

Biblical Wisdom for Financial Giving to Church.



The Bible tells us a number of helpful things about money and giving, including:

- God is good and is the ultimate resource provider
(*Jam 1:17*)
- All our resources (100%) come from God and belong to him
(*1 Chron 29:14*)
- Earning money is good; being in excessive debt is not good
(*Neh 5:1-6*)
- We are to pray & ask God to provide for our financial needs
(*Matt 6:5-33*)
- Giving regularly is part of basic discipleship
(*Matt 6:2; 1 Cor 16:2*)
- Money management & planning to give is important
(*Prov 21:5; 2 Cor 9:7*)
- Giving is good - both for the giver and the recipient
(*2 Cor 9:8-9*)
- As we give, our good God gives us more so we can give again
(*2 Cor 9:10-11*)
- All giving should be generous, mirroring our generous God
(*2 Co. 9:11; 1 Tim 6:18-19; Ps 37:26*)
- We should teach and model these principles to our children
(*Deut 11:13-21*)

In short, we're called to give generously and regularly. As we seek to do this, here are two biblical models that can help guide our financial giving.

1. Tithing

(see Malachi 3:10; Genesis 28:22; 2 Chronicles 31:5; Nehemiah 10:37)

Tithing is giving away the first 10% of income and we commend this as a good starting point for giving. In the bible the tithe was given at the place of worship and so many churches today encourage people in their church family to tithe to church. In the Bible, tithing was done as a mark of gratitude for the past and as a way of trusting God for the future.

Committing and planning to give the first 10% of income tests our faith; that's why money management and planning is important (see above). Bible passages related to tithing promise that God will provide more than enough in response to our tithe - indeed the blessing back will be wonderful. God understands that some of us find the initial thought of giving 10% potentially uncomfortable – that's why one of the key Bible passages on tithing includes the unusual promise that God does not mind us putting him to the test, to see if the blessing we receive back will be as good as he says! (see Malachi 3:10). The Senior Clergy give at least a tithe of their income to our church (plus additional occasional offerings) and have found that God is always faithful to this promise.

2. Sacrifice

(see Mark 12:41-44; Mark 10:17-21)

Sacrificial giving is a more demanding way of giving money in that it models generous giving that goes beyond tithing. Sacrificial giving is measured not by the amount we give, but by the amount we keep back. It normally involves not spending our money as initially planned and instead giving it away.

We have found that there are occasions in our lives when God has challenged us to give in this way, especially when money is needed for a special project or some particular circumstance. The prime example of this kind of giving is found in Mark 12:41-44 where a widow gives away all the money she has.

Giving to The Belfrey

As you consider your giving to The Belfrey, may we encourage you to read the Scriptures above and then pray, asking the Lord what he's calling you to do.

Please do be generous - because that's basic to all Christian giving. Please also take seriously the idea of tithing. Some people find the thought of giving the first 10% simply too much. If this is you, we'd recommend that you do what the Bible says and 'test God in this' (Malachi 3:10). If this still seems impossible, why not consider, say, 5% initially, and increase by 1 or 2% each year until you reach 10%. Clearly tithing is a commitment and will require good financial planning. If you tithe, the Bible says that both the recipient and the giver will benefit.

A few people may have particular reasons why they cannot tithe, particularly if you're married and your spouse is not yet a believer. What you give is, of course, a matter between you and God, but whatever you decide please give regularly and generously, as part of your Christian discipleship and commitment to The Belfrey and our vision of serving God's transformation of the North.

Thank you for giving to our church.