

LESSON 10: GIVING

**“What is the meaning of giving?” and “
What are my responsibilities in this area?”**

KEY = ALL

Giving is an extremely controversial subject in Christianity today, largely due to the severe pressures exerted on God’s people to give to so many worthy causes. This is perhaps one of the most misunderstood subjects. This study will reveal the Christian’s responsibility both in the stewardship of his life as well as his resources.

- I. **In order for giving to be truly proper, you must first be willing to give of yourself.** You must clearly understand one fact, however: God does not need your money. He owns everything.

A. God bought you with a price, His blood, and you belong to him.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

B. God commands you to present your body a living sacrifice, not just your pocketbook.

Romans 12:1 says, *I BESEECH you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service*

C. A willing mind and heart with a life committed to service to God must precede financial giving in order for God to bless it.

2 Corinthians 8:3-5, 12



II. **Why should I give?**

A. Giving proves the sincerity of your love for Jesus Christ. You can give without loving, but, you cannot love without giving.

2 Corinthians 8:8

B. Giving develops an attitude of grace for other works. It takes no special talents or abilities to give, only grace. 2 Corinthians 8:6-7

2 Corinthians 9:8 supports this further, *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.*

- C. Giving is an investment in eternal riches and gets your eyes off of earthly riches, which will fade away.

Matthew 6:19-21 says, *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

See also: Philippians 4:17

- D. It is an act of Worship. Psalm 96:8 says, *Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts.*
- E. The person who benefits most from your giving is YOU. It is a privilege to be a part of His ministry.

III. Where am I to give?

- A. Your primary responsibility is to your local church. All giving in the New Testament is done within the context of a local church ministry. 1 Corinthians 16:1-3 is the definitive passage.



Note: In most churches, a group of men are entrusted with the responsibility of handling the financial matters of the body. If you have prayerfully sought God's leadership in choosing a local church, and you have followed the principles in His Word in doing so, then you ought to trust the leaders of the church to handle this matter properly. If you have good reason to believe that the church's resources are not being used scripturally, then speak to the individuals with that responsibility. If the matter is not answered to your satisfaction, then perhaps you should consider praying about seeking another church.

2 Corinthians 8:20-21

- B. Obviously, anyone is free to give to causes outside the local church, and God may even use and bless it. However, it is the local church that is central in God's plan. Any giving outside of it should never be done at the expense of what God would have you do in your church. This is equally true of time and service, as well as money.

IV. What am I supposed to give?

You are supposed to give your life. Your giving is to be out of a willing heart and because you love the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us examine amounts of giving from the Bible.

- A. The “tithe” – We see throughout the Old Testament, that the Jews were required by their religious law to give a certain percentage of their income. This “tithe” was one-tenth of a person’s income. In addition, the Jews gave freewill offerings for various other works of God, bringing their total giving well over ten percent.



2 Chronicles 31:11-12; Deuteronomy 12:5-7

- B. The church is not bound by the letter of the Old Testament law. However, the principles of the Old Testament establish patterns for our relationship with God.

1 Corinthians 10:11 says, *Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples, and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.*

Romans 15:4 says, *For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*

Note: The question we should ask ourselves is – In the New Testament economy of things, how much is grace worth?

V. How am I supposed to Give? - New Testament Giving

- A. Applying the principles

Giving can be applied in three areas or ways:

1. Structure—A young Christian should establish discipline in his life in all areas. In giving, the principle of ten percent can help provide that structure.
2. Cheerful Giving—As an individual grows in the Lord, he will develop an attitude to go beyond this structure. The grace of cheerful giving then becomes a reality in his life.

The New Testament principles of giving are summarized in 2 Corinthians 9:7:

– “*As a man purposeth in his heart.*” Your giving is between you and God.



- “*Not grudgingly.*” If your giving is done with the wrong attitude, you will not experience God’s grace.
- “*Or of necessity.*” You are not bound by the tithe or any other law.
- “*FOR GOD LOVETH A CHEERFUL GIVER.*”

3. Sacrificial Giving—Christian maturity will result in sacrificial giving. When a person gives beyond his power to give, it costs him something. At this point, the grace of giving is maximized in his life.

2 Corinthians 8:3; 2 Samuel 24:24

B. Consider how you will give.

1. Give as God has prospered you. Don’t concern yourself with the giving of others; just give according to the amount God has blessed you with.

2 Corinthians 8:12 says, *For it there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.*

See also: 1 Corinthians 16:2-11



2. Remember at all times the law of sowing and reaping.

2 Corinthians 9:6 states, *But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.*

See also: Galatians 6:7-9

C. Giving is more than financial.

True New Testament giving goes much further than a simple “tithe.” It is turning over complete control of your life and resources to Jesus Christ. If God has control of your life, He will have control of your resources. All of the above principles of giving can be applied to your time and service as well as your money.

It is God’s plan that we be conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ.
Romans 8:29

1. God’s essential nature is giving, manifest in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 3:16, says, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

See also: 1 John 4:10; 2 Corinthians 8:9

2. When you give according to Bible principles, you will manifest the nature of the Lord Jesus Christ in your life resulting in God being glorified through you.

2 Corinthians 9:8-15; 1 Chronicles 29:8-13

VI. What is my giving used for?

As we saw earlier in this study, all giving in the New Testament is done within the context of a local church ministry. We will now see how this should be distributed.

- A. The support of the leaders of the church.

1 Corinthians 9:13-14 states, *Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.*

See also: Galatians 6:6; 1 Timothy 5:17-18

- B. Other works of God supported through your church.

– *Missionaries* Philippians 4:15-16



- C. Support of those within the church body who are UNABLE to support themselves and who have proven themselves FAITHFUL under the New Testament guidelines.

– *Widows* Acts 6:1, 1 Timothy 5:16, 9-10

- D. To meet general needs as determined by the leadership of your church.

– *...take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.* 2 Corinthians 8:4

– *...then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea.* Acts 11:27-30

VII. Getting Started

Let's look at some ways that you can be sure that you are giving to the right things and that your money (and time) is being used as God would have you to. Remember the issue is your heart attitude toward God. Cheerful giving must precede any amount given.

- A. How you begin is up to you. A very helpful hint is to base your financial household budget upon the total amount you have left after you have taken out your offering to the Lord. Living according to your means would be based on this figure, not your total gross or net income.

1 Corinthians 14:40 says, *"Let all things be done decently and in order."*

- B. You have been purchased by God... He is your owner. Therefore, the issue is not how much you give, it is how much you keep!
1. Build your giving (time, service and money) around the local church. It is your safeguard as it is God's ordained institution for this age.