

10. Give Adventurously - "Test me in this...if I will not open the windows of heaven for you..." If you cheat God, you will live under a curse. If you give Him all He is due, the windows of heaven will open and pour out blessings all over you. They may or may not be financial, but they'll be great and wonderful, just like our God.

Giving to God is an adventure of faith. It is an opportunity to exercise our faith muscles as we give Him the chance to prove Himself faithful. God is inviting us to test His eager desire to bless us if we will only give him our tithes and offerings in the way He has commanded.

What do you say? Will you accept His invitation?



A Guide to Giving...

Worshiping Christ as we give our offerings in obedience...



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By Pastor Jake Porter

Four Foundational Principles...

What is it about money that we love so much? And how are we, as Christians, supposed to give of our monetary wealth to God and the work of His Kingdom?

This pamphlet contains ten points based on Scripture to guide your giving. Look up the verses in context for yourself, and pray about how the Lord would lead you to give back to Him from all that He has given to you.

This ten-point pattern is based on four foundational principles found in Scripture:

4 Foundational Principles

1. Everything Comes from God. (Psalm 24:1, 50:10-12; Haggai 2:8)

God is the Creator of all things. Nothing was made apart from Him.

2. Everything Belongs to God. (1 Chron. 29:12; Pro. 10:22; James 1:17)

Because God is the Creator of all, He has rights over all. Everything we have is "on loan" from God.

3. Everything Needed Comes from God. (Psalm 24:8-10, 25:12-14, 33:18-22; Matthew 6:24-34)

God promises to provide for our daily needs. While this does not mean that we can sit back and do nothing, it does mean we can live without anxiety regarding basic provisions.

4. Everything of this World is Unreliable. (Job 30:15; Proverb 11:28; Ecclesiastes 5:10; 1 Timothy 6:17)

One day everything in this world will fade away and be no more. All that



will last are the souls of people and the impact we have made for God's Kingdom. This makes love for money and stuff seem really silly.

10-Point Pattern for Giving

Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all contentment in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:7-8

1. Give Willingly - "not reluctantly or under compulsion." This doesn't mean that if you are reluctant you should not give. It means that if you are reluctant when you give, you should pray that God will change your heart.
2. Give Cheerfully - "God loves a cheerful giver." You are not fully obeying God if you give in a stingy, protesting, or otherwise unhappy manner.

Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

3. Give Personally - "each of you." Everyone who earns money (no matter where it comes from) should give.
4. Give systematically - "on the first day of every week." While Paul suggests weekly giving, this more broadly implies regular amounts at times determined beforehand. We are not to allow fear or financial pressure to cause us from straying from what we have committed to giving.
5. Giving proportionally - "as he may prosper." The more you receive, the more you give back. It is undeniably clear that when God gives greater wealth, we are to give a greater amount. While the Old Testament clearly taught the principle of the tithe (10%), the New Testament has no clear command except that we are to give proportionately and sacrificially.

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich... For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness.

2 Corinthians 8:9-14

6. Give Like Christ - "though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor..." Christ gave in such a way that it truly affected Him. He gave sacrificially, and so should we. If we give only an amount that will keep us from "feeling it," we are not truly giving an offering to God. Our offerings to God should be made in a Christ-centered, self-denying way.



The great price Jesus paid for us should motivate us to look beyond our comfort as we give our offerings.

7. Give Sensibly - "not according to what he does not have." Here is the flip side of number six. We are not supposed to give more than we can realistically afford. Do not literally give all you have and then wonder why God did not provide dinner! The degree of sacrifice in our giving should be determined by the Holy Spirit's leading.

Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:2-4

8. Give Discreetly - "do not let your left hand know what your right is doing." Give secretly. Remember the story of the widow who gave the two mites. God is not impressed by the amount, large or small, but by the heart's motivation. Your giving is not for you or your reputation.

Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.

1 Corinthians 4:2

9. Give Faithfully - "they must be found trustworthy." Remember that all that "stuff" you have isn't yours at all, but God's. You have been given the responsibility of using all He has put under your care for His Kingdom. He's promised that He will reward faithfulness both in the life to come.

Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

Malachi 3:8-10