

# Biblical Principles of Giving

**Introduction** – The importance of giving

## 3 purposes for money:

1. To spend
2. To save
3. To give

## 3 areas of resource-stewardship (1 Cor. 4:2)

1. Treasure (See Below)
2. Time (Psalm 90:10-12)
3. Talents (Luke 12:48)

- Giving is not about God trying to get things from you. He doesn't need your treasure, time, or talents (Psalm 50:7-15).
- 100% of these things you have are God's anyway: we are not commanded to give for God's own sake; we are commanded to give in obedience, faith, and worship. (1 Chronicles 29:14)
- We are commanded to give because that is why God gives us what we have. We are giving to God what is His anyways, and He is blessing us for it!

Three distinct but related categories of giving set forth in the Bible:

- I. **Giving to the Daily Ministry of the Local Church** – Regular Giving (budgeted items)
  - A. Scriptural Data – Leviticus 6-7; Numbers 18:8-24; Malachi 3:7-10
  - B. Principle Illustrated – Nehemiah 10:32-33, 35-37
  - C. NT application of this principle to the church – 1 Corinthians 9:7-14

### Application

- Giving for the support of the daily ministries of the local church is expected by God
- “Tithing” is not a NT concept, but regular giving to the operation of the church and support of the man of God is a NT expectation
- Tithe and first-fruits is not commanded in the NT, but the principle of first-fruits is found in every age of history as an appropriate means of worshipping God:
  - Cain and Abel presented their first-fruits unto God (Genesis 4:3-4)
  - Abram presented his first-fruits (tithe) unto God (Genesis 14:20)
  - First-fruits (through the tithe) was commanded in the law (Numbers 18)
- Overriding principle: a proportional amount of the first of one's increase on a regular basis. The amount given is determined by the Holy Spirit's leading in one's life
- The church and those devoted to it should operate as the temple did in the OT – 1 Corinthians 9:13-14

## II. **Benevolent Giving** – Love Offerings (individual needs)

- A. Scriptural Data – 2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15
- B. Examples
  1. 1 John 3:16-17 – Give with Compassion
  2. Mark 12:41-44 – Give sacrificially

Application – The purpose of the love offering is to care for needy saints, not to provide for the operation of the ministry. The concept is: gifts for others over and above the regular giving of the local church. If you give, God is a bigger giver still. The example and exhortation from Scripture is abundant and sacrificial giving unto the Lord, not men (Colossians 3:23). This giving can be done corporately (through the church), or individually (one to another).

## III. **Special Projects** – Investment Offering

- A. Scriptural Data – Exodus 25:1-9; 35:4-36:7; 1 Chronicles 29:1-9; Acts 4:32-37
- B. Abundant Response

Application – People give out of their savings and assets in order to provide for an investment opportunity in the church in order to enhance and further the ministry of the Lord. These are on rare occasions, but should be met with personal fervency and sacrifice in order to see the particular need met.

**Note:** we need to be good and careful stewards. Financial ability, health, and budget are factors. Don't be reckless!