



**Sermon Series:** Holy Habits Week 1

**Sermon Title:** Faithful Giving

**Date:** 1/28/2024

Regarding the church, there is one topic in particular that corners the market when it comes to myths - the topic of money.

**Big Idea: Reject the Myths and exercise the Habit of Giving**

We will look at some common money myths and discover if these myths are true or not.

### **IT'S MY MONEY I EARNED IT**

You work hard for your money, and if you have the money, it seems like you have the freedom to use your money any way you like. Let's see what God says about us, thinking it's our money. In fact, let's see the truth of whose money it really is.

God tells us everything everywhere belongs to Him (**Deuteronomy 10:14, Psalm 50:12, Psalms 24:1-2**). Our money belongs to us the same way a child's bedroom belongs to the child. The parents own it, and for a while, the child is allowed to use it.

The Bible shows the money we have is not our money; it's God's money. God made the earth. It's all his. And just because we live on it and use its resources, that doesn't make it ours. **Everything is God's, and He entrusts it to us as managers.**

### **THE CHURCH ONLY WANTS MY MONEY**

Our world operates on money. That's just the way it is. You can't get a building without money, or run a website without money. The functioning of the church also involves money. Those who give with the understanding that God runs his church on funding from His money managers - understand that God has designed ministry opportunities to have a greater reach based upon the giving of His people. Churches still have to pay bills, repair

facilities, and buy supplies. Those are the practical elements that have spiritual impacts.

**Money is used to grow believers in their walk and bring the message of Jesus to unbelievers. We need to be faithful givers so God's church will grow to reach others. That takes us right to our next myth-**

**IT DOESN'T MATTER IF I GIVE – my giving doesn't make a difference.**

Jesus said **give to God what is God's**. The theme of giving is throughout the Bible. The word give is mentioned over 2000 times. 16 of Jesus' 38 parables have to do with giving. Giving is a high priority on God's list. Paul gives us a great example of how we should give in **2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 12, 9:6-7**.

Paul said the churches in Macedonia gave because they knew the grace God gave to them. They gave out of thankful hearts. They gave generously and with overflowing joy despite their circumstances of severe trial and extreme poverty. They gave sacrificially; they were willing to forego their wants to help meet others' needs. They gave freely without being told they had to give. They even looked for the opportunity to give more. And it tells us they gave themselves **first** to the Lord. They gave their very best to God. Giving joyfully shows your heart.

### **I CAN'T AFFORD TO GIVE**

You might say, "If I give, I won't have anything left." God knows your situation. God tells us that when we give, He will bless us. **2 Corinthians 9:10-11**

It's important to note this was not written as an incentive to give. This was telling the people in Corinth not to worry about their needs because God will bless them back in various ways when they give, and that's what He's telling us, too. Giving is not a get-rich-quick plan; rather, giving is your visible desire to honor God. Jesus said **Matthew 6:19-20**.

1 Timothy tells us something to be aware of – when income increases, it may cause people to become distracted and waver in faith, causing a drop in giving. **1 Timothy 6:9-10 NIV**

The cycle of giving starts and finishes with God.

- God provides for us,
- we're grateful and give to others,
- they receive and give thanks to God.

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### Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Is it guaranteed that if we give to God, He will increase our income? Explain**
- **Why did God design His churches' needs to be met through giving rather than providing for the needs supernaturally?**
- **Explain a time you gave to God, and He provided something you weren't expecting.**
- **In what ways have you benefitted from someone else's faithful giving?**