

FIRMLY ROOTED | GIVING

So many people today think that when giving is spoken of, it always refers to money. The Bible also speaks about giving of ourselves, our time, and our talents, not just our money.

Each of us has something to offer to someone. We can give our money and time to charity, be a friend to someone who is sick or lonely, or volunteer. We can choose to give unselfishly of our time to our families or church, or we may choose a job in the service industry. Whatever gifts we have been given, large or small, we should give of them generously.

The world teaches that the more we give to others, the less we will have for ourselves, but just the opposite is true! Giving to others brings fulfillment to our lives in a way that money, power, or possessions can't equal. Often, when we start discussing money, people become uncomfortable and don't like to hear about it. The fact of the matter is that money is a big part of everyone's life. The Bible has a lot to say about money and its different uses. We are going to look at some very practical things regarding money and what God has to say about it. We will also be looking at various things regarding giving, such as why we should give, what for, how much, and how to give. So, let's get started as we look at the subject of giving and money.

WHY SHOULD I GIVE?

Giving should be a part of every believer's life. We are made in the image and likeness of God, and God is a giver! You can't out-give God! He is a generous and liberal giver who will bless you when you give.

1. Give to establish God's plan and purpose in your life and in the lives of others.

"And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish. Deut 8:18-19

2. You should give because it honors God.

Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase; So, your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine. Prov 3:9-10

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Matt 6:33

3. Giving produces the blessings of the Lord in your life.

Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you. Luke 6:38

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written "He has dispersed

abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.” 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, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. 2 Cor 9:8-11

4. Give because you are thankful for what God has done.

Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever. Ps 106:1

...in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thess 5:18

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Cor 9:15

5. Give to God out of obedience to His Word.

Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that He will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field, says the LORD of hosts; And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land, says the LORD of hosts. Mal 3:8-12

6. Giving speaks of your love and commitment to God.

But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also. I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others. 2 Cor 8:7-8

7. Giving puts you in a position to reap eternal rewards.

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. Matt 6:19-21

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF GIVING?

When giving to a church or ministry, you should understand how the funds are being used. You, as the giver, have not only the right but also the responsibility as a good steward to know what you are giving. Things that you support should be scriptural.

Missions- Not everyone can go to the mission field, but we can all be a part by giving and sending others.

Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. For even in

Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. Phil 4:15-17

Supports those in need - When you give, it provides funds for those within the body who are in need. Sometimes, when you give to those in need, your money may not go through a ministry or a church, but you are still giving to the Lord.

And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Matt 25:40

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Acts 6:1

If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows. 1 Tim 5:16

God designed the Body of Christ to care for one another. As we give generously, He uses us as channels of His love, provision, and blessing to meet the needs of others.

Give and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38

Supports the leaders of the local church - Your giving enables the church to pay a staff member to work at the church.

Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages." 1 Tim 5:17-18

Supports the ministry's daily operations - Your giving covers the ministry's general operating expenses, such as utilities, supplies, and maintenance.

Supports special projects and pays for buildings- We see in the Word of God that people gave to build the temple of God, and to any project that the man of God felt needed to be accomplished.

The children of Israel brought a freewill offering to the LORD, all the men and women whose hearts were willing to bring material for all kinds of work which the LORD, by the hand of Moses, had commanded to be done. Ex 35:29

They gave for the work of the house of God five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze, and one hundred thousand talents of iron. 1 Chron 29:7

WHAT SHOULD I GIVE?

When we ask this question about giving, we can't limit it to the financial realm. Giving encompasses so much more than just money alone. God expects us to be givers in every area of our lives, not just in our finances. These are some other areas in which we can give:

1. Give yourself wholly to the things of God.

Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. 1 Tim 4:14-15

2. Give your attention to the Word of God.

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. 2 Tim 2:15-16

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Tim 3:16-17

3. Give thanks in everything.

...in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thess 5:18

4. Give yourself to prayer.

...but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word. Acts 6:4

5. Give your love.

6. Give your time.

7. Give your talents and gifts.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?

The Word of God has much to say about giving and receiving.

Give Tithes: A tenth of your income belongs to God. The word "tithe" means "one tenth". God's will is that you pay your tithe, one tenth of your income, to the storehouse. The storehouse is where the food is, in other words, where you're getting spiritually fed, your local church. Not tithing is robbing God and subjects a person to the curse of the law.

Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the

devourer for your sakes, so that He will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field, says the LORD of hosts; And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land, says the LORD of hosts. Mal 3:8-12

Many people have questions regarding the tithe. Is tithing part of the Old Testament law, or is it for today? The tithe was instituted before the Mosaic Law. Abraham gave tithes (Gen 14:20). The tithe is for today. It is God's system for caring for His church and His people.

The Bible says that the tithe is holy and belongs to the Lord. It is not your possession; you are merely the steward of God's money. God promises that He will prosper you when you tithe in obedience to His Word. We see from Malachi two things that will happen for the giver:

1. The windows of heaven will be open to pour out a blessing.
2. He will rebuke the devourer on your behalf.

The conditions of tithing to the local church must be met before God can accomplish these in your life.

Jesus also commanded tithing:

" Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone." Matt 23:23

Give Offerings: The Bible says to give tithes and offerings. These are two separate things. The tithe is one-tenth, but the offering is what you determine to give over and above the tithe.

Give and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38

Whatever amount you determine will be how it is measured back to you.

HOW AM I TO GIVE?

The Bible speaks not only about what we are to give but also about the importance of how we give it.

1. Give Liberally

Remember this: But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 2 Cor 9:6

2. Give Faithfully

On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. 1 Cor 16:2

3. Give Cheerfully

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. 2 Cor 9:7-8

4. Give Willingly

There is one who scatters yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. Prov 11:24

If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good of the land; Isa 1:19

5. Give in Faith

whatever is not from faith is sin. Rom 14:23

So, Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore, I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. Mark 11:22-24

Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did. Rom 4:16

6. Give Sacrificially

Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 2 Cor 8:1-4

Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. So, He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood." Mark 12:42-44

IS IT GOD'S WILL FOR US TO BE PROSPEROUS?

Yes, John 10:10 says that God wants you to live in abundance. It's not His will that His children be in lack (Ps. 23:1, Ps. 34:9-10). It is God's will that you prosper.

Let them shout for joy and be glad, who favor my righteous cause;

And let them say continually, "Let the LORD be magnified, who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant." Ps 35:27

But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. Luke 12:31-33

"The kingdom" refers to earthly blessings that come from being part of the Kingdom of God. Prosperity is always connected to God's Word. It comes by reading, studying, meditating, and acting on His Word.

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Josh 1:8-9

The Strong's Concordance definition of the word "prosperous" is: To push forward, to break out, and to go over. God wants us not only to be prosperous in our finances but in every area of our lives, to break out of the things that hold us back from being the people that he has designed us to be.

When you act in obedience to the Word of God in giving, God promises to meet all your needs.

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. Phil 4:19

Pray and speak in line with the truth of God's Word concerning your giving and prosperity.

God will meet all your needs in all situations. But remember, all blessings mentioned here start with the tithe and must be entered by faith.

WILL GOD ONLY MEET MY NEEDS? IS IT SELFISH TO PRAY ABOUT MY "WANTS"?

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. Ps 23:1-2

Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Ps 37:4

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. Ps 84:11

God wants you to be blessed, but He doesn't want you to be greedy or covetous. Some people think that money is the root of evil. The Bible says that **the love of money** is the root of all evil. (1Tim 6:10). We must guard our hearts so that we do not become greedy or covetous because that opens the door to all kinds of trouble.

HOME COME WHEN I GIVE, MY NEEDS AREN'T ALWAYS MET?

Sometimes when things don't go right, we need to go back and look at the process again. Are we doing everything according to God's Word? Are we tithing, giving offerings, are we giving with a right heart,

are we giving in faith? Check the different areas to make sure that you can receive God's best. If you have done all, stand and believe in God's Word.

Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Eph 6:13

POPULAR MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT GIVING

- Tithing is an OT command and therefore not applicable to the NT believer.
- The Bible doesn't really mean I should give 10% of my income.
- The benefactors of tithing are only the church and ministers.
- All the church cares about is money.

From this lesson, you should know that these misconceptions are wrong and why.

THOUGHTS

The purpose of blessing is so that we can be channels of blessing and not the establishing of self. *Anonymous*

God gives seed to the Sowers. He won't give seed to stingy people or hoarders. *John Osteen*

A brand-new baby is a new life that requires many recourses invested into it to keep that life going. Likewise, in the church, if we are to have that 'new life,' it will take continual investment to keep it going. If we want to kill the life of God in our church, we need to simply stop giving. *David T. Wallace*

Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God. *Leo Buscaglia*

MEMORY VERSES

Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share...1 Tim 6:18

Therefore, by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. Heb 13:15-16

But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? 1 John 3:17

He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So, let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. Cor 9:6-7

Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. Mal 3:8

QUESTIONS

Please answer the following questions:

1) Can you list three reasons to give?

2) Can you name the three purposes for giving?

3) Can you name the things you should give?

NOTES ON THIS LESSON

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