



**Sermon Series:** Strengthen Me, Part 4

**Sermon Title:** The Secret Discipline

**Date:** 6/4/2023

### Matthew 6:1-4

**Big Idea:** Ask God About Your Giving, And He Will Guide You

In Matthew 6:1-4 Jesus shows us that some things were meant to be done secretly - where no one but you and God can see them.

The first question I can ask is:

**GOD, WHAT IS MY MOTIVATION?**

#### Matthew 6:1

When we look at the passage, we see that Jesus wants this section to be different from what has come before it. He knows what He's about to say is something that calls for constant attention. Jesus is calling us to look into our hearts and decide WHY we are giving – What is our motivation? Is being generous something that we do to get noticed or to draw attention to ourselves?

Giving is the physical act of TRUSTING GOD to provide for you.

Matthew 6:2 clearly states that if we give for a reward here on earth a reward of any size – even simple recognition – then there will be no reward from God in heaven.

**GOD, WHO SHOULD I GIVE TO?**

#### Matthew 6:3

Giving is a central spiritual discipline. It teaches me by my own exercise that everything on this earth is temporary, it does not belong to me, and it is all from God. This passage speaks of giving to the poor. Those who are truly in need - not "in want". – people who are in desperate need of help.

What guidance do we get from the word of God beyond today's passage?

### #1 Give to your place of worship –

Wherever I currently worship and gather with fellow followers of Christ – that is where I bring the offering I earn or receive. **Malachi 3:10**

God called his people Israel to trust the tithe to Him – the first 10% of their income. The Storehouse was the Temple of God Almighty in Jerusalem. This is an example for us to follow. By giving corporately to the work of God at Grace, we join together in making an impact on others that we could not do solo.

### #2 Give to Your Family

**1 Timothy 5:8**

### #3 Give to Older, faithful, Widows

**1 Timothy 5:9-10**

We are taught to support those who have been widowed. Any woman who has gone through this painful time in life knows what a huge shift in life occurs with the death of her husband. Giving is not always in money – your TIME invested in Kingdom work is without measure. Invaluable.

## GOD, HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?

**2 Corinthians 9:6-7**

Everyone should give what they have decided in their own hearts.

Here are some final thoughts:

Every Sunday, we proclaim a time of worship through the giving of our Tithes and offerings. We trust God's people to give towards the ministry being done through the people of Grace Church.

What is a tithe? It is a standard of giving God set forth in the Old Testament. It's where a person makes the decision to give 10% of their income to the work of their local church. It's seen as the most basic instruction God gives on worshiping Him through giving

What is an offering? **2 Corinthians 9:6-7** An offering is the description for any amount you have decided to give back to God. It's the act of worship and trust – whether a % of your income – or something above or below.

### Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Do you believe God expects believers today to give more or less than 10%? Explain**
- **Is it wrong to give with the motivation of receiving heavenly rewards?**
- **Is it biblical for Christians to give their tithe to faith-based organizations other than their home church? Explain**
- **Should Christians give if they do it reluctantly?**
- **What is the primary benefit of giving back to God?**