

## Basic Disciplines for Believers: #4 – Generous Giving

### REVIEW

#1: **Bible Saturation** (Joshua 1:8) – #2: **Continual Prayer** (Colossians 4:2) – #3: **Willful Submission** (Romans 13:1-2)

**Generous Giving: I am responding to God's giving by giving myself and my resources for His use.**

2 Cor 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

1 John 3:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

Prov 3:9-10 <sup>9</sup>Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; <sup>10</sup>So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

Acts 20:35 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.' "

### Why Give

Ask yourself two questions as you review each item on this list: (1) *What has been my response to this gift?*, and (2) *Does my giving reflect God's giving?*

1. God Gives In the Realm of Creation
2. God Gives In the Realm of Provision
3. God Gives In the Realm of Family
4. God Gives In the Realm of Salvation
  - A. GOD GAVE HIS SON:
  - B. THE SON (JESUS) GAVE HIS LIFE:
  - C. GOD GAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT
  - D. GOD GIVES FORGIVENESS AND ETERNAL LIFE
5. God Gives In the Realm of Sanctification (to enable, grow and change us)
6. God Gives In the Realm of Service
7. God Gives In the Realm of Satisfaction
8. God Gives In the Realm of Eternity

### What Do I Give

1. ME – I Give Myself to God
2. MIND – I Give My Thoughts to God
3. MUSCLE – I Give My Energy To God
4. MINUTES – I am to give my time to the Lord.
5. MY FAMILY – I give my family to God.
6. MONEY – I Give My Money To God (Luke 14...)
  - a) To Honor God and Acknowledge His Ownership
  - b) To Promote Eternal Things
  - c) To Help Others
  - d) To Support Pastors
  - e) To Support Evangelizers

### How Do I Give?

#### 1. **Worshipfully**

Deut 14:22-23 <sup>22</sup>"You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year. <sup>23</sup>And you shall eat before the Lord your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. ("It's not a money issue. It's a heart issue.")

#### 2. **Sacrificially**

Mark 12:43-44 <sup>43</sup>So He called His disciples to *Himself* and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; <sup>44</sup>for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."

#### 3. **Voluntarily**

2 Cor 8:3 For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were* freely willing,

#### 4. **Proportionally**

Luke 12:48 But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

#### 5. **Generously**

2 Cor 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

#### 6. **Cheerfully**

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

#### 7. **Regularly**

1 Cor 16:1-2 <sup>1</sup>Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: <sup>2</sup>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.

## 8. **Initially**

1 Kings 17:13 And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go *and* do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring *it* to me; and afterward make *some* for yourself and your son.

## 9. **Secretly or Anonymously**

Matt 6:1-4 <sup>1</sup>"Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

## 10. **Responsively**

Gal 6:6-9 <sup>6</sup>Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. <sup>7</sup>Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. <sup>8</sup>For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. <sup>9</sup>And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

1 Tim 5:17-18 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer [is] worthy of his wages."

## 11. **Expectantly**

Matt 6:19-21 <sup>19</sup>"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

2 Cor 9:6-8 <sup>6</sup>But this *I say*: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>*So let each one give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work.

Phil 4:19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

## 12. **Eternally**

1 Tim 6:17-19 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. [Let them] do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

## 13. **Purposefully (for the right purpose):**

- To reflect God
- To acknowledge God's ownership (that's why He comes first)
- To assist those in need
- To support those in vocational ministry

## The Benefits of Giving

### 1. **I reflect God's character (John 3:16; Rom 6:23; 2 Cor 9:15)**

### 2. **I obey God's commands (Luke 6:38)**

Luke 6:38 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."

### 3. **I acknowledge God's ownership of all my possessions (Ps 24:1; Prov 3:9-10; 1 Cor 4:7)**

Psalms 24:1 A Psalm of David. The earth *is* the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.

### 4. **I support God's workers (Gal 6:6-10; 1 Tim 5:17-18)**

Gal 6:6-10 <sup>6</sup>Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. <sup>7</sup>Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. <sup>8</sup>For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. <sup>9</sup>And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. <sup>10</sup>Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

### 5. **I further God's message (2 Cor 8:9; 1 Cor 9:4-14; Phil 4:10-19)**

2 Cor 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

### 6. **I help God's needy people (2 Cor 8:1-14; 9:1-17; 1 Jn 3:16-18)**

James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

1 John 3:16-18 <sup>16</sup>By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. <sup>17</sup>But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? <sup>18</sup>My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

### 7. **I experience God's gracious rewards now and in eternity**

Luke 6:38 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."

### 8. **To enjoy and facilitate meeting places and modern comforts (any relation to the OT temple?)**

## The Truth About Tithing

### 1. **Where does tithing first show up? (Gen 14:20 – Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek)**

### 2. **What spiritual purpose did God give for the tithe? (Deut 14:22-23 "that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always")**

### 3. **What is to be tithed? (Lev 27:30-32; Deut 14:22-23; 26:12-13; Prov 3:9-10 – The firstfruits, all increase, firstborn)**

### 4. **How is the tithe viewed by God? (Lev 27:30; Mal 3:8 – The tithe is holy to the Lord; not tithing = robbery)**

### 5. **What are the blessings of tithing? (Mal 3:10-11 – God's protection & provision)**

### 6. **Is giving still important? (Matt 23:23 – not all that we do, but still a focus)**

### 7. **What is different now? (Gal 6:6-9; 2 Cor 9:1-8 – the top limit is off; we are encouraged to give sacrificially)**