
1. Biblical Foundation of Giving

The concept of giving is deeply rooted in the character of God, who is the ultimate giver. John 3:16 states, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." This act of divine generosity sets the standard for Christian giving, which is to be motivated by love and selflessness.

The Bible provides a comprehensive framework for understanding wisdom in giving, emphasizing principles such as generosity, proportionality, stewardship, discernment, and sacrifice. By aligning their giving with biblical teachings, believers can honor God and effectively contribute to the work of His kingdom.

2. Key Scriptures

- Genesis 14:19-20
- Proverbs 3:9-10
- 2 Corinthians 8:9-15
- Matthew 6:1-4, 21
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-7
- Mark 12:41-44
- Luke 6:38
- Luke 21:1-4
- 1 Corinthians 16:1-2
- Philippians 4:15-19
- Hebrews 13:16
- James 2:15-16

3. Jesus Christ is an Example of Christian Giving

2 Corinthians 8:9 – He became poverty-stricken in order that He might make you surpassingly rich. The Apostle Paul says that this should motivate every Christian in our attitude to giving, so that the emulation of Jesus' self-giving becomes our desire. Christ's self-giving is the standard for our giving. We begin with the base of the tithe and aim for emulation of His self-sacrifice. Our giving is to be inspired and instructed by Christ's inexpressible gift.

4. The Lord Jesus Expects and Requires Us to Give

Matthew 6:2 – Jesus said to His disciples, "When you give," not "if you give!" Hence, Christian giving is not optional but essential. Jesus expects all His followers to be givers. Whether poor or rich, all believers should give to the Lord (2 Cor. 8:1-2; Luke 21:1-4).

5. Christian Giving Must Be Done with the Proper Biblical Motivation

Matthew 6:1 – Christian giving must be done with the right motivation. Jesus warns against practicing righteousness for the praise of men. Our giving should be an expression of devotion to God, not for recognition from others. It should come from a desire to show tangibly our devotion to the living God.

6. Jesus Commands Us to Have a Special Concern for Giving to the Needy (Benevolent/Charitable Giving)

Matthew 6:2-3 – Jesus emphasizes the importance of giving to the needy. Christians should be zealous in their charitable giving. The Lord commands us to practice benevolent giving, and IWC/PHA is committed to this mandate. James 1:27 teaches that pure religion includes helping those in need, such as widows and orphans.

7. Christian Giving is Worship

1 Corinthians 16:2 – On the first day of the week, believers are to set aside their offerings as an act of worship. Giving must be an act of worship that glorifies God, showing that He is more important to us than anything else.

8. We Are to Give in Proportion to What We Have, Not What We Don't Have

2 Corinthians 8 – Give in proportion to what you have, not to what you don't have. Those who have more should give more, and those with less should give less. It's important to ensure that those with less don't out-give those who have more.

9. The Bible Teaches that There Are Divine Rewards for Faithful Giving

2 Corinthians 9:6 – “He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” Faithful giving leads to heavenly rewards. Every cent invested in God's kingdom reaps blessings that God intends. Matthew 10:42 teaches that even a simple cup of water given in His name will be rewarded.

10. Though Giving is Essential to the Christian Life, It Must Be Willing and Cheerful

2 Corinthians 9:7 – Giving must be willing and cheerful. It should come freely from the heart, not grudgingly. True giving comes from realizing how much we have been forgiven by Christ, and our gratitude for His grace should motivate our giving.

11. Practice Paying Systematic Tithes

What Is Tithe?

Tithe is one-tenth of your income, which belongs to God and is given as an offering to the local church. Tithing is the practice of setting aside 10% of your income to support the work of God. It sustains church operations, supports clergy, and funds mission trips and charitable activities.

The concept of tithing is ancient—Abraham and Jacob both paid tithes (Genesis 14:18-20; Genesis 28:22). The tithe is for the support of the Levites, who had no inheritance in Israel (Numbers 18:20-28). Malachi reminds us to bring the tithe into the house of God to support His work.

What is the Power of Tithing?

Tithing is more than money—it's a matter of the heart. Tithing builds faith in God, as it demonstrates trust in His promises to provide for us (Malachi 3:10). Tithing purges greed and helps Christians become natural givers, training us to be less greedy and more generous. It also shows our love for God's work, as tithes support the church and further God's mission.

What Does God Promise When You Tithe?

1. A downpour of blessings (Malachi 3:10).
2. Protection from the devourer, such as sickness, financial loss, and job failure (Malachi 3:11).
3. Recognition as blessed by all nations (Malachi 3:12). Tithing aligns you with God's purpose, and He rewards your faithfulness.

Who Does Tithe Belong To?

1 Corinthians 9:13 teaches that those who serve in God's temple should receive their sustenance from the temple. Tithe ensures that God's work has the resources to function.

12. Prayer

Make us generous, willing, and free givers, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
Grace to you. Amen.