

# **BIBLICAL GIVING**

**12 Traits of a Biblical Church**

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## REVIEW

1. Biblical Preaching and Teaching
2. Biblical Prayer
3. Biblical Evangelism
4. Biblical Discipleship
5. Biblical Membership
6. Biblical Leadership
7. Biblical Fellowship
8. Biblical Accountability and Discipline
9. Biblical Worship
10. Biblical Ordinances

## BIBLICAL GIVING

*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. 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.*

1 Timothy 6:9-10

*Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. <sup>2</sup>Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days.*

James 5:1-3

*It is difficult for the rich to enter the kingdom of God.*

Mark 10:23

*Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Matthew 6:21

*<sup>42</sup>And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup>And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

Acts 2:42-47

*<sup>32</sup>Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. <sup>33</sup>And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold <sup>35</sup>and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. <sup>36</sup>Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, <sup>37</sup>sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.*

Acts 4:32-37

*Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.*

1 Corinthians 16:1-4

## WHY do we give?

- We give as an expression of God's worship.
- We give as the overflow of God's grace.

*We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, <sup>2</sup>for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. <sup>3</sup>For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, <sup>4</sup>begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— <sup>5</sup>and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. <sup>6</sup>Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. <sup>7</sup>But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. <sup>8</sup>I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. <sup>9</sup>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.*

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

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

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

## WHO gives?

- Every follower of Jesus.

## WHERE do we give?

- We give to and through the church.

## WHEN do we give?

- We give regularly.

## HOW MUCH do we give?

- In the Old Testament...

- Tithes were given to support God's people.

*Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the LORD's; it is holy to the LORD.*  
Leviticus 27:30

<sup>21</sup> "To the Levites I have given every tithe in Israel for an inheritance, in return for their service that they do, their service in the tent of meeting, <sup>22</sup> so that the people of Israel do not come near the tent of meeting, lest they bear sin and die. <sup>23</sup> But the Levites shall do the service of the tent of meeting, and they shall bear their iniquity. It shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations, and among the people of Israel they shall have no inheritance. <sup>24</sup> For the tithe of the people of Israel, which they present as a contribution to the LORD, I have given to the Levites for an inheritance. Therefore I have said of them that they shall have no inheritance among the people of Israel."  
Numbers 18:21-24

<sup>22</sup> "You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. <sup>23</sup> And before the LORD your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always.  
Deuteronomy 14:22-23

<sup>28</sup> "At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. <sup>29</sup> And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.  
Deuteronomy 14:28-29

- Firstfruit offerings were given to present the best before God.

<sup>16</sup> You shall keep the Feast of Harvest, of the firstfruits of your labor, of what you sow in the field. You shall keep the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in from the field the fruit of your labor.  
Exodus 23:16

<sup>22</sup> You shall observe the Feast of Weeks, the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year's end.  
Exodus 34:22

<sup>23</sup> "When you come into the land and plant any kind of tree for food, then you shall regard its fruit as forbidden. Three years it shall be forbidden to you; it must not be eaten. <sup>24</sup> And in the fourth year all its fruit shall be holy,

*an offering of praise to the LORD. <sup>25</sup> But in the fifth year you may eat of its fruit, to increase its yield for you: I am the LORD your God.*

*Leviticus 19:23-25*

*<sup>20</sup> Of the first of your dough you shall present a loaf as a contribution; like a contribution from the threshing floor, so shall you present it. <sup>21</sup> Some of the first of your dough you shall give to the LORD as a contribution throughout your generations.*

*Numbers 15:20-21*

- Freewill offerings were given to offer excess to God.

*<sup>29</sup> All the men and women, the people of Israel, whose heart moved them to bring anything for the work that the LORD had commanded by Moses to be done brought it as a freewill offering to the LORD.*

*Exodus 35:29*

*<sup>3</sup> And they received from Moses all the contribution that the people of Israel had brought for doing the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him freewill offerings every morning, <sup>4</sup> so that all the craftsmen who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task that he was doing, <sup>5</sup> and said to Moses, “The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the LORD has commanded us to do.” <sup>6</sup> So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp, “Let no man or woman do anything more for the contribution for the sanctuary.” So the people were restrained from bringing, <sup>7</sup> for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more.*

*Exodus 36:3-7*

*<sup>5</sup> But you shall seek the place that the LORD your God will choose out of all your tribes to put his name and make his habitation there. There you shall go, <sup>6</sup> and there you shall bring your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the contribution that you present, your vow offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herd and of your flock. <sup>7</sup> And there you shall eat before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your households, in all that you undertake, in which the LORD your God has blessed you.*

*Deuteronomy 12:5-7*

*<sup>3</sup> And they received from Moses all the contribution that the people of Israel had brought for doing the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him freewill offerings every morning, <sup>4</sup> so that all the craftsmen who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task that he was doing, <sup>5</sup> and said to Moses, “The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the LORD has commanded us to do.” <sup>6</sup> So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp, “Let no man or woman do anything more for the contribution for the sanctuary.” So the people were restrained from bringing, <sup>7</sup> for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more.*

*Exodus 36:3-7*

- In the New Testament...

- We do not see a specific command to tithe.
- We see many examples of giving that go beyond the tithe.

<sup>32</sup> "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.

<sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Luke 12:32-34

<sup>18</sup> And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>19</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. <sup>20</sup> You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" <sup>21</sup> And he said, "All these I have kept from my youth." <sup>22</sup> When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

<sup>23</sup> But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. <sup>24</sup> Jesus, seeing that he had become sad, said, "How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." <sup>26</sup> Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" <sup>27</sup> But he said, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."

<sup>28</sup> And Peter said, "See, we have left our homes and followed you." <sup>29</sup> And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, <sup>30</sup> who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life."

Luke 18:18-30

He entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup> And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. <sup>3</sup> And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. <sup>4</sup> So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. <sup>5</sup> And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." <sup>6</sup> So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully.

<sup>7</sup> And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." <sup>8</sup> And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." <sup>9</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Luke 19:1-10

<sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Acts 2:44-45

<sup>32</sup> Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. <sup>33</sup> And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> There

*was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold <sup>35</sup> and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. <sup>36</sup> Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, <sup>37</sup> sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.*  
Acts 4:32-37

- Today...

- Seriously consider \_\_\_\_\_ starting \_\_\_\_\_ your giving with a tithe.
- Tithing honors a biblical \_\_\_\_\_ principle \_\_\_\_\_ that the Old Testament explains, Jesus endorses, and the church has practiced.

*<sup>41</sup> But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you. <sup>42</sup> "But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.*  
Luke 11:41-42

*"The Jews were constrained to a regular payment of tithes; Christians, who have liberty assign all their possessions to the Lord, bestowing freely not the lesser portions of their property, since they have the hope of greater things."  
Irenaeus*

*"Tithes are required as a matter of debt, and he who has been unwilling to give them has been guilty of robbery. Whosoever, therefore, desires to secure a reward for himself...let him render tithes, and out of the nine parts let him seek to give alms."  
Augustine*

- Continually expand your giving \_\_\_\_\_ beyond \_\_\_\_\_ the tithe.

*<sup>6</sup> But godliness with contentment is great gain, <sup>7</sup> for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. <sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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.*  
1 Timothy 6:6-10

*<sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, <sup>19</sup> 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.*  
1 Timothy 6:17-19

## WHAT HAPPENS when we give?

- Our hearts will be changed.
- The church will be edified.
- God will be glorified.

*<sup>6</sup>The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup>As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." <sup>10</sup>He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. <sup>12</sup>For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. <sup>13</sup>By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, <sup>14</sup>while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!*

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

### Practical Takeaway

- In a few sentences, write out a plan for how you will give biblically of your financial resources as a follower of Jesus.