

## *Discipleship Lesson 15*

# Giving

*Key Memory Verse:*

*Give, and it will be given to you: good  
measure, pressed down, shaken together; and  
running over will be put into your bosom.*

*For with the same measure that you use,  
it will be measured back to you.*

*Luke 6:38*



# Discipleship Lesson 15

## Giving

As you study this lesson you will understand why the following statements are **not true**.

1. If you give enough money to the church, God will make you wealthy and healthy.
2. You can give your time and talent in place of tithing.
3. If you give financially, you will not go through trials.

### **What Is the Meaning of Giving, and What Are My Responsibilities in This Area?**

Giving is an extremely controversial subject in Christianity today, largely due to the pressures exerted on God's people to give to so many worthy causes. This is perhaps one of the most misunderstood subjects in Christianity.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this lesson is to help believers understand their responsibilities in regard to giving their lives, as well as their resources, to God. We will explore what God would have us give, how much we should give, and what our attitude should be toward giving.

It has often been said, when a discussion begins concerning giving that "God does not need our money." This statement is true; however, when we hear this statement, we need to be reminded of the fact that it is not "our money."

As a reminder from our lesson on stewardship, what perspective do Psalm 24:1 and 1 Corinthians 10:26 give us toward ownership?

---

---

## Introduction

- A. Why do you think that the subject of money creates so many controversies in churches today? Let me suggest three possible reasons.

First, if someone contributes to the church, they have personal feelings about the way the money should or should not be used.

Second, giving is the first target of Satan. The very first thing that Satan attacked when he came to Job was his possessions. Satan realizes that most Christians will give up if he hits their pocketbook.

Third, Jesus said that money would create division. “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon” (Matthew 6:24, NKJV).

- B. Giving to the church on a regular basis is one of the last spiritual disciplines that most Christians put into practice, yet it is the first one that most Christians stop when they get upset about something in the church.

This lesson will help you understand how important giving financially to the local church is to the believer. The purpose of this lesson is to help you to discover and stay in the center of God’s will—the place of blessing and of ultimate happiness for any Christian.

- C. It is exciting to know that the omnipotent God of the universe has a specific plan for your life. God knows you best: your strengths, your weaknesses, your gifts, your talents, your personality, and your background. He knows what plan would best maximize your greatest potential. Remember, God’s will is not a deep mystery or something that God is trying to hide from you (Ephesians 5:17). God wants you to enjoy your Christian life and be greatly used to touch the lives of other people.

## Notes and Questions

## Notes and Questions:

### I. Why Should I Give?

Explain in your own words the reason for giving according to the following Scripture references.

A. According to Proverbs 3:9–10, how do you honor the Lord?

What are the “first fruits”?

What are the results of keeping this promise?

B. According to Job 41:11 and Psalm 50:10–12, what does giving financially to God clearly indicate?

C. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6–12.

1. Verse 8—What did God promise you?

---

2. Verse 11—When God blesses your giving, what should you do?

---

D. According to 2 Corinthians 8:7–8, giving is a clear test of

---

### II. What Should We Give?

Giving our time, talent, and treasure to God becomes a lot easier when I understand Titus 2:14.

God has purchased us with Christ’s death to make us what?

---

A. What is the first thing that we must give before our money?

2 Corinthians 8:5, 12

---

B. Give \_\_\_\_\_ for everything (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

C. What three resources should we give back to God?

1. Ephesians 5:15–16; James 4:13–15—Your \_\_\_\_\_

2. 1 Corinthians 12:4–11—Your \_\_\_\_\_

3. Luke 6:30–38, 12:15—Your \_\_\_\_\_

### III. What is the Purpose for Giving?

In other words, what is my giving going to support or accomplish? The following verses address this question. Remember, as good stewards, we should know to what we are giving. From the references below, give the best possible answer to complete the statement.

A. It is the local church's responsibility, and a result of faithful giving, that support \_\_\_\_\_. Not every believer is called to go, but all of us can help send someone (Philippians 4:15–16; 2 Corinthians 11:9).

B. Giving supports those within the church body who are unable to support themselves.

Those who are \_\_\_\_\_ in the church (Acts 6:1).

C. Giving supports the \_\_\_\_\_ of the local church (1 Timothy 5:17–18, 1 Thessalonians 5:12–13).

What does "double honor" mean?

Why do you think that God said this?

D. Giving supports the "nuts and bolts" operation of the local church: property, utilities, materials, maintenance, supplies, etc.

What does Haggai 1:4–11 say about taking care of your church facilities?

## Notes and Questions



## Notes and Questions:

### IV. When and How Are We to Give?

The following verses talk of our attitude and behaviors involved in giving. Write out the main point found in each reference regarding how we should give.

- A. According to 1 Corinthians 16:1–2, when are we to give?
- B. According to 2 Corinthians 8:3–5, we are to give according to our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Sacrificial giving—God sees the heart of the giver rather than the size of the gift. The people of Macedonia gave out of their deep \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 8:1–5).

God measures gifts by how much is left, not by how much we give. What was Jesus watching? What did the widow give in Mark 12:41–44?

- D. According to 2 Corinthians 9:6–8, what does it mean to give cheerfully?

We need to understand that the money that was given in these circumstances was collected and distributed through the local church.

## V. How Much Should We Give and to What?

### A. The principle of giving tithes:

1. Before the law was instituted, Abraham gave a tithe. Note Genesis 14:20 and Hebrews 7:1–7.
2. Under the law, a person gave a tithe—10 percent of their gross income to God (Leviticus 27:30–33).
3. The tithe was holy unto the Lord and did not belong to the person (Leviticus 27:30).
4. We are not bound by the tithe as under the law; we are to go beyond it. This is clearly illustrated in what is called the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7). In this famous passage, Jesus speaks of the issue of the law, and then He gives a standard that goes even further than the law required. For example, see Matthew 5:27–28, 40–48. **In other words, under the New Covenant, grace always moves us to go beyond what the law required.**

Neither Jesus nor any of the New Testament writers ever said to stop tithing. They taught us to practice grace giving, which can only mean one thing: giving beyond the Old Testament standard, which was 10 percent.

5. The promise in Malachi 3:8–10 and Proverbs 11:24–25 is that God will bless those who are faithful to give. God is more than able to prosper the remaining 90 percent more than the original 100 percent.

**Did you read these passages? Yes or no?**

### B. How to get started giving your tithe to the Lord. Some suggestions:

1. If you are in debt, the first step is to get God on your side by beginning to tithe.
2. There are church leaders who will give you financial counseling to help you establish a plan to get out of debt.
3. Start by giving 2 percent, and then each month move up another 1 percent until you are able to give a complete 10 percent to the Lord. You will be surprised at the results.



## Notes and Questions:

### C. Supporting missions:

Where tithes may be seen or interpreted as our starting point in giving, giving to missions is an extension of our heartfelt desire to see souls saved.

Our support of missions, at home and abroad, is the extension and outreach responsibility of our local church as established through the early church. Some of God's greatest blessings have come through giving to missions (Philippians 4:13–19; 2 Corinthians 8:1–4).

### D. Giving to others in need:

1. God channels His provisions through other people (Acts 2:44–45).
2. One man's abundance is another man's need. Allow God to use you to supply another man's needs. In 1 Corinthians 16:1–3, Paul specifically mentions taking offerings for others.
3. Jesus spoke of meeting the needs of others in Matthew 25:43–45.

## VI. Practical Application

- A. What does the giving of your resources and the attitude with which you give say about your relationship with God?
- B. Have you started giving your tithe and your offering through your local church?
- C. If you are giving on a regular basis, how has the Lord blessed you over the last few months or years?
- D. Name two important truths or principles that stood out to you from this lesson.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_