

# GIVING

God commands that we give of our resources, including our money. Giving demonstrates our faith and obedience. Giving blesses others and furthers God's work. Giving also blesses the giver, for Jesus said, *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.* (Lk 6:38)

## I. GOD IS OWNER

In giving, remember that God owns everything in this world.

### A. GOD IS CREATOR

The Bible opens with these words: *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* (Genesis 1:1)

### B. GOD IS OWNER

*The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.* (Ps 24:1) The Lord sees all finances as His: *The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine, says the Lord of hosts.* (Hag 2:8)

### C. GOD IS SUPPLIER

God gives us everything, including the ability to earn money. Moses said, *And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth.* (Deuteronomy 8:18)

## II. WE ARE MANAGERS

We are not owners, but simply managers of this earth's resources, including our own money.

## **A. WE HAVE AN ASSIGNMENT**

We are to manage God's world and resources. (Genesis 1:27,28)

## **B. WE WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNTING**

Like all managers, we will account to God for how we have managed His resources. (Romans 14:12; Luke 12:41-48)

## **C. WE GIVE AS MANAGERS**

As managers, we are to give to the Lord's work, which includes preaching and teaching the Gospel. (Matthew 28:19,20)

## **III. THE BASIS OF GIVING**

The basis of giving is tithes and offerings.

### **A. THE TITHE**

#### **1. DEFINITION OF TITHING**

A tithe means a tenth part of total income. God says that a tenth of our income belongs to Him. Scripture indicates this tenth is based on gross, not net income. (Leviticus 27:30-32)

#### **2. HISTORY OF TITHING**

The principle of tithing is timeless.

##### **a) BEFORE THE LAW**

Before the establishment of the Mosaic law, Abraham tithed (Genesis 14:18-20), as did Jacob (Genesis 28:20-22).

## **b) UNDER THE LAW**

Under the Mosaic law God commanded Israel to tithe. (Lev. 27:30-33) Though not entirely clear, Israel may have been commanded to give three tithes: 1) the annual Levites' tithe to support the Levites' ministry (Num. 18:21-32); 2) the annual festival tithe to provide for travel and food expenses for worshipers (Deut. 14:22-27); 3) the every third year charity tithe to assist the Levite, stranger, and poor (Deut. 14:28,29). Whenever Israel experienced revival, tithing was practiced ( 2 Chron. 31:4- 12,19-21; Neh. 10:35-39; 13:4-13).

## **c) IN JESUS' TIME**

Jesus confirmed the practice of tithing when addressing the Pharisees who observed the law of Moses. (Matthew 23:23)

## **d) IN THE CHURCH AGE**

During the present church age there is no indication that tithing should cease. Hebrews 7:4-10, using Melchizedek as a symbol of Jesus Christ, advises that tithes given by the Church are received by Jesus Himself (Verse 8). If tithing was practiced before the law, and commanded under the law, should we in this age of grace do any less?

## **3. PLACE OF TITHING**

The tithe is to be brought into the storehouse, the local church where the believer is fed spiritually. (Deut. 12:5; 14:22,23; 2 Chron. 31:11,12; Mal. 3:10) This enables the local church to be self-supporting (Gal. 6:6), and to bless other ministries (1 Cor 16:1-3).

## **B. THE OFFERINGS**

In addition to the tithe, one may give offerings as led by God.

## **1. DEFINITION OF OFFERINGS**

Offerings may be for general, or specific purposes, including giving to the poor (Matt 6:1-4). Tithes belong to God, but offerings are voluntary expressions of gratitude to God for all He has done for us.

## **2. HISTORY OF OFFERINGS**

The principle of offerings is timeless.

### **a) BEFORE THE LAW**

Before the establishment of the Mosaic law, we see offerings by Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:3-5), Noah (Genesis 8:20,21), Abraham (Genesis 22:1,2,13), and Jacob (Genesis 31:54; 35:14; 46:1).

### **b) UNDER THE LAW**

Under the Mosaic law God commanded the Israelites to bring different kinds of offerings to Him, such as burnt, drink, freewill, heave, meal, peace, sin, thank, wave, and trespass offerings.

### **c) IN JESUS' TIME**

Jesus confirmed the practice of offerings and even sacrificial giving well beyond the tithe. (Luke 21:1-4)

### **d) IN THE CHURCH AGE**

Scripture indicates that we under grace should give generously, even beyond the basic tithe. (Acts 11:27-30)

### **3. PLACE OF OFFERINGS**

Offerings should be brought primarily to the local church to use internally and to distribute to other ministries and the poor. (Deut. 12:5,6; 2 Chron. 31:11,12; Mal. 3:8-10; Acts 11:27-30; 1 Cor. 16:1-4) The Lord may lead on occasion, however, to give an offering elsewhere.

### **IV. THE BLESSINGS OF GIVING**

Blessings always follow when we keep God's commandments. Malachi 3:6-12 mentions the blessings which come to the tither.

#### **A. THE BLESSING OF ABUNDANCE**

God promises to, *Open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.* (Verse 10) This includes not only financial blessing, but physical, emotional, spiritual, and relational blessings as well.

#### **B. THE BLESSING OF PROTECTION**

God promises to rebuke Satan so that he doesn't destroy our blessings, including the fruit of our labor. When we tithe, God will protect us in our employment, possessions, relationships, etc. (Verse 11)

#### **C. THE BLESSING OF FRUITFULNESS**

God promises that we will be so fruitful that others will acknowledge our blessings. (Verse 12)

### **V. THE ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF GIVING**

Paul gives some essential features of our giving in 1 Corinthians 16:2:

*On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper.*

## **A. THE TIME OF GIVING**

Generally, tithes and offerings should be brought to the local church and given as an act of worship on Sunday, *the first day of the week*.

## **B. THE REGULARITY OF GIVING**

The first day of the week also indicates that giving should be on a regular basis. It should be a holy habit. When we are absent on a given Sunday, we should make up the missed contribution when we return.

## **C. THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF GIVING**

*Let each one* indicates that giving is for each of us, the rich (Acts 4:36,37) and the poor (Luke 21:1-4).

## **D. THE METHOD OF GIVING**

Paul says to *lay something aside, storing up*. This involves planning and prayer. As we bring our money to the local church, we express our dedication to and worship of God.

## **E. THE RECIPROCITY OF GIVING**

*As he may prosper* indicates that the amount of giving depends on our prosperity. Tithing is required, but giving brings real blessings.

## **VI. THE GRACE OF GIVING**

God has demonstrated His grace, His undeserved favor, by giving to man so many blessings. This grace culminated in the gift of His Son for our salvation. (John 3:16) We demonstrate the working of God's grace within us by our giving. Giving is the essence of grace.

Paul discusses the grace of giving in 2 Corinthians 8:1-15. He gives two examples and encourages the Corinthians to exercise this grace. **A. THE MACEDONIAN EXAMPLE (Verses 1-7)**

Paul tells of the Macedonians exercising the grace of giving.

- 1. They received God's grace of giving. (Verse 1)**
- 2. They gave liberally. (Verse 2)**
- 3. They gave sacrificially. (Verse 3a)**
- 4. They gave willingly. (Verses 3b-4)**
- 5. They gave themselves. (Verse 5)**
- 6. All should exercise this grace. (Verses 6-7)**

### **B. CHRIST'S EXAMPLE (Verses 8-9)**

- 1. Giving should spring from love. (Verse 8)**
- 2. Christ gave Himself to us from love. (Verse 9)**

### **C. EXERCISE THE GRACE OF GIVING (Verses 10-15)**

Paul exhorts the Corinthians and all believers to give.

- 1. Give as you have promised. (Verses 10, 11)**
- 2. Give what you are able. (Verses , 12)**
- 3. Give to help others. (Verses 13-15)**

## **VII. THE REWARDS OF GIVING**

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 states three ways giving blesses.

## **A. THE GIVER IS BLESSED**

As we saw in Malachi, giving brings blessings to the giver.

### **1. GIVING BLESSES BOUNTIFULLY (Verses 6,7)**

Money given isn't lost; it will bring a harvest, both material and spiritual. (Prov. 11:24-26; Luke 6:38; 2 Cor. 9:6-15; Gal. 6:6-10)

### **2. GIVING BLESSES FINANCIALLY (Verse 8)**

No matter how poor we are, as we give financially, God gives us even more. We have enough for ourselves (*having all sufficiency in all things*), and for others (*an abundance for every good work*).

### **3. GIVING BLESSES SPIRITUALLY (Verses 9-11)**

As we give, God blesses us spiritually, as well as materially. Psalm 112:9 says that the giver's righteousness remain forever.

## **B. THE RECIPIENT IS BLESSED (Verse 12A)**

Our giving also *supplies the needs of the saints*.

## **C. GOD IS BLESSED (Verse 12b-15)**

God, the source of all blessing, is thanked and glorified by the

recipient for the givers' obedience and God's provision. All praise God for His greatest gift, Jesus Christ, *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* (Jn 3:16) When we appreciate God's gift of Jesus for our salvation, we will exercise the grace of giving with joy.

