

Living to Give Session #7

Support and Stewardship

- Unfortunately, because of money hungry ministers and ministries, the subject of giving is a topic that people, including pastors, rather not speak on.
- There are people who will not go to Church because they say, “All the Church wants is your money.”
- In over 22 years, I have never dedicated a message solely to the topic of money. This is the very first time, and this series for new believers is the reason why I’m even teaching this right now.
- It has been greedy money grabbing ministers and ministries that have had negative impact on people’s willingness to give to the work of the Lord.
- Calvary Chapel Toppenish has implemented safety guards to keep God’s money safe.
- Calvary Chapel Toppenish practices transparency and honest communication about the financial matters of the Church.
- Calvary Chapel Toppenish does not practice a high-pressured approach to getting God’s people to give to the work of the Lord.
- Calvary Chapel Toppenish does not use gimmicks nor play to people’s emotions to try to get them to give to the work of God.
- At Calvary Chapel Toppenish, we do not guilt people into giving.

What does the Bible say about giving?

Giving in the Old Testament

Did tithing begin when the Old Testament law was given?

- **Genesis 14:18-20** “Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” And **he gave him a tithe of all.**
 - ***Abram gave a 10th of all before the tithe was made a law to the people of Israel.***
- **Genesis 28:22** “And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God’s house, and **of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.**”
 - ***Jacob gave God a tenth of all before the tithe was made a law to the people of Israel.***
 - ***Tithing predates the law.***

The tithe law in the Old Testament.

- **Leviticus 27:30** “And **all the tithe** of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, **is the LORD’s. It is holy to the LORD.** If a man wants at all to redeem any of his tithes, he shall add one-fifth to it.”
 - ***The tithe belongs to the LORD.***
 - ***The tithe is the LORD’s set apart portion.***
- **Deuteronomy 14:22** “You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year.”
 - ***The Bible does not explicitly command whether to tithe from gross or net income, leaving the choice to personal conviction and prayer. However, there are those who teach that tithing from your gross income honors God first before taxes or deductions claim a portion.***
- **Proverbs 3:9-10** “Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.”
 - ***Giving to God first, honors Him.***
 - ***Every time God brings increase, our hearts should be willing to give from what He has given.***
 - ***We will have enough when we honor God with our giving.***
- **Malachi 3:8-10** “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ **In tithes and offerings.** You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. **Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,**” Says the LORD of hosts, “**If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.**”
 - ***God’s people had begun to disobey Him in the area of giving.***
 - ***This is the only time in the Bible when God invites us to try Him, and it is in regard to giving.***
 - ***God will be a debtor to no man. He is not going to owe us.***

Free will offerings in the Old Testament.

- **Exodus 35:21-22** “Then everyone came whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, and they brought the LORD’s offering for the work of the tabernacle of meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments. They came, both men and women, **as many as had a willing heart,** and brought earrings and nose rings, rings and necklaces, all jewelry of gold, that is, **every man who made an offering of gold to the LORD.**”

- *Giving is a matter of the stirred heart.*
- *If God is stirring your heart to give, it is because He has already first supplied the gift.*
- *Giving is a matter of the willing heart.*
- *This was an offering to the LORD.*
- **Exodus 36:4-7** “Then all the craftsmen who were doing all the work of the sanctuary came, each from the work he was doing, and they spoke to Moses, saying, “**The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work which the LORD commanded us to do.**” So Moses gave a commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, “Let neither man nor woman do any more work for the offering of the sanctuary.” **And the people were restrained from bringing, for the material they had was sufficient for all the work to be done—indeed too much.**”
 - *Giving more than enough is a matter of a generous heart.*
- **1 Chronicles 29:9** “Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the LORD; and King David also rejoiced greatly.”
 - *Giving causes rejoicing amongst God’s people.*
 - *Giving is a matter of a loyal heart.*

Supporting ministry workers in the Old Testament.

- **Numbers 18:21** “Behold, **I have given the children of Levi all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tabernacle of meeting.**”
 - *Giving to the LORD supports ministry workers.*

Giving to help the needy in the Old Testament.

- **Deuteronomy 15:10** “You shall surely give to him, and your heart should not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the LORD your God will bless you in all your works and in all to which you put your hand.”
- **Proverbs 11:25** “The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself.”
- **Proverbs 19:17** “He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, And He will pay back what he has given.”
- **Isaiah 32:8** “But a generous man devises generous things, And by generosity he shall stand.”

Giving in the New Testament

- The New Testament does not command a fixed 10% tithe. The New Testament instead teaches a voluntary gift, from a generous heart moved by compassion and joy. New Testament giving is motivated by God's grace.
- **Matthew 6:1-4** **"Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly."**
 - *Giving should be done discreetly and not for the praise of people.*
- **Matthew 25:29-30** **"For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."**
 - *In the parable of the sower, the man did not invest the money God had given him but instead wasted the opportunity for God to receive an increase.*
- **Luke 21:1-4** **"And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So He said, 'Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.'"**
 - *Giving should be from our livelihood, and not from our leftovers.*
 - *"I will not give to the LORD that which costs me nothing."*
-King David (2 Samuel 24:24)
- **Acts 20:35** **"I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"**
 - *The life of the Lord Jesus Christ embodies this statement.*
 - *Supporting the weak is Christlike.*
- **1 Corinthians 16:2** **"On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come."**
 - *An offering is a prepared gift. Premeditated giving.*
 - *An offering is a response to prosperity.*

- **2 Corinthians 8:12** “For if there is first a **willing mind**, it is accepted **according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.**”
 - *God expects us to give from our surplus.*
 - *Oftentimes a lack of surplus is due to a lack of good stewardship.*
 - *Most of the times it is a matter of selective surplus. “I got surplus, but it is for what I want.”*
 - *God does not expect us to give from what we do not have.*
 - *It is unbiblical to tithe or give an offering on a credit card.*
- **2 Corinthians 9:6-7** “But this I say: **He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.** So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”
 - *If we give God our spare change, we can expect a spare harvest.*
 - *If we invest in God’s harvest, we will see God’s harvest.*
 - *Giving is a matter of the heart.*
 - *Do not give and then complain about it.*
 - *If you cannot give joyfully, then do not give.*
- **Hebrews 13:16** “But do not forget to do good and **to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.**”
 - *God is pleased with sacrificial sharing.*

Supporting ministry workers in the New Testament.

- **1 Corinthians 9:14** “Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.”
- **Galatians 6:6** “Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.”
- **Philippians 4:15-19** “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.** For even in Thessalonica **you sent aid once and again for my necessities.** Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus **the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.** And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”
- **1 Timothy 5:17-18** “Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,” and, “**The laborer is worthy of his wages.**”

Giving to help the needy in the New Testament.

- **Romans 12:13** “**distributing to the needs of the saints**, given to hospitality.”
- **Galatians 6:10** “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, **especially to those who are of the household of faith.**”
- **1 John 3:17** “But **whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him**, how does the love of God abide in him?”

Closing exhortations on living to give:

- **James 5:1-3** “Come now, **you rich**, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! **Your riches** are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. **Your gold and silver** are corroded, and **their corrosion will be a witness against you** and will eat your flesh like fire. **You have heaped up treasure in the last days.**”
 - ***Christians in America live in the top 10% of the world’s wealth.***
 - ***About 5%-10% of Church attendees tithe regularly.***
 - ***A small number of people in the average Church make up the majority of the Churches giving.***

Giving principles to keep in mind.

- From Free Will and Not Forced:
 - Giving to the work of the Lord flows from grace and love instead of enforced legal obligation.
- Planned and Proportionate:
 - Giving is made intentionally, pre-planned, and consistently according to personal prosperity.
- Heart Attitude Matters:
 - Giving should be from a heart that is expressing gratitude rather than reluctant stinginess.
- Meet Needs and Not Greeds
 - Giving serves to meet ministry needs and not ministry greeds.
- You will never out give God.
- We are administrators of our finances, not the owners.
- We do not give to get.
- When we are unfaithful in our giving, it puts the burden on others to make up the difference.
- Christians should take the opportunities to be a part of God’s work by giving to the work.
- Christians should give out of obedience and gratitude.

