

# Give It All Away 2026

## *Reason We Give*

Fairview Missionary Church | Angola, IN

Scripture: Assorted

Speaker: Joel Greenwood

May 24th, 2026

One of the great questions that was asked during our Tough Question series a few weeks ago was, what does faith look like on a daily basis? When I get up on Monday morning, what should my agenda look like? Or put another way, how should my day-to-day life look different because I am a Christian? It's a very good question. And if you remember, I said from one perspective, nothing changes.

But from a different perspective, everything changes. You're still going to go to work, you're still going to eat, and you're still going to hang out with friends. You're still going to spend money and save money. You're going to live life. But what does change is how you view work, what you eat and drink, what you do when you are hanging out with your friends, maybe how you save and spend money, your perspective on life will change as a follower of Jesus.

You will still live life, but why and how you live life will be different. One of the most difficult things for me to talk about at church is money, not because I don't enjoy it or I'm ashamed of it or afraid to talk about it. In fact, I love talking about finances and budgeting and wisdom and best practices when it comes to money.

But the reason why I don't like talking about money is because I know some, if not many, will be offended and turned off as soon as the church talks about money. I hear the same statements that you do. I'm not oblivious to them. People will often say, "All the church cares about is money." Oh, they're just trying to fill their pockets. It's all about the money with that church.

The problem is that the church needs to talk about money because Jesus talked about money. We all would agree that money plays an important role in our life and in our society. We also would agree that money can be very dangerous and has led many people astray in their lives. So here is what I have done at Fairview Missionary Church over the last 10-plus years.

Once a year, I ask you for the freedom and grace to do a series that we call "Give It All Away," where I have the freedom to talk about money as well as to teach what Scripture and Jesus taught about money. The purpose of this series, just like every other series I do at church, is to help you and to help me take our next step toward Jesus.

But in this series, it specifically has to do around our finances, around our time, around our energy, and around our resources. Now, if you are new here today, I'm glad that you came, or maybe you're joining us online, but let me share with you the catch. God doesn't need your money. God doesn't need your money. There's a lot of scriptures that I could have pointed to. I'm just going to choose two out of the book of Psalm.

Psalm chapter 50: 10 says, "For every animal of the forest is mine and the cattle on a thousand hills." Psalm 24:1, the psalmist says, "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it." Scripture teaches very clearly that God owns everything. It's all His to begin with. The reason behind giving has to do with your heart and my heart and not with God's need.

God doesn't need our money. He doesn't need our stuff. And let me make another bold statement, this church doesn't need your money either. Yes, the church would look different, but the church would still exist because this church is not this building. It's not the pews that you sit in. It's not the carpet on the floor. It's not the screen behind me. You and I make up the church. And if we stopped receiving money, we could still be the church because we are the church.

I've thought about this many times as I've thought about my life as a pastor. I'm in full-time ministry. What would happen if this church didn't receive money? Well, I'd still be a part of this church. We would still be a congregation and I could do something else to make money. You guys know that, right? I've thought about that in my life. I've looked at Scripture. What does this even mean? What are we doing? But we are the church. The church doesn't need your money.

Therefore, as an act of faith and as an olive branch to you, when we do this series every year where we talk about money, we take the entire offering during one of the weeks we are doing this service and we give it all away. We give it all away. I am not sure how else I can ensure you or prove to you that our motives are pure when we talk about money.

I am not talking about money to benefit me or the church, and I am not suggesting that you all do something that neither me nor the church is willing to do. Instead, I am asking you to join us. So when you give, we give. As a matter of fact, if you have been a part of Fairview for any period of time, you know that my desire, my heart's desire, is to teach to you the Word of God.

I do my best, I think you guys know this, to study and to research and present to you the Scriptures, the Word of God in a way that causes life change and helps you and me to grow in our relationship with Jesus. That's my desire every week. That's my goal. The Word of God to teach it, to instruct it, to understand it. In a world where we live, where there's AI and where there's false news and all of the media and the world in which we live, it's hard to know what is real anymore.

For me, as the leader of this church, I want you to know that the foundation of our church is the Word of God. That is what I know to be real. That is my absolute truth. And so I want to teach that truth to you as God is teaching it to me. And so I try my best throughout the year to use the entirety of Scripture intentionally not avoiding the difficult or hard topics.

You guys know this. I'm willing to address anything that Scripture addresses. And so to remain true to this, to remain true to the Word of God, I need to take time during the year to talk about money. Did you know that roughly 15% of Jesus' recorded teachings had to do with money?

15%, that's a big chunk that if I'm going to look at you and say, you know what, I don't want to touch that topic because it offends so many, or it's a taboo topic, I would be ignoring 15% of what Jesus talked about. I just can't do that. I need to share with you everything of His 39 parables that Jesus uses to explain and to talk about life, at least 11 of those deal with money. And why did Jesus talk about money?

Jesus talked about money because it was a matter of the heart. It's a matter of the heart. Jesus understands God created us. He knows that money has the ability to become our master in place of God. It's easy for us to idolize money. It is easy for us to idolize stuff. You and I live in a culture where we are bombarded. I think the last time I looked by between 20,000 and 30,000 advertisements a day.

And every single one of those advertisements is telling us if you get this, if you pursue this, this is going to finally bring happiness to your life. It's going to finally bring joy. Once you get this next thing, then you are going to be satisfied. And so since God knows that danger for us, He knows that it is wise and good for us to protect ourselves from this love of money. So I'm going to pray, and then I want to do two things today.

In this series, it's only two weeks long, it's this week and next week. Next week is going to be our Give It All Away offering. I want to share with you who we have given to in the past so you know who we are supporting. And then I want you to know why it is important to give. And every time I talk about giving, I want you to know, yes, we are talking about finances, we are talking about money, but just as importantly, I'm also talking about how you give your time and your energy.

That's part of this. It's not just finances. It's also how we give of ourselves to become less selfish. I will share with you that this give it all away offering ends up being our biggest offering of the year, and it is a truly exciting time for us as a church. And I always say it is a win-win. It's a win because when we give, God does something inside of us. God changes us.

God draws us closer to Him. And the second win is that it benefits those that we are giving to. It is a blessing to them. And so it truly is a win-win. We are blessed by giving, and those receiving also are blessed by the gifts. So let me pray, and then we're going to jump into who we have given to, and I'll give you some more specifics. So let me pray. Heavenly Father, I know this can be a difficult topic for many. Some may be offended.

Some may even have written me off for the rest of my time here because I use the word money. But my prayer is that you would open our hearts. You would open our hearts to you to receive what You have for us and to draw us closer. We ask this in Jesus' name, amen. So who do we give this money to? As a church, who are we giving this money away to?

We have determined that we want to give of our money and our time and our energy to individuals, to organizations, and to ministries who are working to expand the kingdom of God. So what does that mean? What does it mean to expand the kingdom of God? What does that look like? First and foremost, all of these ministries, individuals, and organizations that we give to have as one of their main goals to share the good news of Jesus with others.

That's what it means to expand the kingdom of God, that they are sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, that He came and died on the cross taking our place in order to forgive us of our sins and make a relationship to impossible. The second definition of what it means to expand the kingdom of God is it looks like taking care of the orphan, the poor, the widow, looking after those that are less fortunate.

And the third way that we define a ministry as expanding the kingdom of God is that they equip and encourage others to live like Jesus, not just to fall in love with Jesus and have a relationship with Him, but to love like Him. The leadership at Fairview also decided a long time ago that we wanted to be a blessing and an encouragement to as many of these people and organizations as possible. So that means it looks like this.

Instead of giving a few huge checks and time and energy and money to just a small group of people, we enjoy giving a ton of smaller checks and time and energy to as many organizations as possible that are still making a difference. The leadership also decided that we wanted to make a difference not just locally, but also regionally and amongst the world.

Internationally, we wanted our reach to spread as far as we could by God's grace. We also made the decision. We didn't want to just give through this give it all away offering and those funds, but we wanted to give year-round. Now I need to, if you're new this morning or if you're new to the church and you've not been a part of this series, let me share with you something very, very important. Everything that we do this week and next week stays a secret amongst our church.

We don't spread this, we don't contact the newspaper, we don't contact the radio. The goal is that this just stays here. We don't want this to go out because this is not about fair view. It's not about us receiving praise, it's about God receiving praise, okay? So you guys do that for me. If you're new, you know this has gotten a lot harder as the church has grown, but if you please would just keep this a secret, it stays here. It's because we believe as a foundational truth of who we are that you are never more like Jesus than when you give.

Now I'm getting ahead of myself because that's going to be my main point later. But let me get back to who we give to. I'm sharing with you why, our heart. So certainly we give to missionaries that serve within the United States of America. Serving in different ministries and organizations. It could be on college campuses, leading Bible studies. There's ministries that do sports camps throughout the year where they share the good news of Jesus, other ministries that are doing good things.

And so we have supported ministries in Arizona, and of course in Indiana, in Michigan, in Chicago, Illinois, in Florida, in many states around the country, we have donated to ministries or individuals that are serving those communities because we want to be regional and not just think about right here. Missionaries abroad, we also want to minister around the world, and so we have supported missionaries that have served in Ukraine, Liberia, Cameroon, Brazil.

I will just generically say the Middle East, because some of our missionaries are in dangerous areas, and you all probably know who I'm talking about, but because this will be online, I will not share the specific location, but they are in the Middle East ministering. We have supported missionaries in Uganda, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, as well as many other places around the world. Probably our largest group of ministries and organizations that we support are local organizations.

Organizations here in Angola and Steuben County. This would include organizations like Project Help, Turning Point, The Vine, Life-Wise Academy, Women in Transition Housing, Inspiration Ministries, Christian Campus House at Trine University, Youth for Christ, Child Evangelism Fellowship, Food Pantries that we have supported every food pantry in the local area. We support the Compassion Pregnancy Center. We support Camp Selah, a ministry up in Michigan.

We support prairie camp, a camp out in Elkhart, Indiana. We support Crossroads Farms, which is this ministry to the rural teenager up near Reading, Michigan, where you have all these rural churches that have teens, but they're not big enough to have a youth ministry. And so they all come together. It's an awesome ministry. We support Haven Hills here in Steuben County. We supported the TLC House. We support every Christian ministry we know of in Steuben County because we want to support them, encourage them, and let them know we are behind what they are doing.

Amongst all of those other things, we also have supported many mission projects. Probably our largest project to date has been building a school and sponsoring students in Liberia, Africa. This has been our largest mission, probably to this point. Tracy's now here in the front row. I know that she's been back there talking and doing things. Tracy now runs our school in Liberia. So if you have questions, I would encourage you to talk with her.

But this is truly one of the most amazing things that God has done in my lifetime as I know what Denta, Liberia used to look like before we showed up, before God showed up through us. This was a village that sacrificed their children to demonic forces. This is now a village that people come to outside of the village in order to hear about Jesus and to hear about God.

I am telling you that it has been transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit. There are now hundreds of students that go to school there. Many of you guys have sponsored these students. There are many more that we would love to sponsor. And Tracy's heart, I love her heart. She cannot turn anyone away. I'm the pastor that loves everybody, and I'm like, Tracy, sometimes you just got to tell them, "No, we can't take anymore." She's like, "No, we got to do it." So she just takes them. So if you want to sponsor a child, please, we have many more to sponsor.

But we have built that entire school system there because of your faithfulness, because of your generosity, and God has done amazing things. We have bought solar cookers for people in Africa. We have put down many wells around the world for clean drinking water. We've bought digital devices that have Scripture loaded on them in

the languages so that people can understand. We have built a training center to send out pastors in Cameroon. We've built a playground in Englewood, Illinois, a very difficult neighborhood to be in.

We have purchased bikes for missionaries to travel and share the good news. And many of you will remember this if you've been a part of the church for a long time, this ministry called Packaway Hunger, you guys have packed over one million meals to send to those who don't have food, very practically providing for their needs, one million meals. In one year, I had this crazy idea and the leadership let me do it. One year, if you remember, you were here, we gave every family unit an envelope with money in it.

We had you come up and grab that, you guys remember doing this? And we just said, we're giving you this money so that you can give it away. Just find whoever, find somebody in need, give it away, go walking in the grocery store and start praying and say, God, lead me to somebody that could use this and just give away the money however you want to give it away. And that was one of the most fun things that I have ever been a part of. I'm glad the leadership team let me do that. It was awesome to be on Facebook right after that. And people would write stories in the community all over the place, like, hey, really weird.

I was walking in the supermarket and somebody came up to me and just handed me an envelope with money in it, but it was all meant to be a secret, but we knew what was going on. It was really cool to be a part of that as we just give and are trying to be a blessing where God has placed us. As a church, you and I have been privileged to do some amazing things because of God's love for us, and I am blessed to be a part of it. There is truly no possible way for us to know the kingdom impact because of those gifts.

I wish that I could share with you numbers and say, "Oh, so many people came to know Jesus and this happened and that happened," but what I can tell you is I know that we have been changed because of those gifts. God continues to work on our hearts and on our lives. Let me end today by sharing with you why we give. I have some Scripture for you. There's much more that I could pull out, and I don't have time to spend as much as I would like on each of these individual verses. Each one could be a message in and of itself.

So here's my encouragement. As I pull these out and as we read these, I encourage you later today or this week to go back on that YouVersion app or take your bulletin and look at the context of these verses. Study these, but let's look at some. 2 Corinthians chapter 9 verses 6 and 7, the apostle Paul says, "Remember this, whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

Each of you should give." Sorry, we didn't mean to go that far. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. God has created us to give and it pleases God's heart when we do so. And I know that I say this every year, but I'm going to say it again. It is not my goal to guilt you or to shame you into giving.

If you come next week when we collect this offering, or even right now, if you feel guilt or shame, I am going to tell you, don't give. Don't give. God loves a cheerful giver. I want it to be out of the goodness of your heart, not because you feel pressured to do so, but because God is leading you to do so, because God loves a cheerful giver. John 3:16, you know this verse well. For God so loved the world that He what?

He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. This is the truth that we are never more like Jesus than when we give. God gave us Jesus, His Son, who died on the cross, took our place, sacrificed Himself so that we could have a relationship with Him. And Jesus gave of that. And so we give in response.

James 1:27 says, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless as this. To look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. I'm going to make a very powerful statement, but it's one that I believe fully to be true because I think Scripture teaches us. It is our responsibility as followers of Jesus, not the government to take care of those around us who need help.

It is our responsibility to do that. Now, of course, it's great. The government can help and do what they want, but I want you to know it's the church's responsibility to take care of those around us who need help. That is what we are called to do because that is the heart of Jesus. 1 Timothy 6:18, Paul commands Timothy, command them, those who are followers of Jesus to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

We are commanded to give and to take care of others, especially those that are less fortunate than us. This should be a sign to unbelievers and to the world that our hearts have been transformed. Scripture says that when you and I confess Jesus as our Lord, that we are given a new heart, that our heart of stone is taken away and we are given a heart of flesh, that we are transformed into a new creation. As a follower of Jesus, your heart will long to take care and to love those that are less fortunate.

When you see somebody in need, it will be your desire to help that person. And let me just be honest with you, when you have that heart and you want to help those in need, guess what? There will be times that you get taken advantage of. It's going to happen. I wish it didn't. We do our best not to be taken advantage of, trying to make sure that we vet ministries and people and whatever else, but when you love others, unfortunately there is evil in the world and we are going to be taken advantage of.

But this should be our calling card as followers of Jesus that we don't hold on to the things of this world for fear of whatever reason. 1 Timothy 6:10, Paul says, "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil." Again, I always point this out, you need to see this. Notice that it says the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil, not money in and of itself, because money in and of itself is not good or bad, it's just a thing, okay?

Money, and I tell you this every year as well, money only makes you more of what you already are. If you are a generous person, then the more money you have, the more generous you're going to be. If you are a selfless and stingy person, the more money you have, the more selfish and stingy you are going to be. Money only makes you more or magnifies what you already have in your heart. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.

Some people eager for money have wandered from the faith and have pierced themselves with many griefs. When we give, you and I lessen the ability that money has to strangle us and take our lives. It is a constant battle. It's a constant fight. We constantly have to remind ourselves that that next advertisement that we're watching that says this thing is going to bring ultimate joy and fulfillment, that eventually that is going to end up in a landfill in the trash, and it's going to sit there and rot.

That's where everything ends up. I just need you to know this. I have to constantly remind myself of that. Proverbs 4:23 says, "Above all else, guard your heart for everything you do flows from it." God is concerned about our hearts. He knows that our hearts can be easily persuaded to run after worldly, earthly things, to run after wealth.

And one of the best ways to overcome materialism is to learn to give stuff away, to just give it away. Don't let it control you. Every one of these reasons, again, every one of these Scriptures could be an entire sermon. I encourage you, unpack this, spend some time looking into it. And if you are here and you've been here for the last 20 years and you come to church and you think, "Oh, great, it's the Give It All Away" series again, and you're just sick and tired of it, all I can say is, "You're welcome." You're welcome.

You and I need to be reminded of this. The importance of giving because we are so pulled toward selfishness, even as followers of Jesus, and we need to constantly fight against this selfishness. So here is my challenge for you. As a family, I encourage you to sit down this week and talk about the idea of giving. Maybe you've never given before, and you just say, "You know what? We need to talk about this." Maybe you have kids at home.

Explain to them the importance of giving and why you give. Explain to your children that everything we have is a gift from God. Explain to your children, your teenagers the danger of falling in love with money. Talk about this

offering that we're going to collect next week. Maybe this is all new, but I want you to remember we are not keeping any of it. We're not keeping any of it. That's why it's easy for me to ask. This is the only time I ever ask you to give money because we're giving it away.

Maybe you just discussed with your spouse what you would like to give. I don't have a financial goal for this. I'm not putting a number on how much I want to give away from this one offering, but here is my goal. I would love to see 100% participation that everybody would give something. And you might look at me and say, "Pastor, we are so beyond spent with money. You know what? Then I would ask that you would give of your time and your energy and your resources that you would serve somewhere.

Just contact me and I would love to point you to one of these nonprofits, one of these ministries or organizations that we support. And you say, you know what, we can't give of our money, but we want to give of our time and our energy. For some of you, it might be giving a dollar. That's great. For some of you, it might be \$100,000. I'm Amond Big, can you tell? I don't have any idea. I just want you to be a part of it. I always announce internally what you have collected. I always have people that are like right away. It's like Sunday afternoon at 1 o'clock, and they're like, what was the number?

And I'm like, do you think I just go back there and count it right away, you know, on Sunday? I don't do that. It doesn't get counted till Monday morning and I don't see any of it. I'm intentionally left out of all of that. I just get the number at the end, all right? I will share that with you as soon as it is made available. And again, I need to say this loud and clear over and over again. In case you're new, you need to know this stays a secret. This stays a secret. This is not about us. And again, it gets harder as we do online stuff. It gets harder as we're on the radio.

I know I make it difficult for Mark who does all of the editing and Randy who does the editing for the radio, but we do not want this to be public. This is a secret. We want God to receive the praise. My prayer is that our hearts will continue to change, that we would be drawn closer to Jesus with cheerful hearts that are giving hearts. Remember, this is next week, and people always ask, well, what if I'm not prepared next week? What if I come next week and I forget or whatever else? Don't think this is the only time that we can give away our money.

If you write on your check, give it all away, guess what? We will give it all away. All right? So in the coming weeks, if you're like, hey, I forgot, I want to do that, just write on the offering envelope, give it all away, and we'll do that. I always jokingly say we don't have any processing or shipping or handling fees or nothing, all right? We give away every penny, everything that you guys give. It truly is a gift, it's a blessing, and I love to be a part of it. The only thing I do miss is I wish we could get those big checks, you know, so that we can go into these organizations and give it, but then that would be too public, so we don't do that.

But it is fun. It is fun to do that. I know it's kind of a weird service, but I know that you guys are going through stuff. You're going through difficulties in your week. If you need prayer, it doesn't need to be about finances or anything else. There'll be people up here that would love to pray with you. The altars are always open for you to do any business with God that you need to do. But let me close in prayer. Heavenly Father, thank You for Your blessings that You have given to us. Father, thank You for reminding us that everything belongs to You.

That everything we have is a gift from You, Lord, it's only because of the minds that You've given us, the bodies You've given us, even a great idea has come from You that might spur a business or make money. And so, Father, we offer our gratitude and our thanks for the ways that You provide. Help us to give. Help us to love others well as we desire to point them towards you and help them take their next step towards you. And God, as always, would you receive all of the praise and the glory.

Thank you for the privilege of letting us be a part of your work. It's in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.