# *Excel in the Grace of Giving!*

**Lord, grant me faith to “Excel in the Grace of Giving.”**

## *Giving Our Best*

## A small village was excited to discover it would soon be visited by the king. Community leaders immediately began planning for their beloved king’s visit. Everyone agreed they wanted to present a gift to the king that would represent their appreciation for his benevolent supervision and management of the kingdom. But the village was poor and could not afford a gift worthy of a king as great as theirs. Someone suggested, “We have wonderful vineyards and produce the best wine in the land. Let each of us bring the best wine from our cellars and create a great vat of wine to present to our king!”

## The idea was embraced with enthusiasm and for the next several days, the people brought bottles of their best wine and poured them into a large vat that would be presented to the king upon his arrival. A few of the town’s people, however, realized that with so many people contributing wine to the large vat, their own contribution would not make much difference. So some of the people brought bottles filled with water instead of wine. “With so much wine,” they reasoned, “our failure to contribute will be neither noticed nor missed.”

## The day of celebration arrived. The village leaders proudly made their presentation on the “town’s best wine” to the king. They raised their glasses in honor of his Majesty the King and tasted the best wine their village had to offer. To the abject horror and humiliation of the entire village, the “town’s best wine” was nothing more than water! Everyone had thought the same thing: their personal contribution would not be needed or missed. Although everyone in the village wanted to pay honor to the king, each had failed to understand the necessity of his own personal participation.

## As God’s people, each of us is expected to give him our best. We are called to give faithfully of our firstfruits, and he promises to bless those who give generously. We will experience the joy of giving and a connectedness to Christ through giving. Through faith, we can give the best of our vineyards.

**Prayer:** Dear heavenly Father, you are the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings. Because of who you are and what you have done and continue to do for us, you deserve our first and best. Help us to honor you by what we say and do. Grant us generous and giving hearts so you will be praised. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

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