



GLOBAL TRAINING
NETWORK

Biblical Principles for Giving

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Biblical Principles for Giving

Contents

Lesson 1: Eternal Perspective

Lesson 2: We are Managers NOT Owners

Lesson 3: Old Testament Principles of Dependence and Generosity provide foundation for New Testament Grace-based Giving

Lesson 4: Biblical Principles for Giving from 2 Corinthians 8+9

2 Corinthians 8:1 – 15

Examples of Generosity

2 Corinthians 8:16 – 9:5

Financial Integrity and Accountability

2 Corinthians 9:6 – 15

Guidelines for Giving God's Way

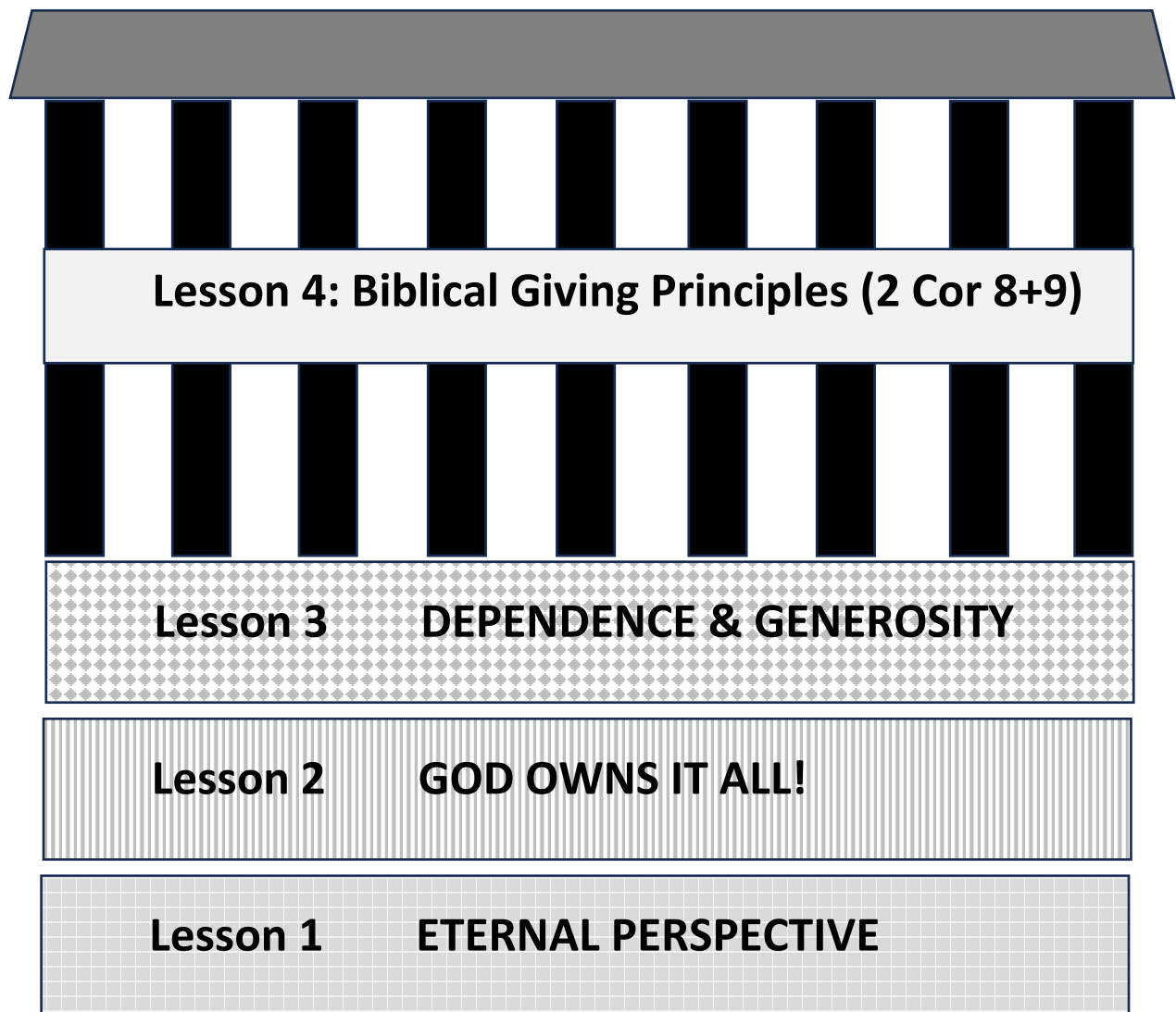
Lesson 5: Develop a Giving Plan

Learning Objectives

As a result of completing this course, you will:

- Develop an eternal perspective toward wealth and possessions in this world and plan to invest them in God's kingdom work.
- Acknowledge that God owns all things and that He has placed you in the role of manager of His possessions to be used for His glory.
- Understand how giving the first and best part of your wealth and possessions in response to God's grace glorifies God, blesses the church, demonstrates God's love toward all people, and transforms you spiritually by God's grace.
- Define and begin to implement biblical principles for giving.
- Develop a plan for giving that will honor God, provide for your family, and lay up treasures in heaven.

A biblical structure for giving that will overflow in many acts of thanksgiving to God as we excel in this grace of giving. (2 Corinthians 8:7; 9:11-12)



Biblical Principles for Giving

Lesson 1: Eternal Perspective

Key Verse: 1 Timothy 6:17-19

¹⁷ As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

Who are the rich?

- Those who have more than mere essentials of food, clothing, and shelter.
- Not limited to our definition of “rich” which might often result in pointing the finger toward those who have more money and possessions than we do.
- Many are rich in our world if we have more than the mere essentials of food, clothing and shelter.

Principle to Live by: As a Christ-follower, we should use material possessions to do God's work in this world.

Everything you have is a gift from God. (James 1:17)

God wants you to partner with Him in accomplishing His purposes on earth.

If Christ is truly your King, then you live in a kingdom different from the kingdoms of the world. Christ's kingdom has a different set of rules, a different set of values, and a different economy.



The apostle Paul does not condemn “the rich”, not command them to get rid of their wealth. He does call them/us to be good stewards of their/our God-given resources.

In Christ's Kingdom, we understand the purpose for earthly wealth is to invest it in **eternal treasures**. Don't focus on a return on your earthly investment. Those who make eternal investments will be content to receive their dividends in heaven.

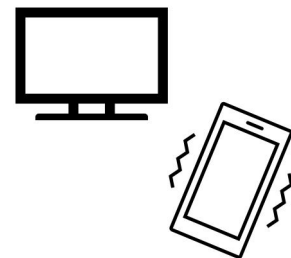
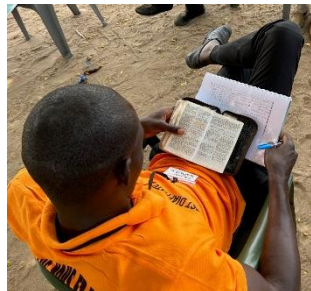
Read Matthew 6:19-21

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

- In our world, how is success often measured?
- If someone is laying up “treasures on earth”, how might you describe their life, values, and priorities?
- What does it mean to lay up “treasures in heaven”?
- What questions can we ask ourselves to determine our true heart perspective on material possessions?
- If Jesus were to analyze your life, what would he say your treasure is?

Summary: Jesus’ message applies to all who claim to follow Him. He was not teaching that it is wrong to accumulate material possessions; rather He was teaching that we should always use material possessions to pursue and promote God’s work in this world to advance His kingdom.

As a follower of Jesus, our values and priorities are continually being transformed. This transformation will impact not just our perspective on money and possessions but every area of our lives is to be surrendered to the Lord. (time, wealth, spiritual health, service, spiritual family, marriage and family, technology, vocation, spiritual gifts, thoughts, and words, etc.)



Which area(s) of your life have you experienced the greatest transformation from an eternal perspective?

Which area(s) of your life would you like to see even greater transformation by God's grace?

BIBLE FACTS

- There are 2,350 verses in the Bible about money.
- One out of every six verses in Matthew, Mark and Luke are about material possessions.
- Nearly half of Jesus' parables are about possessions.
- Jesus spoke more about money and how to use it than he did about heaven and hell, combined.

Two primary misconceptions about money:

#1: Money is evil.

Read 1 Timothy 6:9-10.

⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

- Is money the root of all evil?
- What are some indicators for Christians that the love of money has captured their hearts more than living the will of God?



#2: Money can buy happiness.

Read: 1 Timothy 6:6-8

Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we cannot take anything with us when we leave it. So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.

He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. (Ecclesiastes 5:10)

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? (Mark 8:36)

Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you." (Hebrews 13:5)



Contentment: Being satisfied with one's circumstances, not complaining, not craving something else, and having a mind at peace. Looking back without regret, looking to the present without envy, and looking at the future without fear.

Read Luke 12:13-21.

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?"

¹⁵ And he said to them, **"Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."**

¹⁶ And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷ and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' ¹⁸ And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." ²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."



- How is the rich man described at the beginning of this parable?
- Did God object to his wealth and possessions?
- Where did the rich man make his mistake?
- Circle the number of times the man uses the words "I" and "my". What does this tell us about the man?
- Why did God rebuke him?

Summary: We must understand that the sin in this story is not having wealth or even multiplying it. The sin is that this man used his wealth only for himself and his own comfort and happiness.

Discussion Questions

- What causes us to focus more on investing in the treasures of earth instead of having an eternal perspective regarding our wealth and possessions? (Matthew 6:19-21)
- Read the memory verse again (1 Timothy 6:17-19). Discuss how living with this eternal perspective might impact the life of the church and its impact in the village
- What are some of the things that cause discontentment in your life?
What can you do to help avoid regrets over the past, envy in the present, and fear about the future?

Biblical Principles for Giving

Lesson 2: We Are Managers NOT Owners!

Make a list of the things you own.

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|------------|---------|
| - house/hut | - Motorbike | - family | - _____ |
| - fields | - horse cart | - business | - _____ |
| - sheep/cattle | - horse | - clothing | - _____ |
| - chickens | - car | - tools | - _____ |

Read David's prayer in 2 Chronicles 29:10-20.

What are the key points that David is making in this prayer?

Key Verse: 1 Chronicles 29:11-12

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

Principle to Live by: God owns it all!

Creation: *The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein. (Psalm 24:1)*

Your body: *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?*

You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

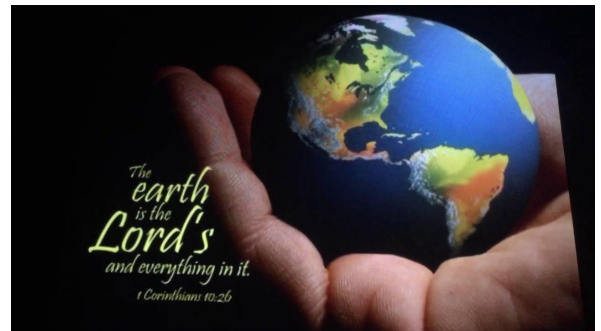
Your life and times: *My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. (Psalm 139:15-16)*

Your wealth and possessions:

The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the LORD of hosts. (Haggai 2:8)

You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth ... (Deuteronomy 8:18a)

- Your body is not your own.
- Your time is not your own.
- Your wealth and possessions are not your own.



We are managers/stewards, not owners!

All that we are and all that we have belongs to God. He has temporarily entrusted it to us to manage according to His wishes.

The key to understanding God's will with our wealth and possessions is to have a proper understanding of stewardship. By Webster's definition, a steward is "one who manages another's property." We are stewards of God's property while we are on earth. He can choose to entrust us with as much or as little as He desires, but at no time will we ever take ownership.

If we can accept this role as stewards and manage God's resources according to what He tells us in His Word, God will continue to entrust us with even more responsibility. But why would He entrust more responsibility to the one who acts like he/she is the true owner of what they possess?

Read Matthew 25:14-30. (Context of Matthew 24 and 25: Jesus teaching about the end times. He teaches about the budding fig tree (24:32-35), the faithful servant (24:45-51), the ten virgins (25:1-13), the parable of the talents (24:14-30), and the sheep and goats (25:31-46). The overall message is that even though we do not know when Jesus will remove believers from this world, we are to prepare ourselves by faithfully living in his will. A talent was a weight of measure in gold or silver. One talent of gold was worth 20 years wages, one talent = 75 pounds/34 kg).

¹⁴ "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷ So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸ But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²² And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' ²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' ²⁶ But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'



- In this parable, explain how Jesus is like “the man going on a journey” and how we are like the “servants”.
- Why do you think each servant was given different amounts or money?
- Did the owner ask them to all earn the same amount?
- How were the faithful servants rewarded?
- What happened to the unfaithful servant?

Summary: This parable teaches us to use whatever gifts and abilities God has given us to carry out His work in this world preparing for the return of Jesus Christ.

- God owns it all: God holds all the rights, and we are given responsibilities.
- God can use money and possessions to help us grow.
 - It can be a tool to teach us more about living for Him (Philippians 4:11-12),
 - it can be a test (Luke 16:11-12),
 - and it can be a source of testimony (Matthew 5:13-16).
- The amount is not important; attitude is everything. God does not condemn wealth nor glorify poverty. He owns it all, therefore hold with an open hand whatever He chooses to give you.
- Faith requires action on our part.

Biblical Stewardship: The use of God-given gifts and resources (time, talents, treasure, truth, relationships) for the accomplishment of God-given goals and objectives. We are stewards of all these gifts as well ...

- **Time**
So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. (Psalm 90:12)
- **Spouses**
House and wealth are inherited from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the LORD. (Proverbs 19:14)
- **Children**
Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. (Psalm 127:3)
- **Money**
If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? (Luke 16:11-12)
- **Spiritual Gifts**
As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace ... (1 Peter 4:10)
- **The Gospel/God's Word**
This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. (1 Corinthians 4:1-2)
- **People**
Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. (Acts 20:28)

How would your view of wealth and possessions change if every day you asked, “How does God want me to spend His money?”. What can you do to remind yourself that you are a manager/steward of God's resources?

Biblical Principles for Giving

Lesson 3: Old Testament Principles of Dependence and Generosity provide foundation for New Testament Grace-based Giving

Key Verse: Malachi 3:8-10

“Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.

“But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’

“In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

Discuss: This passage is often misused to pressure believers to give under the tithing system of the Old Testament.

Principle to Live by: To experience the riches of God’s grace, we must become generous Christians.

Summary: What do we know about the Old Testament Tithe and its requirements?

- Why Tithe? Worship God and demonstrate full trust and dependence on Him.
- Key passages: Leviticus 27:30-32; Numbers 18:21-24; Deuteronomy 14:22-29, 26:12
- Common practice across many religions and cultures in those days.
- Commanded for Israel.
- Give 1/10 of all produce, seed and livestock (usually not money).
- Support the priests and Levites who had no inheritance and could not own land.
- Support the temple worship and the various annual festivals and sacrifices
- Support the poor, widows, orphans, and aliens in the land.
- Interpretative challenges:
 - Number of tithes? (one, two or three separate tithes) (10%? 20%? 23% or more?)
 - Timing of tithes (each year or every three years)?
 - Logistics and administration of tithes (not discussed in the Bible)?

There were very specific giving instructions provided for Israel in the Old Testament. The tithe was a requirement of the Law in which the Israelites were to give 10 percent of the crops they grew and the livestock they raised. In fact, the Old Testament Law may have required multiple tithes—one for the Levites, one for the use of the temple and the feasts, and possibly a third tithe collected every third year for the poor in the land.

Tithes and Offerings in the Old Testament, along with the firstborn, were intended to represent the entire produce of the land. The giving of the tithe to the Lord was a practical confession that the whole land and all possessions in general belonged to Him and that it was He alone who had given these to the Israelites to manage and enjoy.

The faithful use of our resources is not only commanded by God; it is an undeniable indicator of our spiritual health. Materialism, selfishness, greed, hoarding, anxiety over finances – all these reveal that our trust lies not in God but in money. In the same way, generosity and faithfulness reveal that our trust is in God.

Is the Tithe a requirement in the New Testament?

Under the New Covenant of grace, Christians are released from a legalistic tithing system. The New Testament nowhere designates a percentage of income a person should set aside but says gifts should be in “proportion to income”. We look at the concept of the Old Testament tithe as a tutor to guide us in our giving as Christians under the New Covenant. The New Testament talks much about the importance and benefits of giving. We are to give as we are able. Sometimes that means giving more than 10 percent depending on the ability of the Christian and the needs of the church.

Above all, tithes and offerings should be given with pure motives and an attitude of worship to God and service to the body of Christ. “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”. Without question, giving based on the teaching of the New Testament is expected and should be considered a privilege of participating in the work of the kingdom. Because of God’s gift of grace toward us, we are able to be generous no matter how much or how little we possess.

What do we know about giving based on principles in the New Testament?

- Give in response to God’s grace
- Give in good times and hard times
- Give voluntarily, never forced
- Give prayerfully
- Give sacrificially
- Give generously, without limits
- Give cheerfully/joyfully
- Give in proportion to your income
- Give in support of kingdom work

What are some ways the Bible instructs us to share our possessions in support of God's work?

1. Members of a local church give to support its leaders and missionaries.

- The Levites (Numbers 18)
- The Ministry of Jesus
 - a. Luke 8:1-3

Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, ² and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, ³ and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and *many others, who provided for them out of their means.*
 - b. Luke 10:1-8 (sending out the 72)

And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, *for the laborer deserves his wages.*
- The Apostle Paul
 - a. 1 Corinthians 9:13-14 (9:1-14 ... deserving of support)

¹³ Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? ¹⁴ *In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.*
 - b. Acts 18:4-5

⁴ Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks. ⁵ *When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah.*
 - c. Romans 15:23-28

²³ But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since I have been longing for many years to visit you, ²⁴ I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to see you while passing through *and to have you assist me on my journey there*, after I have enjoyed your company for a while.
- Other passages
 - a. 1 Timothy 5:17-18

¹⁷ The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are *worthy of double honor*, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. ¹⁸ *For Scripture says, "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages."* (Deut 25:4)
 - b. 3 John 5-8

⁵ Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, ⁶ who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. ⁷ For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. ⁸ *Therefore we ought to support people like these*, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.

2. We are to give to support our family.

1 Timothy 5:8

But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1 Timothy 5:16

If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.

3. We are to give to support needs within the church.

1 John 3:17-18

¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but indeed and in truth.

James 2:15-16

¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

4. We are to give to support the poor – saved and unsaved.

Matthew 5:42

Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

Matthew 10:42

And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

5. We give to support the work of the kingdom locally and globally beyond our local church. (see lesson 4)

You can give without worshipping, but you cannot worship without giving – giving your praise, your love, your time, and your resources from a genuine heart of gratitude. Jesus said in Matthew 15:8-9a,

⁸ *"These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁹ They worship me in vain; ..."*

Obviously, God cares about our giving. He is concerned not simply that we give, but why we give.

What about you? What is the condition of your heart when it comes to worshipping God with the fruits of your life? When you give, are you doing it out of obligation – a sense of duty – or from a heart overflowing with joy and gratitude for what God has given you? Consider carefully what Jesus said: Worship that does not come from the heart is just religious activity.

Discussion Questions

1. When it comes to generous giving, what does it mean for you to give the first and best to God?
What would this look like in your life?
2. Ask God to search your heart and help you to see what currently motivates your giving, or what keeps you from giving.
3. If giving in this way is new to you, ask God for the courage to take this step of faith.
If you are a mature giver, ask God to grow you to a new level of giving. Ask Him to increase your spirit of generosity.

Biblical Principles for Giving

Lesson 4: A Model to Follow (2 Corinthians 8 + 9)

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

⁶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency^[a] in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

“Money is not unscriptural or unspiritual. Even though money can be abused in unspiritual ways, material possessions themselves are neutral. When handled correctly, as God’s Word instructs us to do, money can become one of the most important means of expressing our love for the Lord Jesus Christ and our commitment to His eternal work. It can be an objective gauge of the depth of our devotion to Christ. So important is a proper understanding of finances and giving, the Apostle Paul devotes two chapters in 2 Corinthians to money’s relationship to the ministry.” – Charles Swindoll, *Living Insights New Testament Commentary: 1+2 Corinthians*

Context: Two Churches

Corinth:

Planted by Paul on 2nd journey (Acts 18)
Port city in Greece – Military and Business hub
Wealthy city and church
Jew and Gentile believers
Division within the church
Committed to help Jerusalem
One year later, still had not given

Jerusalem:

Started at Pentecost (Acts 2) 20 years before Corinth
Severe persecution (shunned, arrested, exiles, executed)
Financial poverty (no work, no money, no food)
Needed help from other churches to survive
Paul encouraged churches to help financially
The church is bigger than just a local gathering



Churches of Macedonia

Northern/Central region of Greece
Philippi, Thessalonica and Berea (Acts 16, 17)
Planted by Paul on his 2nd journey

1. Examples of Generosity (2 Corinthians 8:1-15)

Context: The church in Jerusalem was hurting and facing extreme financial hardships. The church in Corinth was blessed in many ways but internal strife and sinful behavior had caused the church to focus inward and lose its outward focus. To renew their vision for the kingdom, Paul provided the Corinthian believers with two examples of self-sacrificial giving.

1. The Macedonian Church (Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-5)

List the principles of generosity and giving demonstrated by this church in each verse:

8:1 _____

8:2 _____

8:3 _____

8:4 _____

8:5 _____

- What encourages you most about the way in which the Macedonian church responded to the needs of the church in Jerusalem?

2. The Lord Jesus Christ

Read 2 Corinthians 8:8-9.

- We find no better example of gracious giving than in Jesus Christ. Summarize in your own words what is meant by verse 9.

Note the contrast between the Macedonian church and Christ. Though the Macedonians were poor, they gave as they were rich. Though Jesus was rich, He lived like He was poor. Both acted out of grace – giving sacrificially of themselves for the sake of others.

- Consider his grace.
- He was rich (He is God, in heaven).
- He humbled himself and faced severe trial (death for our sin) motivated by great joy and love.
- He gave himself sacrificially and the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world.
- He gave himself voluntarily – He willingly laid down his life.
- So that we who were poor (spiritually) would become rich, blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Remember: God Owns It All!

Summary: Biblical giving follows the example of the grace of the Lord Jesus and flows first from full devotion to Him, that leads to joyful, sacrificial and voluntary giving of our time, talents, and treasures resulting in thanksgiving to God to own it all.

2. Exhortations for the Church in Corinth

Read 2 Corinthians 8:10-15

There are at least 3 common hindrances toward giving:

a. Procrastination (8:10-11)

Intentionally putting off something that should be done.

This is a “hands” issue. It is time to act!

b. Hesitation (8:11-12)

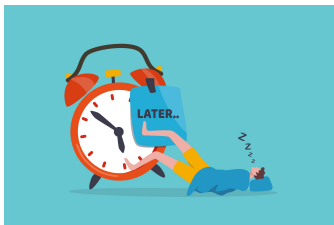
Delay because of uncertainty or questioning the timing of one’s giving.

This is a head issue. Get the info you need to make your decision.

c. Lack of Trust (8:13-15)

Not giving today because of concern for future needs of your own.

This is a heart issue. Believe God and His promises.



- Which of these hindrances to giving have you experienced?

If you have lost the joy of giving focus on these three things:

1. Forget about what you do not have and reflect on all that God has given you.
2. Remind yourself of God's promises regarding generosity (Philippians 4:19).
3. Examine your heart to see where you need to grow in the grace of giving.

3. Financial Integrity and Accountability (2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5)

How gifts are given and handled are just as important as the heart attitude of the giver. Paul identifies Titus and unnamed brothers who would handle the collection of the gifts from the church in Corinth.

Read 2 Corinthians 8:16-24.

Only qualified and trustworthy people should handle financial responsibilities. Identify the credentials of these individuals.

8:16	_____
8:17	_____
8:18	_____
8:19	_____
8:20	_____
8:21	_____
8:22	_____
8:23	_____

A second principle from this passage: Money matters should be administered honestly and openly.

The money belongs to God so people are accountable to the Lord for how the finances are handled.

We are also accountable to one another. When people give to churches, ministries, charities, they trust that their gifts will be used wisely and carefully, and in a manner consistent with the stated purpose and goals.

- How have you experienced financial concerns because of lack of integrity and accountability for how the financial gifts have been managed?
- What impact did this have within the church and the community?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:1-5.

Paul knew the tendency to sometimes just put forth the minimum effort and say the task has been completed. These verses remind us that following through with what you have promised demonstrates integrity and accountability. This builds trust and glorifies God!

The eagerness of the Corinthian church to give encouraged the Macedonian church to give generously. How would the Macedonian church react to find out that the Corinthian church did not follow through on their commitment?

- Share a time when you followed through on a financial commitment and maybe even went above and beyond what was expected. How did you feel? How was the recipient of the gift blessed? How did others see the character of God through your giving and follow through?

4. Guidelines for Giving God's Way (2 Corinthians 9:6-15)

- Explain how the law of sowing and reaping in agriculture applies to giving (2 Corinthians 9:6).



Additional guidelines for giving:

2 Corinthians 9:7

- “Each one” – everyone is to participate;
- giving is to be intentional;
- giving is to be from the heart,
- giving is not forced,
- giving is to be done with great joy.

What makes giving fun? Giving in response to God's grace, giving to others out of love and joy, giving to a ministry vision you believe in.

2 Corinthians 9:8-11

- We give generously and freely without worry because God can make His grace abound to us so we will always have enough. Remember: We can never out give God!
- The ultimate purpose of God's provision to His people is to produce thanksgiving (“eucharistia”).
- Everything returns to God's glory!

2 Corinthians 9:12-15

- The giver is blessed by the joy in giving and the promise of reward from the hand of God.
- The receiver of the gift is blessed because they receive a solution to their problem and relief from affliction.
- God is blessed as the receivers overflow “with many thanksgivings to God”.

Paul concludes with “*Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!*”

- Discuss how the perfect picture of grace is seen in Jesus Christ on the cross.
- Can you look at the cross and not be changed, not compelled to give yourself to Jesus, not be compelled to give to others in the way that Jesus gave Himself to you?

Here is a complete list of biblical principles for giving from 1 Cor 16, 2 Cor 8+9, and a few other passages.

- Which principles need more discussion?
- How will knowing and acting upon these principles impact your life and the church?

Giving is ...

- ... A natural part of the believer's life (Matthew 6:1-4)
- ... To be secret (Matthew 6:1-4)
- ... A good barometer of our spiritual condition (Luke 16:11-12)
- ... To be personal (1 Cor 16:2)
- ... To be planned (1 Cor 16:2)
- ... To be proportionate (1 Cor 16:2; 2 Cor 8:3)
- ... To be consistent (1 Cor 16:2)
- ... For everyone, rich and poor (2 Cor 8:2)
- ... To be sacrificial (2 Cor 8:3, 10-11)
- ... To be voluntary (2 Cor 8:3)
- ... A privilege (2 Cor 8:4)
- ... Modeled by Jesus Christ (2 Cor 8:9)
- ... Based on the law of sowing and reaping (2 Cor 9:6)
- ... Working with God (2 Cor 9:6)
- ... Not to be forced (2 Cor 9:7)
- ... God's opportunity to provide (2 Cor 9:7)
- ... To be done cheerfully (2 Cor 9:7)
- ... To be carried out (2 Cor 9:7)
- ... Not to be done grudgingly (2 Cor 9:8,10)
- ... A source of thanksgiving to God (2 Cor 9:12)
- ... A way to bring glory to God (2 Cor 9:12-15)

Biblical Principles for Giving

Lesson 5: Developing a Giving Plan

Five Planning Principles for Financial Health

1. Spend less than you earn.
2. Avoid the use of debt.
3. Maintain an emergency reserve.
4. Set long term goals.
5. Believe that God owns it all.

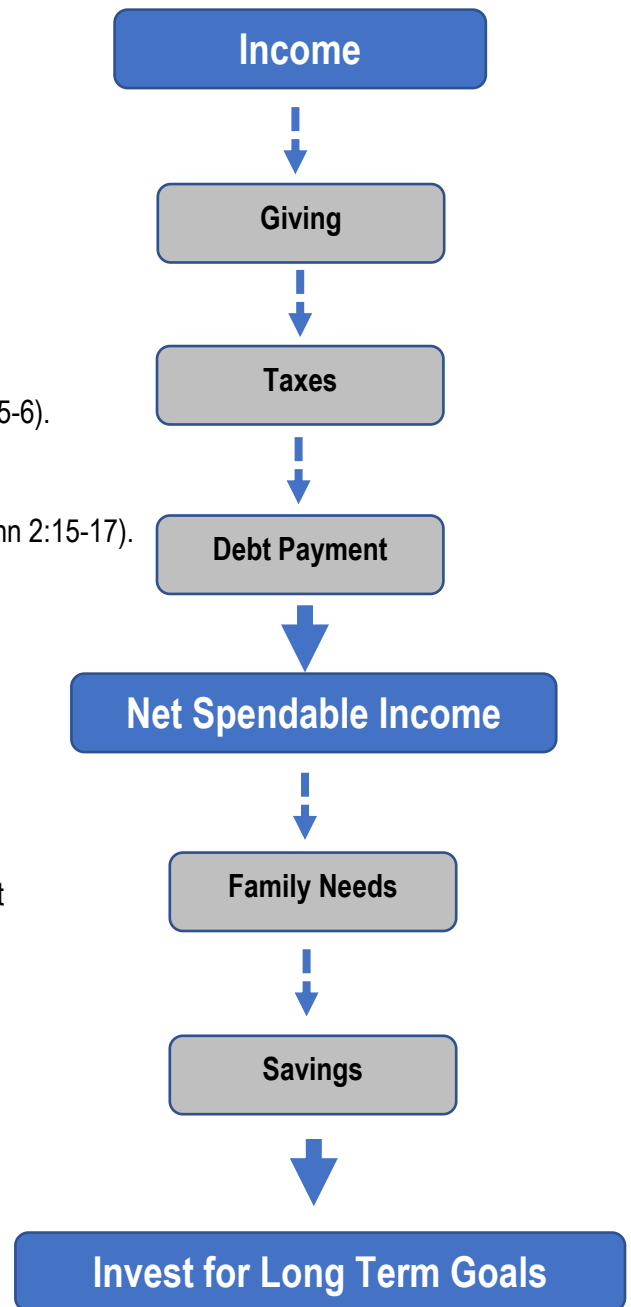
Wise Use of Income

1. Develop a budget considering these 5 uses of money.
2. Prayerfully seek God's direction regarding your lifestyle (Pr 3:5-6).
3. Learn to be content (Philippians 4:11; Hebrews 13:5)
4. Learn to avoid coveting (Exodus 20:17).
5. Do not determine your lifestyle by comparison to others (1 John 2:15-17).
6. Freely enjoy whatever you spend in the Spirit (1 Timothy 4:4).
7. Make an effort to live within your means (1 Thes 4:11-12).
8. Do not be conformed to this world (Romans 12:2).

Giving Plan

Consider three categories for giving:

1. Proportionate giving: the "should give" level is the amount that is in keeping with your income (10%?).
2. Planned giving: the "could give" level is the amount to give if you sacrificed something.
3. Pre-committed giving: the "would give" level is the amount to give if the Lord blesses with additional resources.



Course Evaluation and Next Steps

1. As we conclude this course on the Biblical Principles for Giving, summarize the most important things that you learned.
2. Prayerfully consider what changes you will make in order to begin giving faithfully to support your pastor and the work in your church and community. Remember that giving includes your finances, the fruit of your harvest and herds, your time and personal abilities.
3. How would you like to begin serving within the church to encourage other believers as well as care for the needs within the village?