

Giving Foundations

Four Foundational Pillars

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Introduction: Why We Must Talk About Giving

1. Giving is not primarily about money, it is about lordship, trust and freedom
2. Scripture speaks frequently about money because it reveals the heart
3. Jesus speaks more about money and possessions than almost any other topic because money competes for worship

THE SERIES PLAN

Part 1: Four Foundational Pillars

Part 2: Generosity Begins with Encounter (Abraham's encounter with Melchizedek)

Part 3: Practicals of Giving (Jim)

Part 1: Four Foundational Pillars

Pillar #1 - God Owns Everything

Giving begins with a correct view of ownership

1. God is the Creator and Owner of all things
 - We do not give God "our" money, we return what already belongs to Him.

"The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine," says the LORD of hosts.

—Haggai 2:8

The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.

—Psalm 24:1

2. Ownership belongs to God by creation, not by permission
3. This dismantles entitlement and produces humility
4. Heart and Mind posture: We possess nothing
 - Paul models radical detachment, not poverty for its own sake, but freedom of heart.

as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

—2 Corinthians 6:10

5. Christian maturity is learning how to possess without being possessed
6. The freer we are from ownership illusions, the freer we are to obey God

Pillar #2 - We Are Managers Not Owners

Giving flows from faithful management of someone else's resources

1. Biblical stewardship framework
 - God entrusts resources and expects faithfulness, not accumulation.

Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

—1 Corinthians 4:2

He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. 11 Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, how will you commit to your trust the true riches?

—Luke 16:10-11

- Money is a test of stewardship, not a measure of worth
- Faithfulness precedes increase

2. The danger and bondage of debt

- Debt compromises stewardship by placing us under another master.

The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

—Proverbs 22:7

Owe no one anything except to love one another

—Romans 13:8

3. Debt restricts generosity, flexibility and obedience
4. Personal Example: Our First House
5. While Scripture acknowledges economic realities, it consistently warns against living enslaved
6. Biblical Management/Strategy : First Fruits, Offerings, Alms
 - First Fruits/Tithe: honoring God first

Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.

—Proverbs 3:9-10

- Offerings: Voluntary worship-driven generosity

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

—2 Corinthians 9:6-7

- Alms: caring for the poor and vulnerable

He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and He will pay back what he has given.

—Proverbs 19:17

- These three together form a balanced, biblical generosity framework
- They train the heart toward God, community and compassion

Pillar #3 Generous Giving Keeps the Heart Free from the Love of Money

Dangers of loving money:

But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil...

—1 Timothy 6:9-10

1. It Replaces God as Lord

You cannot serve God and mammon.

—Matthew 6:24

- ***Danger: Money becomes a rival master. Love of money is ultimately a worship issue—divided allegiance is impossible.***

2. It Leads the Heart Away from Faith

Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare.

—1 Timothy 6:9-10

- ***Danger: The love of money entangles the soul, produces spiritual destruction and causes some to stray from the faith.***

3. It Chokes the Life of the Word

The deceitfulness of riches

—Matthew 13:22

- ***Danger: Wealth promises life but quietly suffocates obedience, fruitfulness and spiritual attentiveness.***

4. It Creates False Security

Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor trust in uncertain riches. But in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

—1 Timothy 6:17

- ***Danger: Money offers the illusion of safety, but Scripture insists it is unstable and cannot be trusted for hope.***

5. It Produces Insatiable Desire

He who loves silver will not be satisfied.

—Ecclesiastes 5:10

- ***Danger: Love of money never delivers contentment. Desire increases as possessions increase.***

6. It Breeds Pride and Forgetfulness of God

Then you say in your heart, "My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.

—Deuteronomy 8:17

- ***Danger: Wealth tempts people to rewrite their story, forgetting that provision and ability come from the Lord.***

Pillar #4 Giving Generously is the means the Kingdom of God Is Established

1. God chooses to work through His people, not apart from them

- From Genesis onward, God advances His purposes through a covenant people who partner with Him materially.

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 2 “Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering.”

—Exodus 25:1-2

2. Giving is not about God’s need; it is about our inclusion in His work

3. Generosity sustains the spiritual family

- In the New Testament, giving is how the Church cares for its own.

Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

—Acts 2:44-45

Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, 35 and laid them at the apostles’ feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

—Acts 4:34-35

4. Generosity creates a needs-met community

5. This is not forced redistribution but Spirit-led love

6. The credibility of the gospel was reinforced by tangible care

7. Giving fuels discipleship and leadership development

- Paul repeatedly connects generosity to gospel formation and maturity.

Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from

Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. 16 For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.

—*Philippians 4:15-17*

8. Generosity enables gospel expansion and mission

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"

—*Romans 10:14-15*

9. Jesus directly ties kingdom effectiveness to stewardship

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

—*Matthew 6:19-21*