

Conversation Starters

- What has been the most impactful part of this series for you?
- Are there any immediate changes you have made with regard to your finances?

Discuss

Many of us love the wisdom of the Bible on finances, yet struggle when it comes to giving. Before exploring what the Bible teaches on giving, we have to start by asking ourselves two foundational questions: 1) Where is your heart? and 2) Who is your leader?

“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”
[\(Matthew 6:19-21 NLT\)](#)

“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.” [\(Matthew 6:24 NLT\)](#)

- Where do you invest your time? What do you value?
- What or who are you following when it comes to the decisions you make?
- Are finances difficult for you?

In the Old Testament book of [Malachi](#), the Bible teaches us that God asks us to give to the local church that we are a part. While we physically give to the church, in all reality, it is giving *through* your church to God. The church is a proxy for God Himself. Jesus also confirmed we are to give. And although He doesn’t specify how, God does promise to bless us for being faithful with our giving.

“You should tithe, yes...” [\(Matthew 23:23 NLT\)](#)

- How is faith-based giving an act of worship?
- What kind of blessing or reward do you expect when you give money to God?
- How are or have you seen God working in your life?

When it comes to life-change and following God, He most often just asks us to start or begin. That first step may be the most stretching step of faith of all that sets you off on a trajectory of growth in your relationship with God. The goal is to work towards giving a full tithe. For some of us that means starting gradually and working your way up.

“So don’t worry at all about having enough food and clothing. Why be like the heathen? For they take pride in all these things and are deeply concerned about them. But your heavenly Father already knows perfectly well that you need them, 33 and he will give them to you if you give him first place in your life and live as he wants you to.” [\(Matthew 6:31-33 TLB\)](#)

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ([Jeremiah 29:11 NIV](#))

- If money and faith are hard for you, why is that?
- Does giving seem like a big or small step for you?
- Is giving an area you can be stretched in your faith?

Next Steps

Spend some time reflecting and praying about your finances. Think about your giving, your saving, and your day-to-day expenses. Is God a part of them? What would a total financial plan look like for you that includes Him?

There are several classes in the Meck Institute that you can take advantage of as well, along with others learning to trust God with money:

[Coffee & Conversations: Exploring Investments](#)

[Financial Peace University Preview Class](#)

Further Reflection

Read [Malachi 3:7-12](#).

Pray

God, thank you for the challenge and encouragement and promises you give us with regard to our finances. Remove any concerns or worries that keep us from honoring you and trusting you. Help us to follow your leading in this area of our life.