

# Giving

## Is Giving Biblical?

Giving is referenced in both the Old Testament and New Testament hundreds of times. Many of Jesus's parables allude to stewardship. Whether one focuses on tithing (the call to give a tenth of our earnings), or sharing of one's time, talents, or material possessions, God models sacrificial generosity and invites us to spread his love and build His kingdom by doing the same thing.

Scripture references that remind us of the importance of giving:

*The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first. Deuteronomy 14:23*

*Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best. Proverbs 3:9-10*

*"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 floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. Malachi 3:10*

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7*

*And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God. Hebrews 13:16*

Additional passages: Genesis 4:17-20, Genesis 28:22, Deuteronomy 12, 14, 26, Malachi 3:8, Matthew 23:23, Matthew 6:21, 2 Corinthians 9:6-10, and Matthew 5:17.

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## Why do we give?

As Christians, we understand our relationship to God and our possessions. The Bible makes it clear that God made everything. God is the owner, and He gave us everything we have; we have a responsibility to be good stewards of what God has given us. God does not need our money, but the people of God can be blessed with our resources. The act of giving also creates a space where God often changes our hearts. In this way, our stewardship becomes an act of gratitude to His glory and the perpetuation of his Kingdom.