QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT GIVING
Biblical Answers for Believers

TO THINK ABOUT AND DISCUSS

• In your personal opinion, what is your greatest barrier, hindrance, or obstacle to giving consistently and/or sacrificially?

RESEARCH ABOUT GIVING HABITS

• The average church attender gives only 3% of his or her income.
• Less than 10% of church attenders tithe.
• Less than 5% of church attenders define stewardship to include time, resources, ideas, or skills.

This isn’t surprising. Churches everywhere are funded by the few. The financial issues that the church faces do not generally have to do with a lack of money, but they relate to churches not teaching about giving. They relate to the lack of conversion of the wallets and bank accounts of Christians. They relate to a lack of vision for how money will be used for the glory of God.

Money should never be a reason to choose not to do something that God has called us to do. If God calls us to accomplish something, He will equip us to be successful in the pursuit (Ps.138:8). That’s always true—in every areas of life and ministry, even during times when it seems like everything is changing.

KEY Q&As ABOUT GIVING

WHY DO WE GIVE?

• As an act of worship and acknowledgement that God owns everything and that we are grateful stewards (Gen.14:17-20; 28:22)
• To sustain the needs of the saints and the work of the ministry (Mal.3:8-11; Lev.27:30-33; Deut.26:12-15; 12:5-19)
• To support its ministers (2 Cor.6:6-10; 1 Cor.9:1-11, 14)

WHERE DO WE GIVE?

• The storehouse or the temple was the place in the Old Testament and the local church is the place in the New Testament (Mal.3:8-11; 1 Cor.16:1ff; 2 Cor.8-9)

HOW DO WE GIVE? What does the Bible say about giving?

1. Giving is initiated by God’s grace. (v.1)
2. Giving transcends difficult circumstances. (v.2a)
3. Giving is to be joyful. (v.2b)
4. Giving is not hindered by poverty. (v.2c)
5. Giving is to be generous. (v.2d)
6. Giving is to be proportionate. (v.3)
7. Giving is to be sacrificial. (v.3b)
8. Giving is to be voluntary. (v.4)
9. Giving is to be equal in participation and sacrifice. (vv.9-14)

WHAT BENEFITS DOES GIVING BRING?

- The honor of God (1 Sam.2:30; Cf. Mal.1:6-7; 2:9)
- The blessing of God’s abundance and influence (Mal.3:10-12; Luke 6:38)
- The obtaining of God’s direction/wisdom (Prov.3:9-10)

IS THE ISSUE OF FAITHFULNESS IN GIVING A SPIRITUAL ISSUE OR A GROWTH ISSUE?

- Both! Spiritual issues and growth issues are salvation-life issues. At the root of faithfulness is the issue of trust.

IS A LACK OF FAITHFULNESS IN GIVING/TITHING A SIN?

- Yes! Because it is a command, to refuse to obey is sin. James 4:17—"Therefore, to the one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin."

IS TITHING STILL REQUIRED UNDER THE NEW TESTAMENT?

- No! But it is a good place to begin. There are two kinds of giving in the Bible: tithes and freewill offerings. Although Christians debate whether the tithe of the OT is still required, the Apostle Paul makes it plain that we cannot debate whether we are to give generously (2 Cor.8:1-9:15). He also shows that our giving must ALWAYS be tied to the love of God in Christ (2 Cor.8:9; 9:15). If we look at our bank accounts, we might very well find reasons not to give. But if we look (as we should) at the cross of Christ, we cannot help but give.

HOW DOES INCONSISTENCY IN GIVING/TITHING IMPACT THE CHURCH AND MINISTRY?

- God does not bless disobedience, and a failure to contribute financially is one act of disobedience that deprives us of God’s good hand of blessing with all its evangelistic potential.

TO THINK ABOUT AND DISCUSS

- Think about some ways in which God’s work could be advanced by His people giving more generously. Think about your own spending. What can you do to “free up” more of your money for the Lord’s work?