

Acts 20:32-35 *“And now I entrust you to God and the message of his grace that is able to build you up and give you an inheritance with all those he has set apart for himself. “I have never coveted anyone’s silver or gold or fine clothes. You know that these hands of mine have worked to supply my own needs and even the needs of those who were with me. And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”*

Look closely at our passage: God wants to give you an inheritance that will put you in a place where you will not covet what others have. He wants to make you financially free. How does He do this: by teaching us to be givers. If you scan through the New Testament after the Gospels and before Revelation using the Red Letter edition, you will find the direct quotes of Jesus used by the apostles to teach the young church. This quote about giving is good is the first you will find.

Giving is good. Giving sets us free, while hoarding entraps us (**James 5:2**). Giving changes the lives of others (**John 3:16**). Giving brings blessing back to us (**Luke 6:38**). Giving allows us to store up treasures in Heaven rather than here on the earth (**Matthew 19:21**). Giving really is good – we need to be in on it.

The problem is most of us aren't financially free enough to give like we would like to. We know giving is good. We wish we could give more. We wish we could give at all. But most of us are not financially free. Today I want to share with you the 10 Commandments of financial freedom God gives us in his word. Just as there are 10 Commandments for being free and staying free there are 10 Commandments for being financially free and staying financially free.

Not enough that we survive—God wants us to thrive. His ultimate financial goal is for us to live in the land of more than enough—a land of sowing and reaping. God wants us to experience the joy of giving.

2 Kings 4:1 *One day the widow of a member of the group of prophets came to Elisha and cried out, “My husband who served you is dead, and you know how he feared the Lord. But now a creditor has come, threatening to take my two sons as slaves.”*

- Widow’s husband was a man who loved and served God, but died broke.

The Bible’s 10 Financial Commandments:

1. Thou Shalt Bring the tithe. The tithe is the first and the best 10%. **Malachi 3:10**
2. Thou Shalt Be an Intentional Giver: **1 Corinthians 16:2** (planned to give weekly)
 - a. 3 levels of giving:
 - i. Regular budgeted giving above the tithe.
 - ii. ‘Alms giving’: Give to the poor and organizations that help the poor. **Proverbs 28:27**
 - iii. Extravagant Giving: exceptional, extraordinary giving. **1 Timothy 6:17-18 (MSG)** *“...Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage—to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous...”*
3. Thou Shalt Keep ‘seed’ in good ground. Intentionally sowing in faith for a supernatural harvest. **2 Corinthians 9:10** *“Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and*

bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness”

- a. Give to missions and ministers. **1 Corinthians 9:9-11**
- b. Give generously to every good work. **2 Corinthians 9:6-12**
4. Thou Shalt Bless Israel. **Genesis 12:3 “I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”**
Do this through believers there, especially through partnering with local churches there.
5. Thou Shalt Pursue Excellence: **Colossians 3:22-24 (MSG) “And don't just do the minimum that will get you by. Do your best. Work from the heart for your real Master, for God, confident that you'll get paid in full when you come into your inheritance. Keep in mind always that the ultimate Master you're serving is Christ. The sullen servant who does shoddy work will be held responsible. Being a follower of Jesus, [a Christian] doesn't cover up bad work.”**
6. Thou Shalt Provide for your own family's needs. **1 Timothy 5:8**
 - a. Work hard with your own hands. **Ephesians 4:28**
 - b. Provide a home for you and your family. **Jeremiah 29:5**
7. Thou Shalt Remember Who is the Owner. **Psalms 24:1 “The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.”**
 - a. Have a budget. **Luke 14:28-30 “But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. They would say, ‘There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!’**
 - b. Save and Live with margin. **Proverbs 21:20 “The wise have wealth and luxury, but fools spend whatever they get.”**
8. Thou Shalt Pay your bills and your taxes. **Romans 13:8; Mark 12:17**
9. Thou Shalt Get out of debt. **Proverbs 22:7 “Just as the rich rule the poor, so the borrower is servant to the lender.”**
10. Thou Shalt remember you are going to die and face a final audit. Live with that in mind. **Luke 16:9 “Here's the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.”**

Souls are the only thing we can take to heaven. Influence for the Kingdom wins souls.