

S E S S I O N



*JOY!*

*I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'* - **Acts 20:35**

PRACTICE

FOUR

### *Giving P's*

(99) \_\_\_\_\_

(100) \_\_\_\_\_

(101) \_\_\_\_\_

(102) \_\_\_\_\_

## HOW TO GIVE?

*Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you **lay something aside**, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem. But if it is fitting that I go also, they will go with me.* - **1 Corinthians 16:1-4**

### ***Giving should be Planned***

*So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*  
**2 Corinthians 9:7**

Note the use of the word “purposes” here indicates plans. Planning is key, and it leads to giving cheerfully not because we are obligated (“of necessity”), but because we choose to give. Planning enables us to give with contemplation (i.e. with forethought), without reluctance, without pressure (emotional or spiritual), in faith expecting a harvest.

- ***What you give is what you receive – Galatians 6:7***
- ***What you receive depends on the measure you use – Luke 6:38***
- ***Expect both temporal (earthly) and eternal rewards – Mark 10:29-30***
- ***Giving credits a heavenly account – Matthew 6:19-20***
- ***Consider the time between sowing and harvesting – Galatians 6:9***
- ***Persevere through faith and patience – Hebrews 6:12***

## WHEN TO GIVE?

Remember Principle four? “Give, Save, Live on the Rest!” Giving happens when you think about and prioritize giving into your budget. Giving happens when you make it a priority in your spending patterns. Giving starts in your mind when you make the decision to give.

*Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: **On the first day of the week** let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem. But if it is fitting that I go also, they will go with me. - 1 Corinthians 16:1-4*

- ***Giving should be Periodic***

If you get paid every two weeks, monthly, or even less frequently, you should consider giving on a consistent weekly basis. The reason is that it helps to plan your giving, develop the habit, and exercise the discipline on a routine basis. Make giving a consistent part of your Sunday corporate worship experience.

## WHERE TO GIVE

As a reminder, there are no “giving rules”. There are no obligations. However, there are principles that can be gleaned from the pages of Scripture to inform us of God’s desires in the area of giving.

As the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25, Luke 19) as well as other passages from Scripture tell us, we will all one day give an account to the Lord for how we used His resources. That includes our time, talents, temple (body), and treasure. This accounting will take place at what is referred to as “The Bema Seat” of Christ. We will be judged and rewarded (or not) on how well we utilized His resources for kingdom purposes.

*Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. - 1 Corinthians 3:12-15*

## ***Giving should be Purposeful***

If we are to be held to account, then it follows that we ought to be careful in how we utilize His resources. We should be discriminating. Not all uses of His resources are of equal value.

In Old Testament days, tithes and offerings were gathered into the storehouse (see Deuteronomy 14), which referred to the temple or synagogue. The storehouse was the focal point for the community of faith. From the storehouse, the needs of the priests (Levites), the widows, and the poor were met. The storehouse provided the resources needed to take on the work of the temple and supply the annual festivals.

Today, the local church functions as the 'storehouse'. The local church meets the needs of the pastoral staff who preach and teach the local congregation. The local church should provide the setting and resources for corporate worship and ministry. The local church should lead the way in meeting the needs of the poor in the local community as well as providing a launching point for missionaries to distant peoples. Therefore, our first priority in giving should be the local church.

However, the local church cannot do it all. One of the amazing aspects of the global Church – the Body of Christ – is its size, complexity, and diversity. There are parachurch organizations (outside the traditional church) that do amazing work in ministering to peoples' needs and advancing the kingdom. However, not all charitable organizations are equal. As stewards, we should be diligent in making sure our giving only goes to organizations that align with Scripture and utilize resources given to them effectively.

How do we tell which ones are worthy? Do your homework. With the resources available online, it's fairly easy to research how well an organization uses its resources. It's fairly easy to determine if an organization adheres to biblical principles. If in doubt, ask your pastors whether an organization is worthy of your giving. Make sure your giving is meeting real needs. Make sure your giving is purposeful!

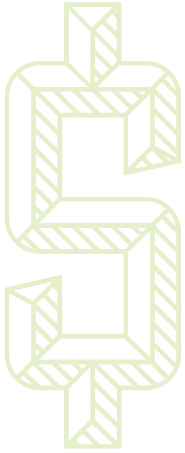
## **HOW MUCH TO GIVE**

*Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up **as he may prosper**, that there be no collections when I come. And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem. But if it is fitting that I go also, they will go with me. - **1 Corinthians 16:1-4***

## ***Giving should be Proportional***

God doesn't give us a precise amount precisely because He wants us to trust Him and give generously. For some, that might be 10%. For others, it might be 4%. And yet for others, giving generously might mean 25%. How do we figure out the 'right' amount? Take this question together with your spouse (if married) to God in prayer and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. After all, what God was after as recorded in Malachi was not Israel's money – He was after their hearts! If God truly has your heart, you will be a cheerful, generous, radical giver!

## SESSION II BIG IDEAS



The nuts and bolts of giving can be summarized with the Giving “P’s”: Our giving should be

- **Planned**
- **Periodic**
- **Purposeful**
- **Proportional**

Simply trust God! We do well when we avoid making it any more complicated than that!

1. Which of the Giving “P’s” is easiest for you to do? Why?

---

---

---

2. Which of the Giving “P’s” is hardest for you to do? Why?

---

---

---

## GOD’S VIEW OF GREED

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, - **Romans 1:28-29**

- Greed is abhorrent to God

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” - **Hebrews 13:5**

**Greed is EASY to spot in others . . .  
but HARD to spot in ourselves**

- Are you praying for stuff?
- Are you praying to see God’s face?

## PRAY FOR A CHANGE IN THINKING

*Father, forgive me for holding tightly onto money and possessions rather than pursuing a closer relationship with You. Forgive me for seeking more stuff rather than seeking more of You, the Creator of all things.*

*Lord Jesus, show me the freedom of living a life of generosity.*

*Holy Spirit, remove the spirit of greed from me once and forever. Transform my mind to hate greed like You do. Teach me to be content. Teach me to seek Your face.*

*In Jesus’ Name.*