

God cares about our hearts in our actions

Genesis 4:3-7

3 In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, 4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, 5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. 6 The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

1 Samuel 16:7

7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

He cares less about our actions, and cares more about the motivation behind our actions

1 Cor 13.3

3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

2 Corinthians 9:7

God loves a cheerful giver

Bad reasons to Give - Need and obligation

God needs nothing

Isaiah 46:8-10

8 "Remember this and stand firm,
recall it to mind, you transgressors,
9 remember the former things of old;
for I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like me,
10 declaring the end from the beginning
and from ancient times things not yet done,
saying, 'My counsel shall stand,
and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

Ephesians 1:11

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

Psalm 115:3

³ Our God is in the heavens;
he does all that he pleases.

Psalm 50:10

¹⁰ For every beast of the forest is mine,
the cattle on a thousand hills.

¹¹ I know all the birds of the hills,
and all that moves in the field is mine.

Summed up in one passage

1 Chronicles 29:10-17 - It's all his, giving is a gift from God

¹⁰ Therefore David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. ¹¹ Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for **all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours.** Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. ¹² Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. ¹³ And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

¹⁴ "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. ¹⁵ For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. ¹⁶ O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. ¹⁷ **I know, my God, that you test the heart** and have pleasure in uprightness. In **the uprightness of my heart** I have **freely offered** all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you. ¹⁸ O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep forever such purposes and thoughts in the hearts of your people, and direct their hearts toward you. ¹⁹ Grant to Solomon my son a whole heart that he may keep your commandments, your testimonies, and your statutes, performing all, and that he may build the palace for which I have made provision."

Giving allows us to control where our treasure is

Matt 6:20 - where your treasure is there your heart will be also

1. Our treasure follows our heart
2. Our heart follows our treasure
1. We follow the things we are invested in

If it turns out heaven is not real, would they say you wasted your life?
If not, why not?

Rich ruler - wasting his life and money

Should we give?

-Yes

Why should we give?

1. God is generous we should reflect him

Not out of need or obligation

2. For God's glory

We love him and we want to - flowers

We are saying this is the best thing I can do with this money

His kingdom will last

Invest in what will last

Bitcoin, Tesla, or amazon 20 years ago

3. For your heart

Matt 6:21 - Where your heart is

If your giving is not effecting your heart, maybe you are not giving enough

4. For your reward

Phil 4:17

17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit.

2 Corinthians 9:4

5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready **as a willing gift**, not as an exaction.

The Cheerful Giver

6 The point is this: **whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.**

How much should we give?

OT

Tithes - Law, required of the people to support the system

(1) the Deuteronomic tradition of a yearly tithe consumed in Jerusalem by the one who offers it (Deut 14:22–27);

(2) a tithe offered every three years to provide for the Levites, resident aliens, orphans and widows (Deut 14:28–29);

(3) a tithe designed to finance the sacrificial system in the sanctuary (Lev 27:30–33) and its attendants, the Levites (Num 18:21–32).

Book of Tobit appears to offer a total of fourteen tithes in a six-year cycle.

As you have decided

2 Corinthians 9:7

7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 9 As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”

10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. 12 For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. 13 By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, 14 while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. 15 Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

According to your income

1 Corinthians 16:1-3

16 Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. 2 On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. 3 And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem.

Where should we give?

-local church

1 cor. 9:14 In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

Gal 6.6 - Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches.

-Members of the church directly

Hebrews 13:16 - "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

-Those in need

Acts 20:35 - "In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

ALWAYS IN THE NAME OF THE GOSPEL

Mission Partners

-Tim Jacobs

-Evangelism Fellowship

-Pregnancy Center

-Cooperative Program