

CREATING A PERSONAL GIVING PLAN

This study is not exhaustive with every verse in the Bible on giving, but hopefully it is not exhausting either. The purpose is to help you develop your personal giving plan. As you consider your giving, take this survey. In your opinion...

- **How much should believers give?**
 - 10%
 - 23 and 1/3%
 - “Till it hurts, man!” (US Hippies, 1960’s)
 - Until you can no longer give joyfully
 - Whatever you want, no rules
 - What you can afford, discretionary monies only
 - Other _____

- **Toward what should believers give?**
 - 10% to local church, extra to para-church
 - All to local church, let church decide where it goes
 - Gospel missionaries
 - Whatever opportunities you know of when you have money
 - To those who you them the Word
 - Whatever need God puts on your heart or you feel joyful about
 - The poor
 - Family members in need
 - Other _____

- **How often should believers give?**
 - Weekly
 - Monthly
 - Yearly or quarterly
 - Whenever you have opportunities
 - Spontaneously, whenever you feel like it
 - Regularly by a plan
 - Depends on cash flow
 - Other _____

Enjoy meditating on the following passages, keeping in mind the questions above.

How much to give:

Malachi 1:7-8 and 3:8-10 How do these two passages relate to one another?

Leviticus 27:30-33

Luke 21:1-4

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Luke 18:9-14; 11:42 and Matthew 23:23-24 Is Jesus endorsing tithing for believers today?

2 Corinthians 8:3 and 7

2 Corinthians 8:12

Proverbs 11:24-25

Deuteronomy 16:17

Luke 12:48b

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Question: The former strict Pharisee Paul taught about giving in Corinthians, Galatians, 1 Timothy, and Philippians. What did he say about tithing?

Case Study from Colorado

Robert was a new believer I met with for bible study. The pastor of his church preached on tithing, and being sensitive to the Lord, Robert asked me, "Should I tithe? Ten percent feels too high, but the pastor said God will make it up to me."

Robert earned \$1000 per month in take-home pay—\$900 after tithing His rent was \$500 and utilities \$100. Other monthly expenses included the babysitter, gas to drive to work, food for the family, clothes, insurance, and school supplies.

Two days later I met for bible study with a gifted stockbroker who earned about \$250,000 per year. If he had heard the message on tithing, he would have given \$25,000 and then have to 'eke out a living' on \$225,000!

What would you have told Robert? Should he tithe? Should the stockbroker tithe?

Where to give:

Galatians 6:6 and 10

James 1:27

James 2:15-17

Deuteronomy 15:7-11

3 John 5-8

1 Timothy 5:17-18

1 Timothy 5:8 and 16

Proverbs 14:21

How often to give:

1 Corinthians 16:1-4

Proverbs 3:9-10

Trick Question: Shouldn't giving be *spontaneous*, led by the Spirit?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTION: Each January my wife and I forecast our income for the next twelve months and prayerfully discuss what we think by faith the Lord wants us to give. Giving is a non-optional line item in our monthly household budget.

As part of our plan we set aside a generous “spontaneous” amount. If we don't give our spontaneous amount in the current month, we add it to next. If we give beyond the budgeted spontaneous amount it doesn't reduce the planned amount already set.

If our income goes down or if we receive an unexpected windfall, we adjust our plan.

Do both—let the Spirit guide you in your planned giving *and* let the Spirit guide you in your spontaneous giving. It's not your money! Haggai 2:8.

PERSONAL GIVING PLAN

Application: 1 Corinthians 16:2 implies giving should be in our thinking weekly. Do you have a giving plan? If married, are you and your spouse in agreement? Use local currency.

Projected income for the coming 12 months: \$_____ **Monthly average:** \$_____

Total to give monthly: \$_____ **Or annually if you prefer:** \$_____

1. By plan: \$_____ (amount monthly or annually)

\$_____ Local Fellowship \$_____ Missions/gospel advance

\$_____ Family help \$_____ The poor

\$_____ Other \$_____ Other

2. By spontaneous decision (as part of plan): \$_____ (amount monthly or annually)