

Why I Give

When we begin living a blessed life, as Jesus has described in the beatitudes, our life attracts some people and points them to Jesus.

Matthew 5:13-16

- What do salt and light have in common? **Influence**
- What do salt and light represent? **Healing and Hope**

Definition Church influences the world by offering Healing and Hope

Over the next 20 years:

- 10,000 accept Christ, baptized, and discipled.
- 10 million dollars to missions
- 5 Greensboro Campuses
- CLI- 5,000 students/year
- 7 prisons

We are already working on these things, the question is how fast and how far can we go? You get to decide. One of the ways we can increase our saltiness and turn on the lights is through our giving.

Legacy offering: December 12th

5 reasons why I give.

1. Giving makes me happy! Acts 20:35

Acts 20:35, 2 Corinthians 9:6

The truth is it feels great to give. I will have to say no to some things but giving is better.

2. Becoming like Jesus makes me happy.

The Bible summarized in two words: God Gave

John 10:10, “The thief come only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” The Devil is a thief, God is wildly generous.

Luke 15:20-24, 31, Revelation 21-22, Matthew 6:21, 24

3. Following Jesus makes me happy.

The truth is, I am much happier when I just do what Jesus says. God knows what is best. He created us and wants us to live a blessed life. Jesus understands giving is a blessing but being greedy or stingy will destroy your life.

Matthew 6:3-4, Luke 6:38

a. **Why-** to free us from the world and materialism-

b. **Hear the ‘well done” spoken over my life. Matthew 25-** Sheep and goats

c. **We give according to what we have. Mark 12:41-44, 2 Corinthians 8:12**

When I obey God things work out. When I fail to obey God, I create a mess. People today try to figure it out and think they are smarter than God.

2 Peter 3:16, “speaking of these things in all of his letters. Some of his comments are hard to understand, and those who are ignorant and unstable have twisted his letters to mean something quite different, just as they do with other parts of Scripture. And this will result in their destruction.”

Whatever Jesus (the one who gave his life for me) says to do, I am just going to do, even when I do not understand. I am glad for God to be bigger than my ability to understand sometimes.

4. God's blessing and protection makes me happy. Malachi 3:9-12

God wants to bless you so you can be a blessing. God wants to protect you from idolizing money or what money can buy so it does not destroy you.

Quote: Those who give always say, “I’m blessed” and those who do not give always say, “I can’t afford to give.”

Deuteronomy 15:10, “Give generously to the poor, not grudgingly, for the Lord your God will bless you in everything you do.”

Philippians 4:19, “My God, shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory.” Why because they had given sacrificially.

This is the only time in scripture where we are told to test the Lord.

5. Building the local church makes me happy.

You can give to all kinds of things but the church, the gospel, and Jesus are the hope of the world. The church is the institution ordained and anointed by God to teach people to follow Christ which is the one thing Jesus left us here to do.

2 Corinthians 5:10, “We must all appear before the judgment seat...” This is an opportunity for reward, it is not our salvation, but our reward and that reward is based on our works. It is based on what we did with what God gave us.

What is God asking you to do? Ask God and do what He says.