



Good News Church GA

Giving & Generosity

Overview & Information

If you'd like to give to Good News Church, you can give online at www.goodnewschurchga.com/give, you can give via text (855-363-5096), or via the giving box at the back table.

NEWCOMERS

If you're new to Good News Church or new to faith, definitely don't feel like you have to give anything. Giving is really for the church family and followers of Christ. So if this is not your church home and you choose to give, we'd certainly be grateful but we'd mostly encourage you to give to your local church family. And if you're not yet a follower of Jesus, definitely don't feel any obligation to give. Our hope is that this morning's worship service would be a gift to you!

WORSHIP

The reason we include "giving" as an announcement each week is because **giving is an act of worship in response to God's generosity towards us, and as an act of faith** to say, *"God, we acknowledge You as our Provider. We know that everything we have is Yours, and so we give as an act of faith and gratitude."*

BIBLICAL COMMAND

Giving is also a command of God that we see all throughout the Bible. God commanded His people to give to the "storehouse" (O.T. Temple / N.T. Church) to fuel the ministry and expansion of His Kingdom here on earth (i.e., *"Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."* - Matthew 6:10).

STANDARD

When we go out to eat, it's standard to tip the wait staff 15% (give or take). Similarly, God has given a standard that we give 10% of our first and best (O.T.) and that we give *"cheerfully / generously / what is decided in our hearts to give"* (N.T.) of our income (all of which is His good and gracious provision to us).

ATTITUDE

If you give, let it be done cheerfully (not out of guilt or obligation), as an act of worship, in faith as a response to God's generosity. God doesn't want us to give out of guilt but out of gratitude.

BUDGET & FINANCES

In case you're wondering, the operational (70% of budget) and ministry / outreach (30% of budget) expenses of Good News Church are approximately \$7,000 per week (or about \$300,000 annually), which includes:

- Facilities use (Elixir, Toast & Jam, and our Hillside Retreat House)
- Ministry and Outreach (deacons fund, non-profit partnership support, and church planting support)
- Utilities and Property Insurance
- Staff salaries and health insurance
- Safety & Security
- General weekly resources and hospitality (breakfast, coffee, and lunch after church)

GIVING HOUSEHOLDS

- 38 giving households (which is an average of \$738 / month).
- The range that households are giving per month is between \$25 to \$2,500.
- We'd love to get to 50 giving households in order to expand our ministry impact.

“Always Be Generous”

from Bible in One Year, Day 81

<https://bible.alpha.org/en/classic/81>

Generosity is a beautiful characteristic in people. We love and admire generosity. My mother used to urge us as children, ‘Always be generous.’

How do you think of God? Do you think of him as a little bit mean or tight-fisted? Or do you think of him as extraordinarily generous?

God's generosity is seen in the natural world. For example, there are over 25,000 varieties of orchids. The orchid is just one of 270,000 species of flowers. God does not do things by halves. In our galaxy there are over 100 billion stars like our sun. Our galaxy is one of over 100 billion galaxies. It is thought that for every grain of sand there are a million stars. In a throwaway line in Genesis, the writer tells us, ‘He also made the stars’ (Genesis 1:16).

God is extraordinarily, extravagantly generous. David speaks of God's ‘... river of delights’ (Psalm 36:8b). He ‘gives generously to all’ (James 1:5). If God is so generous to us, we also should ‘always be generous’.

Bible Verses

BLESSING - “The generous will themselves be blessed.” – Proverbs 22:9a

GIFT OF JESUS - “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” – 2 Corinthians 9:15

GIVING CHEERFULLY - “The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 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.” – 2 Corinthians 9:6–8

BRING THE TITHE TO GOD - “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.” – Malachi 3:10

GIVING THE FIRST FRUITS TO THE LORD - “And to take the first-fruits of our land, and the first-fruits of every sort of tree, year by year, into the house of the Lord; As well as the first of our sons and of our cattle, as it is recorded in the law, and the first lambs of our herds and of our flocks, which are to be taken to the house of our God, to the priests who are servants in the house of our God: And that we would take the first of our rough meal, and our lifted offerings, and the fruit of every sort of tree, and wine and oil, to the priests, to the rooms of the house of our God; and the tenth of the produce of our land to the Levites; for they, the Levites, take a tenth in all the towns of our plowed land.” – Nehemiah 10:35-37

HAVING A GENEROUS SPIRIT - “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.” – Jesus (Luke 6:37–38)

INVESTING IN FUTURE TREASURE - “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
– Jesus (Matthew 6:19–21)

BEING RICH IN GOOD WORKS AND GENEROSITY - “Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.” – 1 Timothy 6:17–19

GIVING SUFFICIENTLY - “If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be.” – Deuteronomy 15:7–8

LENDING TO THE LORD - “Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.” – Proverbs 19:17

JESUS’ ENTHUSIASM ABOUT GENEROSITY - “Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, “Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.” – Jesus (Luke 21:1–4)

ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK - “On the first day of the week, let every one of you put by him in store, in measure as he has done well in business, so that it may not be necessary to get money together when I come.” – 1 Corinthians 16:2

GOD’S GENEROSITY - “And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.” – 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 9, 12

GIVING LIKE JESUS - “By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.” – 1 John 3:16–18