



*Building a Culture of Generosity*

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## Stewardship Scripture Appendix

### FOUR GIVING JOURNEYS IN THE BIBLE (Scripture paraphrase)

#### **Exodus 35 – 36**

It was the worst of times. Economy was bad. People were unemployed ex-slaves. Possessions consisted of the stuff the Egyptians had thrown at them when they were running out of Egypt. Some picked up scraps of wood, some gold, silver, and other metals, some goat hair and scraps of cloth, some other things. None, in and of themselves had any value. They built a sacred tent to keep the covenant box and other sacred items. Everyone gave what they had. However, there was no judgment about gold vs. goat hair; no judgment about silver vs. pieces of thread. The result: They gave more than was needed.

This illustrates, “Not equal gifts, but equal sacrifices” or “Different gifts, equal generosity.”

#### **I Chronicles 28**

It was the best of times! Israel was at the height of its existence. The people were prosperous and satisfied with their lives. David lived in a better house than God. David wanted to build the temple knowing he would not be permitted to ever see it or worship in it. Even so, David gave generously of his kingly wealth to support the building of this marvelous temple. Leaders saw what David did and said, “this is important.” As we see that, together, the leaders gave even more than David had given. Then the people saw what the leaders had done and said, “this is important.” And we see that, together, the people gave more than the leaders had given. David’s pray in chapter 29 is a prayer of thanks to God for the way the people had responded so generously.

This is a Scriptural foundation for soliciting leadership gifts prior to the congregation.

#### **Acts 4**

This is the day-to-day life of the early church. Christians were persecuted and hated. They were second class citizens if ever such a thing existed. Everyone was broke. Much of Acts is about prayer and here, Peter and John were praying for those who had need. What happened? Whenever someone saw a need, someone else responded to it by sharing what they had to help meet the need. No need was unmet. People shared everything (land, clothing, food, any of their possessions, whatever they had with one another. It was giving as an expression of Christian community. No one had any income, but all had things they could share.

This illustrates In-Kind Gifts

#### **II Corinthians 8, 9**

Paul is describing to the Corinthian church (the rich folks) what the people in the Macedonian church (the poor folks) were doing in the way of supporting the ministry of Paul and the other early disciples. These poor Macedonian Christians gave far beyond their ability to give and were held up as an example of faithfulness in the early church. How did they do it? How did they give beyond their ability? The Corinthian passage tells us that they gave themselves first to the Lord.

This illustrates the importance of faith stories and testimonials. Just as we ask people to stand before the congregation to tell their personal stewardship journey, Paul uses the story of the Macedonians as a way to inspire the Corinthians to undertake a task that otherwise would prove to be too daunting.

Malachi 3:10

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 flood gates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops...

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. Proverbs 16:3



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Love those who love you, what reward will you get?" (*Mat 5:43-46*)

. . . **Forgiveness** - Putting Principle (God) over personality

In *The Quest: A Journey of Spiritual Rediscovery*, the Jafollas write: "Your spiritual progress is at a standstill until you practice forgiveness. "Harboring unforgiveness and resentment in our hearts does not hurt others. It hurts us. It eats away at the soul, filling it with bitterness and blocking the free flow of God's love, which is the essence of our true nature."

. . . **Service as an Act of Devotion to God** - Putting God first in our actions

We believe all service is an act of devotion to God. We draw closer to God as we draw closer, in loving service, to each other. Service is a key part of spiritual growth and personal transformation. To evolve, you've got to get involved.

Albert Schweitzer said: "The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve." And Henry Drummond wrote: "You will find, as you look back upon your life, that the moments that stand out are the moments when you have done things for others."

. . . **Tithing** - Putting God first in our resources

"The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first in your life." (*Deut 14:23*)

The Bible is a book about giving with more promises related to giving than to any other subject. For example, the subject of "believing" appears 272 times, "prayer" 371 times, and "love" 714 times; while "giving" is mentioned 2,162 times! Jesus talked more about giving than anything else; more than half of the parables have to do with money and worldly goods.

According to Genesis 1:20-22 the chicken came before the egg.

The proven example of 1 Chronicles 29:1-22 is followed. The most encouraging aspect of this story is that all the people willingly offered from their hearts to the Lord.

1. The leader set the example in giving. (Verses 1-5)
2. The "leaders...officers...and commanders" gave sacrificially. (Verses 6-8)
3. The people rejoiced in the example established by the leaders, which then prompted their gifts. (Verse 9)
4. They had a time of prayer and praise. (Verses 10-12)
5. David publicly gave thanks to God for extending "the grace of giving" to the congregation. (Verses 14-18)
6. They celebrated the offering. (Verses 20-22)

Matthew 25:44-45

Gen 28:20-22

Ps 7:17, 57:9-10

II cor 9:7

PR 25:2

IS 58: 7-10

MT 15: 32-37

MT 26:26

Lk 14:15

Jn 6:30 – 35

Heb 7:4-7

Numbers 18:25-29

Deut 12:4-7

We are God's co-workers...God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it.—1 Corinthians 3: 9-11

Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house. —1 Peter 2: 5



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Without me you can do nothing... I appointed you to go and bear fruit that will last. —John 15: 5, 16

As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. —1 Peter 4: 10

You did not choose me, I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures. Whatsoever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. —John 15: 16

...a time to heal, a time to rend and a time to build up.—Ecclesiastes 3: 3

Take heed now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it. —1 Chronicles 22: 18

To whom much is given, much is expected. — Luke 12:48

Whatsoever a man sows, so shall he reap — Gal 6:7

The Kingdom of heaven is near...Freely you have received, now freely give. — Matt 10:7

...forgive and you will be forgiven, give and it will be given to you. For the measure you use, it will be measured to you. — Luke 6:37

People do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl, they put it on a stand to light the house. In the same way let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. — Matt 5:15

I commend you to God and to that gracious word of his that can build you up and give you the inheritance among all who are consecrated. —Acts 20: 32

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. —Psalm 127: 1

Remain in me, for without me you can do nothing... I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will last. —John 15: 5, 16

I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will last. —John 15: 16

God gave [gifts]...to equip the holy ones for building up the body of Christ, until we attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the soul of God, to the full stature of Christ. —Ephesians 4: 11-13

It is in giving that we receive. —St. Francis of Assisi

Luke 16

The Parable of the Shrewd Manager

1 Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. 2 So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.'

3 "The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg— 4 I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.'

5 "So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'

6 " 'Eight hundred gallons<sup>a</sup> of olive oil,' he replied.

"The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred.'

7 "Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?'

" 'A thousand bushels<sup>b</sup> of wheat,' he replied.

"He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.'



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8" The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. 9 I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

10 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? 12 And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?"

13 "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

14 The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. 15 He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight."

### **A Parable and a Prayer**

A boy and his father were walking along the road when they came to a large stone. The boy said to his father, "Do you think if I use all my strength, I can move this rock?" His father answered, "If you use all your strength, I am sure you can do it." The boy began to push the rock. Exerting himself as much as he could, he pushed and pushed. The rock did not move. Discouraged, he said to his father, "You were wrong. I can't do it." His father placed his arm around the boy's shoulder and said, "No, son. You didn't use all your strength — you didn't ask me to help." —David J. Wolpe, in *Teaching Your Children About God*

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. —Psalm 127: 1

**Remain in me, for without me you can do nothing.... I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will last. —John 15: 5, 16**

Gracious and loving Father, as we prepare to build the future in addressing the needs of our growing parish, give us your strength for the work of our hands. Without you we labor in vain, yet with you we can do great things and bear much fruit, fruit that endures. Bless our efforts to build a faith community of caring people on a firm foundation, with Christ as our cornerstone and the Spirit as our binding force.  
Amen.

A man stood before God, his heart breaking from the pain and injustice in the world. "Dear God," he cried out, "look at all the suffering, the anguish and distress in your world. Why don't you send help?" God responded, "I did send help. I sent you." —David J. Wolpe, in *Teaching Your Children About God*

I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will last. —John 15: 16

**God gave [gifts]...to equip the holy ones for building up the body of Christ, until we attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the soul of God, to the full stature of Christ. —Ephesians 4: 11-13**

Gracious God, in these times of anguish and distress, we thank you for the great power of your compassionate love. We thank you as well for entrusting us with a share in the work of your Spirit to bind us together as a community of faith, to build us into Christ's body, a parish family, a caring people. Empower us to be good stewards of our time, talent and treasure so we may build the City of God, the only secure dwelling in our world.  
Amen.

In Jerusalem I had a landlady in her fifties. Her TV set was broken and she called a repairman. It took him four visits to fix the screen. "But you knew even before he came the first time what was wrong. He could have brought the correct tube and fixed it immediately." She looked at me in astonishment. "Yes, but then we couldn't have had a relationship, sat and drunk tea and



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discussed the progress of the repairs.” Of course, the goal is not to fix a machine but to have relationships. —Natalie Goldberg, in *Writing Down the Bones*

**Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. —1Thessalonians 5: 11**

God of faithfulness and love, as we prepare to expand our educational and meeting facilities, keep us ever mindful that the most essential building takes place in our hearts and our families. Bind us together with your Spirit of love into a parish family as together we live our faith and build our future.

Amen.

My father was once walking on the beach with his three-year-old grandson when the little boy stopped, picked up a tiny fragment of a seashell and began to examine it. My father bent down and, looking at the tiny fragment, he asked the boy, “How could you see such a little shell?” “Because,” said the boy, “I have little eyes.” —Thomas Mann, in *To Taste and See*

**Jesus called the little children to himself and said, “Let the children come to me and do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.” —Luke 18: 16-17**

Without love, deeds, even the most brilliant, count as nothing. —St. Therese of the Child Jesus, “The Little Flower”

Heavenly Father, you are all loving, and all wisdom comes from you; help us to pray as we should, as you guide us in your ways. May we see with eyes of faith as we strive to build our parish community. In the spirit of our patroness, St. Therese, may our offerings of time, talent and treasure be expressions of love as we construct a school that can accommodate all those children who are drawn to grow and learn in the company of Jesus.

Built on a firm foundation, and faithful to a vision of extending your care into the future, may each of us, young and old together, grow into the full stature of Christ.

Amen.

or

All loving and all wise Father, guide us in your ways as we strive to build our parish community in the spirit of our patroness, St. Therese. May our offerings of time, talent and treasure be expressions of love as we construct a space that can accommodate all those who are drawn to grow and learn in the company of Jesus.

Make us faithful to a vision of extending your care into the future, as young and old together grow into the full stature of Christ.

Amen.

A young man eagerly described what he dreamed of creating. Said the Master, “When do you propose to make your dream come true?” As soon as the opportunity arrives.” “Opportunities never arrives,” said the Master. “It’s here.” —Anthony de Mello, SJ, in *More One Minute Nonsense*

...a time to heal, a time to rend and a time to build up.—Ecclesiastes 3: 3

**Take heed now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it. —1 Chronicles 22: 18**

Divine Master, you have blessed us with vital dreams for the future of our parish, in these trying times, give us the strength and courage to see them through. In solidarity with the brave efforts to rebuild New York City, now is the time to build up our families and our faith community on the firm foundation of your word and your loving presence in our lives. Strengthen our resolve to continue the good work you have begun in us as together we live our faith and build our future.

Amen.

A story is told that Mohandas Gandhi once settled in a village and at once began serving the needs of the villagers. A friend inquired if Gandhi’s intentions were purely humanitarian. Gandhi replied, “Not at all. I am here to serve myself, to find [joy] through the service of these poor villagers. —Wayne Muller, in *Legacy of the Heart*



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It is in giving that we receive. —St. Francis of Assisi

**I commend you to God and to that gracious word of his that can build you up and give you the inheritance among all who are consecrated. —Acts 20: 32**

Gracious and loving God, bless our efforts to serve the needs of our growing parish as we seek to build a strong faith community on a firm foundation. Grant that our generous giving of ourselves in the wise investment and stewardship of our time, talent and treasure may return to us the blessings of abundant joy in our unity as a parish family and in our drawing closer to you.

Amen.

**Which one among you wishing to construct a building does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding yourself unable to finish the work, the onlookers should laugh at you and say, 'This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish. —Luke 14: 30**

Divine Master, you have blessed us with vital dreams for the future of our parish, in these trying times, give us the strength and courage to see them through. In solidarity with the brave efforts to rebuild New York City, now is the time to build up our families and our faith community on the firm foundation of your word and your loving presence in our lives. Strengthen our resolve to continue the good work you have begun in us as together we live our faith and build our future.

Amen.

**You did not choose me, I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures. Whatsoever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. —John 15: 16**

Eternal and Gracious Father, in the name of your Jesus your Son, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in our decisions and all our spiritual, physical and financial efforts to build our parish community, and thus receive your approval and divine blessing. May all our lives, from the youngest to seniors, be enhanced and supported, in mind, body and spirit, by the improvements we wish to make to our educational and community facilities.

We pray that the fruits of our labor bring glory to you, Father, and provide for the varied needs of our children families, groups and organizations.

Amen.

**Whatsoever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. —John 15: 16**

Dear Lord Jesus, as we prepare to step into the future  
in addressing the needs of our growing parish,  
help each of us open our minds and hearts to your Spirit.

May our vision of these needs be clear;  
guide us along the paths that will help us reach our goals.

May all our lives, from the youngest to seniors,  
be enhanced and supported, in mind, body and spirit,  
by the improvements we wish to make  
to our educational and community facilities.

May our generous gifts of our time, talent and treasure  
draw us closer to you and build your Body among us.

In your name, Jesus, we offer this prayer.

Amen.

### **Prayer for Committees and Organizations**

***Without me you can do nothing.... I appointed you to go and bear fruit that will last. —John 15: 5, 16***

Dear Jesus, help us open our minds and hearts to your grace.



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As each individual and each committee does its work,  
may the Holy Spirit direct every decision that is made  
so our efforts may bear abundant fruit in the faith life of our parish.

May our sacrifice of time, talent and treasure  
be united to the sacrifice you have made  
for the benefit of all people  
and bind us together as it draws us closer to you.

In your holy name, O Jesus, we offer this prayer.

Amen.

***Occupy yourself with my interest, and I will occupy myself with yours.*** —Our Lord's words to St. Teresa of Avila

### **Stewardship Prayer**

***As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.*** —1 Peter 4: 10  
***God gave [gifts]... to equip the holy ones for building up the body of Christ, until we attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the soul of God, to the full stature of Christ.*** —Ephesians 4: 11-13

Gracious God, we praise and thank you  
for the great power and tenderness of your love.  
Everything we are and everything we have is gift from you.  
Fill our minds with Christ's truth and our hearts with his love,  
so that in his Spirit we may be bonded together as a community of faith,  
built into Christ's body, a parish family, a caring people.  
In the name and spirit of Jesus, we commit ourselves  
to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us,  
to share our time, our talent and our material gifts  
as an outward sign of the treasure we hold in Jesus.

Amen.

***Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.*** —Psalm 127: 1  
***May your favor be upon us. Give success to the work of our hands.*** —Psalm 90: 17

Without you, gracious and loving God,  
what success can we hope for from the work of our hands?  
Yet with you we can do great things  
and bear much fruit, fruit that endures.  
Bless our efforts to meet the needs of our growing parish  
and to build a strong faith community on a firm foundation  
with Christ as our cornerstone  
and the Spirit as our binding force.  
Give success to the work of our hands.  
Give success to the work of our hands.  
Amen.

***If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy. Now, you are Christ's body.*** —1 Cor. 12: 26-27

Loving God, in these fearful and trying times, the people of our land  
have found great solidarity in our shared suffering and distress.  
Help us to see the improvements we wish to make



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to our educational and community facilities  
as a building up of Christ's body,  
a strengthening of the fabric of our parish family.

In a unity with the brave efforts to rebuild New York City,  
now is the time to build up our families and our faith community,  
so we may know the communion of our living together in Christ.  
Amen.

***We are God's co-workers...God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it.—1 Corinthians 3: 9-11  
Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house. —1 Peter 2: 5***

Divine Master, as we prepare to expand our educational and meeting facilities  
to meet the varied needs of our growing parish, make us mindful  
that whenever we look to the interests of our neighbor or our community  
and serve them,  
we are God's own co-workers in building the kingdom.

In building up our families and our faith community  
make us living stones united with Christ Jesus the Cornerstone  
built on a firm foundation of your word  
and your loving presence in our lives.

Strengthen our resolve to continue the good work you have begun in us  
as together we live our faith and build our future.

Amen.

The Bible is a book about giving with more promises related to giving than to any other subject. For example, the subject of "believing" appears 272 times, "prayer" 371 times, and "love" 714 times; while "giving" is mentioned 2,162 times! Jesus talked more about giving than anything else; more than half of the parables have to do with money and worldly goods.

“This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; the being thoroughly worn out before you are thrown on the scrap heap; the being a force of nature instead of a feverish selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.” --George Bernard Shaw

“NO person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.” --Calvin Coolidge

“When we grow old, there can only be one regret—not to have given enough of ourselves.” --Eleonora Duse

“No one would remember the Good Samaritan if he only had good intentions. He gave money as well.” --Margaret Thatcher

“Many people give a tenth to the Lord, --a tenth of what they ought to.”

“A cheerful giver does not count the cost of what he gives. His heart is set on pleasing and cheering him to whom the gift is given.” --Julain of Norwich 1373

“The earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind...”  
--Genesis 1:12

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” -- Galatians 6:7

Your seed must be planted.  
You must give your seed away to receive something.  
You must plant what you expect to harvest.



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Your harvest size is established when your seed is sown.  
Your seed must be planted in good ground.  
You must always wait a period of time between planting and harvesting.  
You must maintain your crops for a proper harvest.  
You must always sow to your harvest size, not from your harvest size.  
A part of your harvest is for sowing again.  
A part of your harvest is for you to keep.  
Your harvest is a miracle.

“Remember this—if you give little, you will get little. A farmer who plants just a few seeds will get only a small crop, but if he plants much, he will reap much.”

--II Corinthians 9:6 TLB

Seed—faith is giving away something you have...a seed...to create something you don't have. Faith is proof that something exists though we do not presently see it. When we agree in faith (St. Matthew 18:19) Blessings are inevitable!

“A hundred times each day I remind myself that my inner and outer life are based on the labors of other men, living and dead, and that I must exert myself in order to give an the same measures I have received and am still receiving.”

--Albert Einstein

“In your case it is easier to do good than to be good.” --Bill Kalahurka

“The sage does not accumulate for himself. The more he uses for others, the more he has himself. The more he gives to others, the more he possesses of his own. The way of heaven is to benefit others and not to injure.” --Lao Tzu

## **WE GIVE TO LOVE**

### **Giving is such a Selfish Thing**

#### **Notes and Quotes on the Joys of Heartfelt Service**

**John-Roger and Peter McWilliams**

*Hold Fast to the Great Image, and all the world will come to you and yours*  
tao te ching # 35

Harry Emerson Fosdick

The Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea are made of the same water. It flows down, clear and cool, from the heights of Hermon and the roots of the Cedars of Lebanon. The Sea of Galilee makes beauty of it, for the Sea of Galilee has an outlet. It gets to give. It gathers in its riches that it may pour them out again to fertilize the Jordan plain. But the Dead Sea with the same water makes horror. For the Dead Sea has no outlet. It gets to keep.

**Jesus of Nazareth** (Luke 12:48)

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

Seneca (**First Century**)

If wisdom were offered me with the proviso that I should keep it shut up and refrain from declaring it, I should refuse. There's no delight in owning anything unshared.



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**Jesus of Nazareth** (Luke 6:41-42)

Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye," when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

**Norman Vincent Peale**

The man who lives for himself is a failure. Even if he gains much wealth, position or power he still is a failure. The man who lives for others has achieved true success. A rich man who consecrates his wealth and his position to the good of humanity is a success. A poor man who gives of his service and his sympathy to others has achieved true success even though material prosperity or outward honors never come to him.

**Chinese Proverb** (Adopted as the motto of the Christophers)

It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

**Shakespeare**

How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a naughty world.

**Jesus of Nazareth** (Matthew 7:9-10)

Which of you if his son asks for bread will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?

**Jesus of Nazareth** (John 13:34-35)

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

**Jesus of Nazareth** (Mark 9:35)

If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all.

A lot of people are willing to give God the credit, but not too many are willing to give him the cash. (Author's note—We don't know where this one came from, but are bets are on "Laugh-In.")

**. . . Forgiveness** - Putting Principle (God) over personality

In *The Quest: A Journey of Spiritual Rediscovery*, the Jafollas write: "Your spiritual progress is at a standstill until you practice forgiveness. "Harboring unforgiveness and resentment in our hearts does not hurt others. It hurts us. It eats away at the soul, filling it with bitterness and blocking the free flow of God's love, which is the essence of our true nature."

**. . . Service as an Act of Devotion to God** - Putting God first in our actions

We believe all service is an act of devotion to God. We draw closer to God as we draw closer, in loving service, to each other. Service is a key part of spiritual growth and personal transformation. To evolve, you've got to get involved.

Albert Schweitzer said: "The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve." And Henry Drummond wrote: "You will find, as you look back upon your life, that the moments that stand out are the moments when you have done things for others."



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## **GIVE TO LIVE**

### **How Giving Can Change Your Life**

**Douglas M. Lawson, Ph.D.**

#### Physical Benefits

- Greater Longevity
- Significant reduction in toxic stress chemicals in the body (and so less stress)
- Enhanced functioning of the immune system
- Decreased metabolic rate
- Improved cardiovascular circulation
- Healthier sleep
- Help in maintaining good health

#### Emotional Benefits

- Increased self-acceptance
- Reduced self-absorption and sense of isolation
- Increased endorphin release (which provides a natural emotional “high”)
- Expanded sense of control over one’s life and circumstances
- Increased ability to cope with crises
- Stronger feelings of personal satisfaction
- Improved concentration and enjoyment of experiences
- Enhanced compassion, empathy, sensitivity to others
- Reduced inner stress and conflict

#### **Spiritual Benefits**

- Greater connectedness to God
- More receptivity to spiritual guidance
- Added involvement in charitable activity
- Heightened sense of appreciation and acceptance of others
- Sustained peace of mind
- Greater clarity about the meaning and purpose of life
- Enhanced equality of life

#### **Chinese Proverb**

A bit of fragrance always clings to the hand that gives you roses.

#### **Eleanor Roosevelt**

What shall I do with my life? How much am I willing to give of myself, of my time, of my love?

**Dr. Robert Schuller**, the pastor of the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California, said in his best seller *The Be Happy Attitudes*, “We all know people who do not lie, kill, steal... (who) live a life of ease, comfort and non-involvement. They appear to be kind and gentle and we are tempted to judge them to be ‘loving people’. But real love is sacrificial commitment. If they



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take no daring risk, they're good—but for what.” When Dr. Schuller asked psychologist **Dr. Joyce Brothers** what our deepest need was, she replies, “...human beings need love. It doesn't have to be the love between a man and a woman. It can be love of mankind.”

**Ralph Waldo Emerson** It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.

**Marte Dressler** Love is not getting but giving.

Peyton Conway March There is a wonderful mythical law of nature that the three things we crave most in life—happiness, freedom, and peace of mind—are always attained by giving them to someone else.

Dr. Dennis Jaffe in his book *Healing From Within* says, “Evidence is mounting that over-involvement with one-self, at the expense of the community, leads to psychological dislocation that results not only in anxiety but in various psychological ailments as well.”

**Leo Tolstoy**The sole meaning of life is to serve humanity.

### HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?

This is a very personal decision. Many Christians use the Bible's tithe as a guide.

They may:

- Offer 10% of their income
- Use 10% as a starting point, and increase the amount over time
- Set 10% as a goal, and try to work up to it

Many divide their gifts—they give half to the parish, and half to other church and community charities.

Some examples of sacrificial giving		
Weekly Income	10%	5%
\$150	\$15.00	\$7.50
\$200	\$20.00	\$10.00
\$250	\$25.00	\$12.50
\$300	\$30.00	\$15.00
\$350	\$35.00	\$17.50
\$400	\$40.00	\$20.00
\$450	\$45.00	\$22.50
\$500	\$50.00	\$25.00
\$1,000	\$100.00	\$50.00

### BEFORE YOU DECIDE

#### How much to give:

- Pray for guidance.
- Talk it over with your family.



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- Reflect on the meaning of “sacrifice.”
- Giving a bit more than feels comfortable can make your gift all the more selfless—and all the more satisfying.

So—

### **GIVE THANKS THROUGH SACRIFICIAL GIVING!**

- Share the gifts that God has given you.
- Experience the joy that putting God first in your life can bring.
- Set a loving example by giving regularly.

“Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake.”

--Deuteronomy 15:10

### **Excerpt from Tithing Is More Than the Number Ten**

*A Sermon* by **Albert C. Winn**

Did you ever see a ship launched? There she sits on the dry land, shored up by beams, perfectly safe, looking altogether out of place and utterly useless. Then the beams are removed and the champagne is broken across her bow. And, very slowly at first, but gathering speed and momentum she slides down the ways until she splashes into the water. And there is a sort of a shudder, and she rights herself. Then she's afloat. She is where she belongs. She's beautiful and useful, and terribly exciting. That is what happens when a Christian, including a minister or a presbytery stewardship chairperson, or synod stewardship chairperson, or staff person—when a Christian decides to launch out and begin to live by what we have called the deeply imbedded principles of tithing. Of course, I hope we raise the budget next year, the general assembly's budget, the synod's budget, the presbytery's budget, and the local church budget from which all the others come. But that is not a matter of eternal importance. What is eternally important is how many of our people, and how many of you this year, will take the risk and move down the ways of their lives until—splash—they are afloat where they belong, on the broad adventurous ocean of the love and mercy of God.

### **Excerpts from A Stewardship Tour of the Bible**

**By Albert C. Winn**

#### The Gospels

Jesus is, of course, the greatest stewardship teacher of them all, and the four Gospels are a mine of stewardship texts. Luke presents a dazzling array of stewardship parables:

- the two forgiven debtors (7:41-43);
- the good Samaritan (10:29-37); the rich fool (12:16-21);
- the faithful and wise steward (12:42-48);
- the fruitless fig tree (13:6-9); the unjust steward (16:1-9);
- the rich man and Lazarus (16:19-31);
- the pounds (19:11-17). Add to those the parables in Matthew about
- the treasure hidden in a field (13:44);
- the pearl of great price (13:45-46);
- the unforgiving servant (18:23-25);
- the laborers in the vineyard (20:1-16);
- the wise and foolish maidens (25:1-13);
- the talents (25:14-30); and finally the parable, or better



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the judgement scene, where all the passion of the prophets reaches a crescendo: In as much as you have done it (or have not done it) to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters you have done it (or have not done it) to me (25:31-46).

And then there are those brief, pungent poignant sayings. From Mark:

“For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it” (Mark 8:35).

“How hard it will be for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God” (Mark 10:23).

“Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age...with persecutions and in the age to come eternal life” (Mark 10:29-30).

“Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s and to God the things that are God’s” (Mark 12:17).

“Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on” (Mark 12:43-44).

And from Matthew, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19-21).

“You cannot serve God and wealth” (Matthew 6:24).

“But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33).

And from Luke: “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions” (Luke 12:15). “From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required” (Luke 12:48). In the Fourth Gospel, we find the stewardship of time:

“We must work the works of him that sent me while it is day: night is coming when no one can work” (John 9:4). And we have an arresting statement of God’s own stewardship:

“God so love the world that he gave his only son” (John 3:16).

“What do you have that you did not receive?” (1Corinthians 4:7);

“If I give away all my possessions...but do not have love, I gain nothing; (1 Corinthians 13:3); “Be sure of this, ... no one who is greedy (that is, an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God (Ephesians 5:5).”

The biblical study of stewardship is uncomfortable when its aim is simply to find a few texts that will separate Presbyterians from enough of their surplus cash to keep the institutional church running one more year. It is far more uncomfortable when its aim is to lay out the whole biblical panorama of stewardship and to show its application, not just to Sunday giving, but to the economic order and style of life to which we have become accustomed. As our culture grows more and more selfish, more and more materialistic, as we approach the limits of our planet, such a study becomes a matter of life and death. May the Holy Spirit give us the courage to listen to the whole of God’s Word and to reshape our lives as true stewards of all God’s gifts.

1. “It’s amazing to me that Jack (Whittaker) giving \$17 million is such big news, when Jesus gave everything and there is no news.” — **Gerald S. Abreu**, co-beneficiary of the West Virginia lottery winner’s tithe to three pastors (fl. 2002)
2. “If ye love wealth greater than liberty, the tranquillity of servitude greater than the animating contest for freedom, go home from us in peace. We seek not your counsel, nor your arms. Crouch down and lick the hand that feeds you; May your chains set lightly upon you, and may posterity forget that ye were our countrymen.” — **Samuel Adams** (1722-1803)
3. “Seek joy in what you give not in what you get.” — **Anonymous**
4. “Real charity doesn’t care if it’s tax deductible or not.” — **Anonymous**



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5. “The Dead Sea is the dead sea because it continually receives and never gives.” — **Anonymous**
6. “Thank the Lord that you can give instead of depending on others to give to you.” — **Anonymous**
7. “Charity begins at home and generally dies from lack of outdoor exercise.” — **Anonymous**
8. “Of all the varieties of virtue, liberality is the most beloved.” — **Aristotle** (384-322 B.C.)
9. “Money is a great treasure that only increases as you give it away.” — **Lord Francis Bacon** (1561-1626)
10. “A man should fear when he enjoys only the good he does publicly. Is it not, publicity rather than charity, which he loves? Is it not vanity, rather than benevolence, that gives such charities?” — **Henry Ward Beecher** (1813-87)
11. “Watch lest prosperity destroy generosity.” — **Henry Ward Beecher** (1813-87)
12. “We can either use our money to serve our God or our god *will be* our money.” — **Denny Bellesi** (1951-)
13. “It is an anomaly of modern life that many find giving to be a burden. Such persons have omitted a preliminary giving. If one first gives himself to the Lord, all other giving is easy.” — **John S. Bonnell** (1893-1992)
14. “Examples are few of men ruined by giving.” — **Christian Bovée**
15. “It is possible to give without loving, but it is impossible to love without giving.” — **Richard Braunstein**
16. “Be charitable before wealth makes thee covetous.” — **Sir Thomas Browne** (1605-82)
17. “Generosity lies less in giving much than in giving at the right moment.” — **Jean de La Bruyère** (1645-96)
18. “You have not lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.” — **John Bunyan** (1628-88)
19. “He who bestows his goods upon the poor shall have as much again, and ten times more.” — **John Bunyan** (1628-88)
20. “A man there was, and they called him mad; the more he gave, the more he had.” — **John Bunyan** (1628-88)
21. “Getters generally don’t get happiness; givers get it.” — **Charles H. Burr**
22. “Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others.” — **Barbara Bush** (1925-)
23. “We must make the invisible kingdom visible in our midst.” — **John Calvin** (1509-64)
24. “It is more difficult to give money away intelligently than it is to earn it in the first place.” — **Andrew Carnegie** (1835-1919)
25. “We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.” — **Winston Churchill** (1874-1965)
26. “Posthumous charities are the very essence of selfishness when bequeathed by those who, even alive, would part with nothing.” — **Charles Caleb Colton** (1780-1832)



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27. “Public charities and benevolent associations for the gratuitous relief of every species of distress, are peculiar to Christianity; no other system of civil or religious policy has originated them; they form its highest praise and characteristic feature.” — **Charles Caleb Colton** (1780-1832)
28. “No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.” — **President Calvin Coolidge** (1872-1933)
29. “Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord they God which he hath given thee.” — **Deuteronomy 16:17**
30. “He is no fool who gives what he can not keep to gain what he can not lose.” — **Jim Elliot** (1927-56)
31. “Give naught, get same. Give much, get same.” — **Malcolm Forbes** (1919-90)
32. “No one has ever become poor by giving.” — **Anne Frank** (1929-45)
33. “Charity gives itself rich; covetousness hoards itself poor.” — **German Proverb**
34. “The truly generous is truly wise, and he who loves not others, lives unblest.” — **Bishop Home** (1722-1808)
35. “If you haven’t got any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble.” — **Bob Hope** (1903-)
36. “I have watched hundreds of Christians in my time become financially blessed then develop an acquisitive streak that in turn makes their souls as metallic as the coins they seek.” — **Selwyn Hughes**
37. “Remember this—you can’t serve God *and* Money, but you can serve God *with* money.” — **Selwyn Hughes**
38. “The charity that hastens to proclaim its good deeds, ceases to be charity. And is only pride and ostentation.” — **William Hutton** (1723-1815)
39. “Dearest lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost.” — **Ignatius of Loyola** (1491-1556)
40. “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” — **Jesus**, in Acts 20:35
41. “A road that perhaps more than any other leads to self atrophy is undedicated money.” — **E. Stanley Jones** (1884-1973)
42. “You only get to keep what you give away.” — **Sheldon Kopp**
43. “The only investment I ever made which has paid consistently increasing dividends is the money I have given to the Lord.” — **James L. Kraft** (1874-1953)
44. “The greatest pleasure I know is to do a good action by stealth, and to have it found out by accident.” — **Charles Lamb** (1775-1834)
45. “Let him who exhorts others to give, give himself.” — **Latin Proverb**
46. “Nothing that you have not given away will ever be really yours.” — **Sinclair Lewis** (1885-1951)
47. “To give without any reward, or any notice, has a special quality of its own.” — **Anne Morrow Lindbergh** (1906-2001)



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48. "I will place no value on anything I have or possess except in relation to the Kingdom of Christ. If anything I have will advance that Kingdom, it shall be given or kept whichever will best promote the glory of Him to whom I owe all my hopes, both for time and eternity."— **David Livingstone** (1813-1873)
49. "Give what you have. To someone it may be better than you dare to think." — **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow** (1807-82)
50. "The gift without the giver is rare." — **James Russell Lowell** (1819-91)
51. "Not what we give, but what we share, For the gift without a giver is bare. Who gives himself with alms feeds three, Himself, his hungering neighbor and Me." — **James Russell Lowell** (1819-91)
52. "The heart of a giver makes the gift dear and precious." — **Martin Luther** (1483-1546)
53. "I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess." — **Martin Luther** (1483-1546)
54. "Generosity during life is a very different thing from generosity in the hour of death; one proceeds from genuine liberality and benevolence, the other from pride or fear." — **Horace Mann**
55. "If it is more blessed to give than to receive, then most of us are content to let the other fellow have the greater blessing." — **Shailer Matthews** (1863-1941)
56. "The worship offering [is] a pure gift to God in thankful-ness for what we have already received. It should therefore be an exciting and major part of the service." — **Lynn A. Miller**
57. "Stewardship is the act of organizing your life so that God can spend you." — **Lynn A. Miller**
58. "I am convinced that the devil has caused the subject of giving to stir up resistance and resentment among God's people because he knows there are few ways of spiritual enrichment like the exercise of faithful stewardship." — **Stephen Olford**
59. "The gift derives its value from the rank of the giver." — **Ovid** (43 B.C.-17 A.D.)
60. "He who is not liberal with what he has, does but deceive himself when he thinks he would be liberal if he had more." — **William S. Plumer**
61. "One man gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want." — **Proverbs 11:24**
62. "He that gives all, though but little, gives much; because God looks not to the quantity of the gift, but to the quality of the givers." — **Francis Quarles** (1592-1644)
63. "Proportion thy charity to the strength of thine estate, lest God proportion thine estate to the weakness of thy charity. Let the lips of the poor be the trumpet of thy gift, lest in seeking applause, thou lose thy reward. Nothing is more pleasing to God than an open hand and a closed mouth." — **Francis Quarles** (1592-1644)
64. "I never would have been able to tithe the first million dollars I ever made if I had not tithed my first salary, which was \$1.50 per week." — **John D. Rockefeller, Sr.** (1839-1937)
65. "Think of giving not as a duty but as a privilege." — **John D. Rockefeller, Jr.** (1874-1961)



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66. "He who gives while he lives, get to know where it goes." — **Percy Ross** (1916-2001)
67. "A benefit consists not in that which is done or given, but in the intention of the giver or doer." — **Seneca** (4 B.C.-65 A.D.)
68. "Never measure your generosity by what you give, but rather by what you have left." — **Bishop Fulton J. Sheen** (1895-1979)
69. "Our true acquisitions lie only in our charities — we gain only as we give." — **William Gilmore Simms** (1806-70)
70. "If there be any truer measure of a man than by what he does, it must be by what he gives." — **Robert South** (1634-1716)
71. "Almost always the most indigent are the most generous." — **Stanislas, King of Poland** (1677-1766)
72. "Defer not charities till death. He that does so is rather liberal of another man's substance than his own." — **L.M. Stretch** (fl. 1800)
73. "A gift is acceptable according to what the giver has, not according to what he has not." — **John R.W. Stott** (1921-)
74. "We can all be stimulated to greater generosity by the known generosity of others." — **John R.W. Stott** (1921-)
75. "We are rich only through what we give: and poor only through what we refuse and keep." — **Anne Swetchine** (1782-1857)
76. "He, who gives what he would as readily throw away, gives without generosity; for the essence of generosity is in self-sacrifice." — **Jeremy Taylor** (1613-67)
77. "It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving." — **Mother Teresa** (1910-97)
78. "One promises much, to avoid giving little." — **Luc, Marquis de Vauvenargues** (1715-47)
79. "I believe with all of my heart that God's people possess God's provision to accomplish and fulfill God's purposes in the world." — **Joel Vestal**
80. "If I cannot give bountifully, yet will I give freely." — **Arthur Warwick**
81. "Earn as much as you can. Save as much as you can. Invest as much as you can. Give as much as you can." — **John Wesley** (1703-91)
82. "I judge all things only by the price they shall gain in eternity." — **John Wesley** (1703-91)

#### **PRAYER:**

Prayer is vital to everything we do as we seek the direction  
of the Holy Spirit to empower our lives.  
Ephesians 6;18; Colossians 4:2,3

#### **WORSHIP:**

We passionately worship God, experiencing His life  
changing presence.  
Mark 12:30; Pslam 95:1,2,6



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**EVANGELISM:**

Lost people matter to God and their salvation is important to us.  
Colossians 4:5,6; Luke 19:10

**DISCIPLESHIP:**

We teach God's Word boldly and build relationships in which  
we hold each other accountable.  
Acts 20:20; II Timothy 1:2, 3:16,17

**SERVICE:**

We are called to use our gifts in loving service.  
Matthew 25:40; Romans 12:4,5

**COMMUNITY:**

As God's family, we honor each other in love.  
Romans 12:10; I Peter 3:8,9

**EXCELLENCE:**

We serve the Lord with our whole heart.  
Colossians 3:23,24; I Corinthians 10:31

**INTEGRITY:**

Following Christ's example we strive to live and  
speak with integrity.  
Psalm 19:14; Titus 2:7,8

**STEWARDSHIP:**

We recognize that all we have belongs to God, and we cheerfully give our time, talents and resources for His glory.  
Romans 12:1,2; Malachi 3:10

**NETWORKING:**

We are called to serve the greater body of Christ by encouraging, sending, equipping and sharing resources.  
Romans 12:4,5; Ephesians 4:11-13,16

love those who love you, what reward will you get?" (*Mat 5:43-46*)

. . . **Tithing** - Putting God first in our resources

"The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first in your life." (*Deut 14:23*)

Stewardship Preparation and Perspectives

"To whom much is given, much is expected." --Luke 12:48

"Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap" --Galatians 6:7

"For it is in giving that we receive." --St. Francis of Assisi

"Money giving is very good criterion of a person's mental health. Generous people are rarely mentally ill people." --Karl Menninger, MD



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“We should give as we would receive, cheerfully, quickly, and without hesitation.” --Seneca

“All worthwhile humans have good thoughts, ideas and good intentions, precious few of them ever translate those into action.” --John Hancock

“Whatsoever you did for the least of my brothers, you did for me.”  
--Matthew 25:40

“A widow gave two copper coins to the church. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “That poor widow gave more than all the others...she put in everything she had.” --Mark 12:41

“The kingdom of heaven is near... Freely you have received, now freely give.”  
--Matthew 10:7

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged...forgive and you will be forgiven, give and it will be given to you. For the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” --Luke 6:37

“People do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl. They put it on a stand to give light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”  
--Matthew 5:15

“God loveth a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7, “He also accepteth from a grouch.”