

The Ten Principles of Giving



Notes:

Introduction

Few areas can be more challenging to your Christian life than the area of giving. It is an area that we struggled with and an area that many churches and congregations are struggling with today.

Unfortunately over the past few years Satan has been very busy trying to choke off the Word of God and financial support for the Saints. We have seen numerous pastors use the Gospel for financial gain, promising their congregations everything from renewed health to 100 fold returns on the money that they give. The national average for giving as a percentage of annual income is less than 2%.

We have to ask ourselves, why is giving to the churches, to the needy, to the poor, to widows, to missions, to prisons, to children so low? Is God not a big enough God to provide as He promises?

Certainly He is! We as people have been duped by Satan and his schemes to believe that wealth is created by us and not God. That we are not held accountable for our actions. **Many Christians today do not have a money problem, they have a heart problem.** Our hearts have waxed cold. We spend more money on cokes, movies and tennis shoes than we do supporting the work of the Lord.

Read Matthew 6:21. Tell me if the Lord returned today and looked in your checkbook to determine your faithfulness in the area of giving what would He say to you? _____

Read Psalms 78:36-37. Israel fell into the trap of proclaiming to know and love God yet there still was a problem, what was that problem?

Do you know of any Christians that would meet this description?

What would you advise them to do? _____

What does the bible tell us to do with our heart in **Proverbs 4:23**?

How well are you watching over your heart?

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Principle #1 The Lord wants your time, your talents and your resources.

*If the lord has moved your heart to honor and trust Him, He would delight in you helping in His work. We all have spiritual gifts, as well as financial resources. Read **Romans 12:6-8** and list the 7 spiritual gifts.*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Which gifts do you have? Are you using them for God?

Principle #2 Give on the **FIRST** day of the week as you may prosper.

This is a very important principle. Giving to God should be an act of WORSHIP not an act of paying a bill.

Read I Corinthians 16:2 Get in the habit of praying before you give your tithes and offering and thanking God for your blessings and reflecting on His goodness to you.

Read Proverbs 3:9 The second reason this principle is important is it keeps us from becoming proud.

Read Deuteronomy 8:14 Do you see how the Israelites became proud? What does verse 16 say about why this is a good principle?

Principle #3 Give to your Church.

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5. And in your own words answer the following questions?

Where did they give? vs 1 _____

Were they rich? _____

How did they give vs 3 _____

What was their attitude about giving? vs 4 _____

How would you compare your giving habits to those in the churches of Macedonia?

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Principle #4 Give to support those that teach you the Word of God.

Galatians 6:6 and 1 Corinthians 9:11-14 tell us that those that teach us the Word of God and feed us spiritually have a right to be taken care of materially. Our tithes and offerings help in this support. If you have trained hard to become effective at your job, and put in long hours sacrificing time with your family, do you expect to get paid a fair wage? Many ministers are paid at a poverty level and are forced to live in very difficult situations. Do they not have the right to get paid a fair wage? **Read 1 Timothy 5:17.** What does it say?

Read Paul's argument for this in 1 Corinthians 9:11-14 and explain in your own words what you think Paul's point is. _____

Read Paul's statement in Galatians 6:6 How does this speak to the issue of supporting the word of God?

Is this optional on our part? _____

Matthew 25:14-30 calls believers to be prudent with their money and to choose the recipients of their giving carefully. We should support those churches, enterprises and out-reaches that have a high reverence for the Word of God and are doing Gods work.

Is the Word of God being taught in your church as it is taught in the Scriptures? _____

If God's word is being watered down does it deserve the support of God's resources? _____

How important is it that the scriptures and the Word of God be taken seriously for support? _____

Read John 1:1 and 1:14. Who is the Word of God? _____

Read Revelation 19:13 Who comes back to judge the world? _____

Read Gen 2:16-17 What were the first words of God spoken to man? _____

Read Gen 3:4 Who twisted up the words to say something different than God? _____

What were the consequences? _____

When arguing with the Pharisees in Matthew 22:29 what importance did Jesus put on the Scriptures?

How about with Satan in Matthew 4:4; 7; 10? _____

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Principle #5 We are to give cheerfully from our heart.

The most important principle of giving is to give from the heart out of love. The God of the universe doesn't need your money he want your heart. So many teach a very legalistic approach to giving to the honor God. Yet Jesus tells us that where our treasure is our heart will be also.

Read 2 Corinthians 9:7 What are the three attitudes that we should have about giving?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Did you get the idea that we should give as we purpose, not grudgingly, or not out of necessity? It says in this passage that we are to be a cheerful giver. The word cheerful in the Greek is "Hilaros" which is a form of the word hilarious. God wants us to give our money hilariously.

Lets look at some examples of biblical giving:

Read Luke 18:10-14. How much did the Pharisee give of his money? _____

Why was the tax collector justified and not the Pharisee? _____

Read Mark 12:41-44. What was Jesus observing in verse 41 _____

What was more important, the attitude of the heart or how much money they put in? _____

In verse 43 How can you explain Jesus' statement that the widow put in more than all the contributors when she only put in one cent? _____

Was this woman putting her money in out of guilt, compulsion or grudgingly? _____
Why not? _____

Read Genesis 14:18-20. Did Abram give out of necessity of the law or out of love for the Lord? _____

How much did he Give? _____

Read Leviticus 27:30. What was this Law? _____

Read Romans 7:6-13. Are we still under Law or under the newness of the Spirit? _____

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Principle #6 Give as you are able

Read 2 Corinthians 8:11-15. What is the specific instructions of Paul concerning giving?

Read Verse 12.

For if the readiness is present it is _____ according to _____
Not according to what he does not have.

Does verse 13 say that this is to make it easy on those that don't want to give? _____

Read verse 14-15 and explain in your own words how Paul explains verse 13 in these verses.

Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-2. What did the Apostle Paul instruct the Church of Corinth and the Church of Galatia in the area of giving: _____

Jesus promises us that if we will trust Him as our own personal Lord and Savior that He will cleanse us of our sins. New Christians are accepted into the family of Christ, despite all of the baggage. This hasn't changed in over 2000 years. **Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.** Many of these Corinthians were sinners but were washed and forgiven of their sins. The process of becoming a mature Christian spiritually and understanding the things of God takes time. Many Christians have served the "God of Money" for many years before becoming a Christian. They are heavily burdened in debt and have the obligations of that debt to pay off before they can be in a position to give more to the work of the Lord. Does this mean that you should continue to be poor stewards of God's money and not continue to grow in the area of giving? Does it mean that they are excused from giving? Absolutely not!

However there are some other considerations that the Lord also has commanded us to be faithful in.

Read Psalms 37:21. What happens if we don't pay our debts: _____

Read Luke 12:29-31. What does the Lord tell us to do in this situation? _____

Read Luke 12:15; 20-21. What is the danger of not trusting God to provide and showing Him you love and understanding that He alone controls our wealth _____

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Principle #7 God wants your heart, but tests you through your money.

Sixteen out of 38 of Christ's parables deal with money; more is said in the New Testament about money than heaven and hell combined; five times more is said about money than prayer; and while there are 500 plus verses on both prayer and faith, there are over 2,350 verses dealing with money.

Why do you think Jesus talked so much about money? _____

He talked so much about money because He realizes it is one of the biggest detractors of our faith and separators of hearts from Him.

Read Mark 4:13-19. Jesus talks about different types of seeds that are sown. Three of the seeds do not take root. Why?

Seed 1 _____

Seed 2 _____

Seed 3 _____

What was the difference in the fourth seed from the rest? _____

Some Christians don't believe that God test us in order to determine our heart. They think that all tests come from Satan, yet in fact tests can come from both.

Read the following passages and determine how God tested those that he loved. ____

Exodus 16:4 _____

Exodus 20:20 _____

Deuteronomy 8:2 _____

Deuteronomy 8:16 _____

2 Chronicles 32:30-31 _____

Job 2:1-10 _____

Job 7:18-19 _____

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Hebrews 12:6-8

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Malachi 3:10 is probably one of the most used passages by ministers to encourage their congregations to give tithes and offerings. The basic rules of Bible interpretation tells us it is important to understand who the passages were written to, why they were written and the context of which they were written. In application we take the messages that were given and apply them to our lives. In order to better understand Malachi 3:10 we need to know more about the book of Malachi.

Read Malachi 1:1-2. Who was the Book of Malachi written to? _____

What was one of the problems with Israel? **Read Malachi 1:6-10.** _____

Read Malachi 2:7-9. What was another problem that the Lord was angry with? _____

Read Malachi 2:13-14. What was the reason that the Lord would not accept their offering? _____

Read Malachi 3:7-10.

What was the rebuke of the Lord in verse 7? _____

What was the rebuke from the Lord in verse 8? _____

Who is the Lord talking to in verse 9? _____

What did the Lord instruct the Israelites to do in verse 10? _____

There were three separate tithes that were required of the Israelites. The Levitical tithe of Leviticus 27:30 (Lords) and Numbers 18:21, (Rejoicing tithe) of Deuteronomy 14:22, (Poor tithe) of Deuteronomy 14:28.

Read Deuteronomy 14:22-26.

What was the purpose of the tithe? Vs 23 _____

What were you supposed to do with the Tithe? Vs 23 _____

What would you do if the distance was too far? Vs 34-26 _____

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Do you think this tithe applies to the church today? _____

Read Malachi 4:4-6. What did the Lord tell the Israelites to do in verse 4? _____

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Is the church still under the statutes and ordinances of Moses? **Read Galatians 5:18; Romans 6:14; Romans 7:6 Read Malachi 3:1.** The Lord in the same passages and same context as vs 10 tells us that He is going to send a messenger to clear the way of the Lord. Is this verse written to the church or the Israelites?

Read Matthew 11:13-14. Has the person described in Malachi 3:1 already come to proclaim the coming of the Lord? _____

The reason that we have gone through this exercise is theologians differ in opinions about the tithe. In the New Testament the tithe is neither specifically rejected nor specifically recommended. In the Old Testament the tithe started in Genesis 14:20 before the Law of Moses was established. What the Bible does teach is we should be giving from the heart to the Lord not out of our excess. **Mark 12:44** We are not to give out of necessity or grudgingly, but are to give as we are able, and we should be excited about having the opportunity to give to the Lord's work. After all He owns all the assets anyway, so who are we to withhold from Him?

Read Deuteronomy 15:10 & Luke 12:34 and describe in your own words where you think that your heart has been and what the Lord wants you to do as a result of this passage

Principle #8 God blesses both financially and spiritually according to His purpose to those who give cheerfully.

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6. What is the promise of the Lord if you sow sparingly? _____

How about if you sow bountifully? _____

Read 2 Corinthians 9:8-11. What do these passages say to you about giving and God's blessings?

Read Proverbs 3:9-10. What part of your income should you honor the Lord with? _____

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What is His promise? _____

Read 1 Chronicles 29:11-12 and Proverbs 10:22. Describe one of the ways that the Lord can bless us if He so chooses. _____

Read Luke 6:38. What do you think Jesus was saying in this passage? _____

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Principle #9 Being a Christian doesn't guarantee financial prosperity.

This is one of the most abused and misunderstood areas of giving. We have a culture that measures everything by material success. Many ministers today are no different. Consider some of the following quotes taken from "Christianity In Crisis" written by Hank HaneGraaff exposing the Prosperity Gospel.

"Not only is worrying a sin, but being poor is a sin when God promises prosperity".

"I don't know where these goofy traditions creep in at, but one of the goofiest ones is that Jesus and His disciples were poor. Now there's no Bible to substantiate that.

One Pastor, argues that the Apostle Paul was so rich that he had the financial resources to block up the justice system of his day.

"give one house and receive on hundred houses or one house worth one hundred times as much. Give one airplane and receive one hundred times the value of the airplane. Give one car and the return would furnish you a lifetime of cars. In short Mark 10:30 is a good deal.

These types of teachings are complete Biblical Heresy as you will soon see from God's Word.

Read 1 Timothy 6:3-5 and describe in your words about those that offer a different doctrine or use the Gospel for financial gain. _____

People using the Scriptures and the Lord for personal gain is not new.

Read 2 Kings 5:20-27. What did the servant of Elisha the prophet do? _____

What was his punishment? _____

Read Jeremiah 6:13. What does the Lord say about the prophets and the priests? _____

Read Ezekiel 33:30-31. What was the problem with the people that went to listen to the message that came from the Lord? _____

Do you think that this sounds a lot like church today? _____

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Read Matthew 21:12-13. What did Jesus get so upset about in these passages? _____

Do you think this type of activity still goes on today? Explain. _____

Was Paul and His disciples really rich as some of the teachers of the wealth gospel proclaims?

Read 1 Corinthians 4:11-13. What does Paul have to say about their financial well being?

Does Mark 10:29-30 guarantee us prosperity in return for giving?

There are 7 things this passage says that we would receive a hundred times in the present age. What are they?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____

7. _____

Does this sound like this passage is talking about return on our money for giving? _____
Why not? _____

In this passage Jesus is talking to Peter and tells him because of giving up his family, and material possessions to follow Him, he will become part of the family of Christ.

Read 2 Corinthians 8:9. Does this passage mean Jesus was financially well off, and became poor so all Christians can become wealthy? _____

ABSOLUTELY NOT! The general context of this passage is about being rich in faith, grace and willingness to give to those that are lacking. It is showing that giving abundantly pleases God as opposed to storing up riches for your self and ignoring the needs of the Saints and those that are in need.

Read Luke 6:20. What does Jesus say about the poor in this passage? _____

Read Job 1:20-22 and Jeremiah 27:5. What do these verses communicate to you about how the Lord distributes material possessions? _____

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Principle #10 Give to the needy, orphans, widows, homeless, sick, those in prison and to the poor. In other words: *Be like Jesus.*

Read Psalms 41:1-3. What is the blessing of the Lord for taking care of the needy and helpless?

When we give money to the poor what happens? **Read Proverbs 19:17** _____

Read Matthew 25:41-46 and describe in your own words the things that Jesus wants us to do for others.

How concerned is your church on these matters? _____

How concerned have you been with these matters? _____

What do you think the Lord is saying to your heart right now? _____

Read James 1:27. What does James have to say about PURE RELIGION? _____

Read Hebrews 10:34-35. What were some of the actions of the early Christians concerning loss of property and prisoners? _____

Why? _____

Read 1 John 3:16-18. Describe in your own words what the Lord wants you to understand about these passages. _____

Have you been loving others in word and tongue? Or in Deed and Truth? Which does the Lord want you to do? _____

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Let's Review What God Wants You To Do

1. Recognize who's money you are managing. *Haggai 2:8*
2. Give back because He gives to you. *Deuteronomy 8:18*
3. Give to your church. *2nd Corinthians 8:1*
5. Support your Pastor. *1 Timothy 5:17, Galatians 6:6*
6. Test God's faithfulness. *Malachi 3:10*
7. Give in proportion to the blessing you wish to receive. *2 Corinthians 9:6*
8. Give with **all** of your heart. *Luke 6:38*
9. Give to support God's Work. *Proverbs 19:17*
10. Give because you love God more than you love money. *Deuteronomy 15:10*

What does God want you to do personally in relation to giving?

What do you plan to do about it?

What have you learned about yourself in this study on giving?

What do you think God would say to you right now if you were to talk to Him about giving?

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