt or duty. *Our giving is not a way to pay God back, but rather a way to say ‘thank you’.*