

# EXCELLENCE IN GIVING

## **Introduction**

We work hard at excelling in our faith. We read our Bibles, we pray, we come to church, some of us even belong to a small group, and we do this to deepen our faith. But we don't often consider what it means to be excellent in the area of giving. Instead, many Christians view giving as an obligation- something we have to do, like paying dues to our HOA. This week, we'll talk about how to excel in giving.

## **Scripture for study**

Excellence in giving: 2 Corinthians 8:7

Giving as an act of worship- Exodus 20:22-24, I Chronicles 16:29

Tithing- Malachi 3:10

Offerings- Leviticus 3:1-3

Firstfruits- Exodus 13:19

Trusting in money- Prov. 11:28

## **Message Outline**

### **Biblical Guidelines For Giving**

- Tithes
- Offerings
- Firstfruits

### **How To Become an Excellent Giver**

- Remember what God is trying to accomplish through giving
- Remember that giving is attached to a promise
- Remember that giving reaps eternal rewards

## **Discussion Questions**

1. What kind of emotion comes to mind when the topic of tithes and offerings comes up?
2. Why do you think the subject of money is such a touchy subject in church for many people?
3. Rank the following spiritual disciplines in the order that you believe is most important to least important for Christians to practice well: prayer, worship, giving, Bible study, serving. Why did you list giving where you did?
4. What would you say is the difference between a tithe and an offering? Do you sense that God emphasizes one over the other? Why or why not?
5. From your own experience, what has been the most important spiritual lesson you have learned in the area of giving?
6. Review Malachi 3:10 with the group. What do you think is meant by the word “blessing?”

## **Review and Reflection**

If you are already an excellent giver, then thank you for trusting God and with your finances. If you have yet to become a regular giver, then perhaps now is the time you can trust God in this difficult area of life. Remember the promise that God attaches to tithing: if you give, then God will out give you in return!