

11 GIVING



“WHAT IS THE MEANING OF GIVING, AND WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AREA?”

This lesson will deal with the Christian’s responsibility in stewardship of his life as well as his resources. Before you can properly understand the nature of New Testament giving, you must understand this one fact clearly: God does not need your money. Psalms 24:1

We will explore why we should give, the purpose of giving, what God would have us to give, how much we should give, and what our attitudes towards giving should be.

I. Why Should I Give?

- A. To honor God through obedience. Proverbs 3:9, 10
- B. We should give because we are thankful for what God has first done for us. 2 Corinthians 9:15
- C. We should give to acknowledge God's ownership of all things. Psalms 50:10, 11, 12, 104:24, 115:15, 16; Job 41:11
- D. Giving proves the sincerity of our love for God. 2 Corinthians 8:8
- E. Giving develops in us an attitude of grace. 2 Corinthians 8:6, 7; 9:8.
 - 1. It develops in us an attribute of God: Giving - John 3:16, 1 John 4:9
 - 2. It develops in us an attribute of God: Grace - 1 Peter 4:10
- F. Giving affords us the opportunity to make eternal investments. Philippians 4:17, Matthew 6:19-21, Revelation 3:18
- G. Giving procures God's blessings on our personal finances. We cannot "out give" God. Luke 6:38; Malachi 3:10

II. What is the Purpose for Giving?

- A. Faithful giving of the saints through a local church supports missions. Not every believer will go, but all can send. Philippians 4:15, 16, 2 Corinthians 11:9
- B. Giving supports those within the church body who are unable to support themselves.
 - 1. Those who are faithful to the church. Acts 6:1.
 - 2. It is the obligation of the personal family to support those in certain situations. 1 Timothy 5:9, 10, 16
- C. Giving supports the leaders of the local church. 1 Timothy 5:17-18.
- D. Giving supports the "nuts and bolts" operation of the local church: utilities, materials, maintenance
 - 1. You should have confidence in the way your church leaders handle God's money. Although not necessary, an annual financial report and an “open door” financial policy, where any member could address a question to an administration manager or deacon, would certainly build member confidence. If you are curious or have good reason to believe that the church’s resources are not being used scripturally, then speak to the individuals with the responsibility. 2 Corinthians 8:20, 21

III. What Should We Give?

Before you consider giving anything, we must remember that we ourselves have been purchased by God with Christ's blood and we belong to Him. 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20.

- A. Give ourselves wholly to the things of God. 1 Timothy 4:15, 2 Corinthians 8:3-5, 12, Romans 12:1
- B. Give attendance to the reading of God's Word. 1 Timothy 4:13
- C. Give earnest heed to what we have heard. Hebrews 2:1
- D. Give ourselves continually to prayer. Acts 6:4
- E. Give thanks for everything. 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- F. Give voluntarily of the three resources God has given you:
 - 1. Time
 - 2. Talent
 - 3. Treasure

IV. How Much Should I Give?

Even more important than the quantity of our giving is its quality, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

- A. Give Tithes
 - 1. Before the law was instituted, Abraham gave tithes. Genesis 14:20, Hebrews 7:1-7
 - 2. Under the law, a person gave a tithe -10% of their gross income to God. Malachi 3:10-12
 - 3. The tithe, Leviticus 27:30, was holy unto the Lord, and did not belong to the person.
 - 4. We are not bound by the tithe. We are to go beyond it. Matthew 5:17
 - 5. The promise in Malachi 3 is that God will prosper the remaining 90% more than the original 100%
Proverbs 11:24, 13:7, Matthew 6:19, 20
- B. Give to Missions

Where tithes may be seen or interpreted as our obligation, missions giving is an extension of our heart-felt desire to see souls saved. Our support of missions, at home and abroad, is the extension and outreach of our local church. Some of God's greatest blessings have come through missions giving. Philippians 4:13-19, 2 Corinthians 8:1, 2

- C. Give to Others
 - 1. God channels His provisions through other people. Luke 6:38 "...Shall men give into your bosom."
 - 2. One man's abundance is another man's need ! Allow God to use you to supply other men's needs. In 1 Corinthians 16:1-3, Paul specifically mentions taking offerings for others "...collection for the saints. "
 - 3. Although the money may not go to the church your giving to others is still for the Lord. Jesus said in Matthew 25:45; "In as much as ye did it not to one of the least of these ye did it not to me."
- D. Give Sacrificially
 - 1. They gave out of their deep poverty. 2 Corinthians 8:1, 2
 - 2. The widow gave two mites which was all her living. Mark 12:42
 - 3. God measures gifts by how much is left, not how much we give.
 - 4. God sees the heart of the giver rather than the size of the gift.

V. How are We to Give?

- A. Faithfully – 1 Corinthians 16:2 God will reward your honesty and faithfulness.
- B. Cheerfully – 2 Corinthians 9:7

“There's that collection plate! Do I have to give something again?” We ought to count it a great privilege and joy to be able to give something back to Him who gave so much for us. As an individual grows in the Lord his attitude toward giving will more closely follow the principles summarized in 2 Corinthians 9:7.

C. Willingly – 2 Corinthians 8:3-5, 11, 12

D. Individually – 1 Corinthians 16:2 Not only the head of the home, but mother and children too. Giving is not only for the rich, it is for the poor also.

VI. Conclusion

God's overriding principle for any investment: whether it be family or finances, whether it be soul winning or service, the more that I invest, the greater will be my return. 2 Corinthians 9:6