



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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Your giving is an Act of Worship.

There are many church members and pastors who do not understand the nature, motivation, and practice of giving and either consciously or unconsciously stop teaching on giving.

Sadly, progressively the church leaders reduce their teaching on giving to the point that the members feel like they have a bill to pay to the church and if they don't pay the amount, they are in trouble with God making giving feel like law paying instead of grace giving.

In this case, giving can be viewed as a financial burden and an obligation that are expected to be paid for the church services rendered. Therefore, when a pastor wants to talk about giving, it seems like he is a bill collector.

It is very fundamental and essential for the spiritual growth of our members to understand the very nature and purpose of giving especially to understand it as an act of worship.

"Lordship is much more than simple surrender to God. It must be integrated into the very core of our being!.. Lordship means God says it and I do it. This is not because of my effort to obey. Instead, it is the fulfillment of God's promise to work in us "both to will, and to do".

Benjamin C. Maxson, Dynamic Steward, vol 8, no 3.

Here are Seven principles about biblical giving:

1. God's Ownership

In biblical logic, God is the creator of all things. To that, God is the owner of all things including our wealth, life, and our possessions; Haggai 2:8 reads, "The silver is mine and the gold is mine," declares the Lord Almighty ". Even our ability to produce wealth is God's gift to us; "But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth..." (Deut. 8:17-19).

2. **God is the Ultimate Giver** (John 3:16; 1 John 4:7-9); we cannot outgive God.

3. **Beyond Tithing**

It is not my intent to believe that tithing is insignificant, but rather tithing is an initial yardstick for Christian giving. This means that Christians are encouraged to give more than 10 percent not lesser. Tithing is part of the OT practice, since we are living in the New Covenant time, we ought to go beyond the former practice.

4. Purposeful and Freely Giving (2 Corinthians 9: 7-8)

Now that we are under the grace of God, Dr. Thomas Schreiner said, "Since God is to be our treasure, believers are to give generously and freely."

5. Cheerful or Generous Giving (2 Corinthians 9:7),

without coercion, manipulation, and guilt-tripping. When we give, we see this as an opportunity to rejoice for being part of the kingdom work of God.

6. Sowing and Reaping Principle (2 Corinthians 9:6),

when we give, we do not see this as an expense but as an investment. You cannot harvest your field without planting a seed. Your giving to the Lord is a seed that has the potential for flourishing life holistically.

7. Kingdom-centered Giving

Remember in Matthew 6:33, "seek first the kingdom of God" and the rest will follow. This is like 2 Corinthians 9:8; God can give us abundant and flourishing life.

The act of giving is more than just an outward act. It is an attitude of our hearts. It is an inside-out act. We are giving out of our grateful hearts to revere and worship God. Giving is a transformational experience for Christian spirituality.



"All that is given for the salvation of souls and the glory of God, is invested in the most successful enterprise in this life and in the life to come. Your talents of gold and silver, if given to the exchangers, are gaining continually in value, which will be registered to your account in the kingdom of heaven. You are to be the recipients of the eternal wealth that has increased in the hands of the exchangers. In giving to the work of God, you are laying up for yourselves treasures in heaven."

E. C. White, Counsels on Stewardship 342

