



GIVING

Introduction: Giving is a very sensitive topic for many who call themselves Christians. Perhaps it is due to the pressure that is put on people to give to a wide variety of needs, or perhaps it is due to a lack of understanding on the individual's part as to what God expects from them and what the Bible teaches on this topic. The goal of this lesson is to cover the Christian's responsibility for the stewardship of their life and resources.

1. **Article 8 of Berean's Articles of Faith:** "We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the Church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; I Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17)"

2. **Quote from Berean's Covenant:** "We promise to actively pursue personal holiness; to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church's spiritual growth and unity; to faithfully abide by the doctrines and behaviors outlined in this church's Articles of Faith; *and to give cheerfully of our time, talents, and finances for the support of this ministry and its missionaries.*"

WHY DOES THE BIBLE SAY I SHOULD GIVE?

1. We give to h_____ God by our obedience (Proverbs 3:9-10).
2. We give because we are t_____ for what God has done for us (2 Corinthians 9:15).
3. We give to recognize that God o_____ all things (Psalms 50:10-12, 104:24, 115:15-16).

God doesn't need your money. "The earth is the Lord's ... Psalms 24:1

4. We give to prove our l_____ for God (2 Corinthians 8:8).
5. We give for the opportunity of making eternal i_____ (Philippians 4:17, Matthew 6:19-21, Revelation 3:18).
6. We give in order to receive God's b_____ (Luke 6:38, Malachi 3:10).

The more that I invest in God, the greater will be my return (2 Corinthians 9:6)

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY IS THE PURPOSE FOR GIVING?

1. Giving through the local church supports m_____ (Philippians 4:15-16, 2 Corinthians 11:9).



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2. Giving through the local church supports those within the church who cannot s_____ themselves (Acts 6:1, 1 Timothy 5:16).
3. Giving through the local church supports the l_____ of the church (1 Timothy 5:17-18).
4. Giving through the local church supports the s_____ within the churches. (2 Corinthians 8:4).

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY I SHOULD GIVE?

**Before you consider giving anything to the Lord or the church, you must remember that you have been bought by God with Christ's shed blood and that you and everything you have belong to Him.
(1 Corinthians 6:19-20)**

1. First, we are to give o____s_____ (1 Timothy 4:1, 2 Corinthians 8:3-5, 12, Romans 12:1).
2. We are to give priority to the reading of the B_____ (1 Timothy 4:13).
3. We are to give attention to what we have h_____ (Hebrews 2:1).
4. We are to give o_____ to God in prayer (Acts 6:4).
5. We are to give t_____ for everything (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

We are to give voluntarily of our time, talents, and treasure

HOW MUCH DOES THE BIBLE SAY I SHOULD GIVE?

1. Give a minimum of a tithe (one tenth of your gross income).
 - a. Abraham gave t_____ before the Law was instituted (Genesis 14:20, Hebrews 7:1-7).
 - b. Under the Law, a person was commanded to give a t_____ (Malachi 3:10-12).
 - c. The tithe was holy to the Lord, and did NOT belong to the person (Leviticus 27:30).
 - d. God promises in Malachi 3 that God will p_____ the remaining 90% more than the original 100% (Proverbs 11:24, 13:7, Matthew 6:19-21).
 - e. Jesus commended tithing (Matthew 23:23).



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2. Give sacrificially.
 - a. Christians gave out of their deep p_____ (2 Corinthians 8:1-2)
 - b. The widow gave two mites which was a___ of her living (Mark 12:41-44).
 - c. Any offering given to other causes should not be deducted from your tithes. The tithe is for your church and its work. Offerings are above and beyond the tithe.

HOW DOES THE BIBLE SAY I AM TO GIVE?

1. Faithfully – God will reward your honesty and faithfulness (1 Corinthians 16:2).
2. Cheerfully – God loves a c_____ giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).
3. Willingly – God desires for us to want to give back to Him (2 Corinthians 8:3-5, 11-12)
4. Individually (1 Corinthians 16:2).

God measures our giving by how much is left, not by how much we give.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES REGARDING MONEY AND POSSESSIONS

1. Spirituality is measured neither in the abundance or the lack of material possessions. God does not condemn anyone in Scripture for having money, but He does deal with our attitude toward money and materialism.
2. 1 Timothy 6:10 states that the “love of money is the root of all evil,” not money itself.
3. The Bible lists several godly examples of wealthy people – Job (Job 1:3, 20-22), Solomon (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14), Abraham (Genesis 13:2, 14).
4. We are to trust in God and not our riches (Mark 10:23-7, Proverbs 11:4, 28).
5. Our affections are to be on heavenly things, not earthly things (Mathew 6:19-21, Colossians 3:1-4).
6. Our spirituality cannot be measured by material possessions (Luke 12:15, 1 Samuel 16:7)
7. Our objective in life should never be to earn as much money as possible (Proverbs 23:4, Ecclesiastes 5:10-12).
8. Always realize that God, not ourselves, provides our needs (Philippians 4:19, Deuteronomy 8:10-18).
9. Learn to be content with what you have. Being content is to be satisfied with God’s provision and realizing that whatever you have is a blessing (Hebrews 13:5, 1 Timothy 6:8, Philippians 4:11).
10. Realize there are many things that are more important than money and which money cannot buy:
 - a. Wisdom (Proverbs 16:16)
 - b. A righteous life (Proverbs 16:8, Psalms 37:16)
 - c. A good night’s sleep (Ecclesiastes 5:12)
 - d. God’s Word (Psalm 119:14, 72, 127)
 - e. Good health (Luke 8:43-48)

God sees the heart of the giver rather than the size of the gift.



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- f. Quietness and peace (Ecclesiastes 4:6, Proverbs 15:16, 17:1)
- 11. If and when God blesses you materially, do not forget Him (Deuteronomy 6:10-12, Proverbs 30:7-9).
- 12. Wealth should not affect your relationship or attitude toward God (Job 1:20-22).
- 13. Do not envy someone else's wealth (Psalm 49:16-17, Exodus 20:17).
- 14. Stay far away from any "get rich quick" schemes. If it seems too good to be true, it is (Proverbs 20:21, 28:20, 22).
- 15. Guard yourself against the secular humanistic worldview that promotes a strong desire for materialism. Base your major desires on spiritual and eternal things rather than on material and temporal things.