

Generosity: What We Believe

A Biblical Foundation for Tithing, Offerings, and Wise Stewardship

1. Why We Teach on Giving

At Neighbourhood Co, we believe generosity is not about pressure - it is about spiritual formation.

Giving shapes our trust in God.

Giving aligns our hearts with His Kingdom.

Giving strengthens the local church to reach people with the gospel.

As an Australian Christian Churches (ACC) church, we believe financial stewardship is a joyful and biblical part of discipleship.

2. The Biblical Foundation of Tithing

What Is the Tithe?

The word *tithe* means “one-tenth.”

Throughout Scripture, we see God’s people setting apart the first 10% of their increase as an act of worship and trust.

Old Testament Foundations

- Abraham gave a tenth (Genesis 14:20)
- The tithe was established in the Law (Leviticus 27:30)
- Malachi 3:10 calls God’s people to trust God with the tithe

The tithe was not simply a donation — it was a declaration:
“God is first.”

Tithing in the New Testament

The New Testament emphasises generosity from the heart (2 Corinthians 9:6–8). Jesus affirmed the principle of tithing (Matthew 23:23) and raised the standard from obligation to surrender.

Under grace, giving is not reduced - it is elevated.

We believe the tithe remains a healthy biblical starting point for believers who call a local church home.

3. The Purpose of the Tithe

In the New Testament church:

- Ministry was funded through generosity (Acts 4:34–35)
- Leaders were supported (1 Timothy 5:17–18)
- The poor were cared for
- The gospel expanded

Tithing builds:

- Stability in the local church
- Sustainability for long-term mission
- Strength for outreach and discipleship

It allows the church to serve its city with confidence and consistency.

4. Over-and-Above Giving (Offerings)

Beyond regular tithing, Scripture shows moments of sacrificial generosity.

Examples include:

- The building of the Tabernacle (Exodus 35)
- The Macedonian church giving beyond their means (2 Corinthians 8)
- Special collections for the saints (1 Corinthians 16:1–3)

Over and above giving is not mandatory - it is responsive.

It happens when:

- God stirs faith
- Vision expands
- Opportunity arises

As a growing church, we find that these moments help accelerate outreach, discipleship, and future growth.

5. The Heart Behind Giving

The Apostle Paul teaches:

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

- 2 Corinthians 9:7

Giving is:

- Voluntary
- Worshipful
- Joyful
- Faith-filled

It is not transactional.

It is relational.

6. Generosity and Spiritual Growth

Jesus said,

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)

When we give:

- Our trust grows
- Our priorities align with eternity
- Our dependence shifts toward God

For new believers and young families, generosity is part of spiritual maturity.

7. ACC Perspective on Stewardship

As part of Australian Christian Churches (ACC), we believe:

- The local church is God’s primary vehicle for mission.
- Believers are called to steward finances faithfully.
- Generosity advances the Great Commission.
- Giving should be practised with integrity and accountability.

All funds given to Neighbourhood Co are stewarded prayerfully and responsibly to serve the mission of reaching people and making disciples.

8. Recommended Teaching Resource

For deeper teaching on generosity within a Pentecostal and ACC context, we recommend the ministry of

Paul de Jong, Senior Pastor of Life Church.

His teaching on courageous generosity and Kingdom stewardship offers practical and biblical insight for modern believers.

9. Our Pastoral Encouragement

If you are new to faith:

Start intentionally. Ask God to guide you and take a step of trust. For many believers, starting with the biblical principle of tithing (10%) is a powerful foundation. If that feels like a big step, begin with a consistent percentage and grow toward it as your faith grows.

If you are growing in faith:

Ask whether God is inviting you to trust Him more deeply. Generosity stretches us - and stretching strengthens faith.

If this is your church home:

We encourage regular, prayerful, joyful participation in building God's house through consistent giving.

We do not give to earn God's love.

We give because we have received it.

10. Stewardship Starts With a Plan

Healthy generosity flows from healthy stewardship.

We encourage every person and family to create a simple personal budget that reflects their values and priorities.

A clear plan helps you:

- Live within your means
- Reduce financial stress
- Honour God first
- Give consistently

- Save intentionally

Budgeting is not restrictive - it is freeing.
It brings clarity and peace to your financial life.

11. Simple First Budget Example

Below is a basic weekly example using rounded numbers.

Example Weekly Income: \$1,000

1 Give First (10%)

\$100 – Giving (Tithe)

We prioritise God first. Setting this aside first builds consistency and trust.

2 Essentials

\$350 – Rent / Mortgage

\$200 – Groceries

\$80 – Utilities

\$100 – Transport

Total Essentials: \$730

3 Save Intentionally

\$70 – Emergency Savings

Even \$50–\$100 weekly builds security quickly.

4 Lifestyle / Flexible

\$100 – Eating out / coffee
\$50 – Kids' activities/hobbies

Percentage Framework (Helpful Guide)

- 10% Giving
- 60–70% Essentials
- 10% Savings
- 10–20% Lifestyle

This is not law - it is a starting framework.

Emergency Fund Goal

First goal: \$1,000 emergency fund.
Long-term goal: 3 months of expenses.

Financial peace strengthens spiritual freedom.

Final Encouragement

You do not need to earn more to be generous.
You need a plan and a willing heart.

Consistency builds confidence.
Faith builds freedom.
Generosity builds the Kingdom.