

10

DISCIPLESHIP





Copyright © 2017 Graceway

All rights in this book are reserved. No part of the text may be reproduced in any form without written permission of the author.

Published by Graceway
5460 Blue Ridge Cut-off
Kansas City, Missouri 64133
816-358-1515

Printed in the United States of America
ISBN 13: 978-0-692-84915-6

*All scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version.
Bold portions of text denote emphasis added by the author.*

To order more go to realityliving.org.

LESSON 10: GIVING

“What is the Meaning of Giving and What Are My Responsibilities in this Area?”

Giving is an extremely controversial subject in Christianity today largely due to the severe pressures exerted on God's people to give to so many worthy causes. This is perhaps one of the most misunderstood subjects in Christianity.

Before you can properly understand the nature of New Testament giving, you must understand one fact clearly: **God does not need your money** – He owns everything.

This lesson will deal with your responsibility in stewardship of your **life** as well as your resources.

- I. Biblical giving begins with your life.
 - A. God bought you with a price, His blood, and you belong to Him.
I Corinthians 6:19-20
 - B. God commands you to present your **body** as a living sacrifice, not just your pocketbook.
Romans 12:1

- C. God will always bless **your gift**. But a willing mind and heart with a life committed to serve God must accompany financial giving in order for God to bless **you**.

II Corinthians 8:3-5, 12; Exodus 25:2

II. Biblical giving accomplishes several purposes.

- A. Giving proves the sincerity of your love for Jesus Christ.

II Corinthians 8:8

- B. Giving develops an attitude of grace. It takes no special talents or abilities to give, only grace.

II Corinthians 8:6-7, 9:8

- C. Giving is an investment in eternal riches, removing your focus from earthly riches which will eventually fade away.

Philippians 4:17; Matthew 6:19-21

D. Giving shows that God is your priority.

Exodus 22:29-30, 13:12-13, 34:19-20, 26

E. Giving shows your dependence upon God to bless all of your substance, not just what you give to Him. Simply giving God your leftovers does not show your trust in Him.

Proverbs 3:9-10

III. Biblical giving has a clear destination.

A. Biblical giving first supports God's missions through the local church.

1. That is what it means to bring God's tithes into the storehouse – it is God's structure through which He accomplishes His mission in the world.

Malachi 3:8-10; I Corinthians 16:1-2

2. The tithe has to be brought to the storehouse so there is meat in God's house. That is God's priority.

Galatians 6:10

B. Biblical giving can reach beyond the local church but must not conflict with your responsibility toward it.

1. Obviously, anyone is free to give to causes outside the local church. But you cannot count that as tithing because it is the local church which is central in God's plan.

2. Any giving outside of the church should never be done at the expense of the work of the church. God will lead you in **all** giving to the church – time and service as well as money.

II Chronicles 31:11-12; Deuteronomy 12:5-7

3. Bring your giving to the place where God's servants can use it to take care of the house God has bought as they follow His Spirit. Otherwise, we are robbing God.

Malachi 3:8

IV. Biblical giving is how God intended to meet practical needs in and through the local church.

A. Church leaders are supported by your biblical giving.

*I Corinthians 9:11, 13-14; Galatians 6:6;
I Timothy 5:17-18*

- B. Other works of God are supported through your biblical giving to your local church.

Philippians 4:15-16; I Corinthians 16:1-2

- C. Those within the church body who are **UNABLE** to support themselves are helped through your biblical giving to the local church.

Acts 6:1; I Timothy 5:16, 9-10

1. Those who receive such help should have proven themselves faithful under New Testament guidelines.
2. These needs should be confirmed by your pastor.

- D. Other needs will be met by your biblical giving as determined by the leadership of your church.

II Corinthians 8:4; Acts 11:27-30

- V. Biblical giving is systematic and grows as you grow.
You begin by giving your **life**. Your giving is to be out of a willing heart and because you love the Lord Jesus Christ.

II Corinthians 8:4-5

Let us examine types of giving from the Bible:

- A. The tithe – this is for management. Tithing was practiced by God's people even before the law of Moses. We see this when Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedec. The tithe was one-tenth of a person's income. In addition, it had to be taken off the top (first fruits). Even though it was such a small amount, it was given first to show that God was the priority.

Exodus 23:16, 19; Deuteronomy 26:2

The test of a right relationship with this church is that a person starts **tithing**.

I Corinthians 16:1-2

1. The principles of the Old Testament establish patterns for our relationship with God.

I Corinthians 10: 11, Romans 15:4

2. The goal of tithing is to aim for transformed lives by funding the general budget of the church – the many logistical necessities to assure the smooth and uninterrupted functioning of the local church.

B. Offerings – this is for ministry. The goal of giving is to expand the church's ministries by funding the special projects and ministries established through your church.

This is where a person can mature in giving and go above the tithe (ten percent of income) to give an **offering** to support the things he or she does in ministry together with others.

II Corinthians 8:6-7, 9:1,11-13

C. Sacrificial Giving – this is for missions. The goal of sacrificial giving is to provide you with spiritual vision by funding the budget of missionaries your church sends out or approves.

A person grows to go above the offering for his ministry and makes a **sacrifice** to support someone else in a mission endeavor of the church. Sacrificial giving is a cell-function based on a relationship with someone who is sent out. It gets missionaries to places you cannot personally go.

Philippians 4:15-18

A young Christian should establish discipline in his life in all areas. Structure in giving is laid out in the New Testament. These principles of biblical funding are structured in His likeness – as a trinity.

[WARNING] Failure to be obedient to God in giving is an indicator of a poor steward and someone who is obviously not qualified for ministry responsibility and leadership in the local church. *I Corinthians 4:2; II Corinthians 8:7-8, 10-11*

VI. Biblical giving is subject to biblical truth.

A. Give as God has prospered you. Don't concern yourself with the giving of others, just give according to the amount God has blessed you.

I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 8:12

B. Remember at all times the law of sowing and reaping.

II Corinthians 9:6; Galatians 6:7-9

* C. True New Testament giving goes much further than a simple "tithe." It includes offerings and sacrificial giving. It concerns turning over complete control of your life and resources to Jesus Christ. If God has control of your life, He will fund His mission through

control of your resources. All of the above principles of giving can be applied to your time and service as well as your money.

1. God's will is that we be conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:29

2. God's essential nature is giving, manifested in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 3:16; I John 4:10; II Corinthians 8:9

3. When you give according to biblical principles, you will manifest the nature of the Lord Jesus Christ in your life resulting in God being glorified through you.

II Corinthians 9:8-15; I Chronicles 29:8-13

VII. Basic questions.

- A. How can I be sure I am giving to the right things and that my money (and time) is being used as God would have it?

1. Build your giving (time, service, and money) around the local church. It is Christ's structure to accomplish His mission in the world.

2. Our pastors are accountable to our people. Since you are not mailing money to some far-off "electronic church," you can see how the money is being spent up close. If you have prayerfully sought God's leadership in choosing a local church and you have followed the principles in His Word, then you ought to trust the leaders of the church to handle this matter properly.

II Corinthians 8:20-21

B. What should I do now?

1. Make giving to and through your church a priority over any other organizations.
2. Make biblical giving your goal. Don't be an indiscriminate giver. Call the church office and request personal offering envelopes.
 - a. Offering envelopes will help you to be organized in your giving. You won't forget if you have done it or not.
 - b. Offering envelopes will provide you a record of your giving. This can lower your income taxes and leave you more money for your family and ministry.

- c. Offering envelopes will provide the church a record of your giving. This is important for designating offerings above your tithe.
3. Make growth an objective in your giving. Learn to progressively mature in this important area of your life. The tithe is God's prescribed beginning point. An offering is growing to give above your tithe. It is a voluntary expression of your thankfulness and love.

Offering envelopes will provide the
word of your giving. This is
NOTES
important for designating offerings
above your title.

Make growth an objective in your giving.
Learn to progressively mature in this important
area of your life. The title is God's prescribed
beginning point. An offering is given to
give above your title. It is a voluntary
expression of your thankfulness and love.

GIVING Lesson # 10

1. Give one reason from your own studies in the Bible why you believe God doesn't need your money.

2. Before you consider giving any money to the Lord's work, you must give of yourself first. List three reasons for this:

A.

B.

C.

3. List three reasons for giving your resources:

A.

B.

C.

4. The Christian should first give of his time, service, and resources to the local church. Briefly explain why this is true.

5. List four areas in which money is to be used by the local church. Give a verse that best defines each point.

A.

B.

C.

D.

6. Your giving should begin by _____

7. Briefly detail the three types of giving found in the Bible.

A.

B.

C.

8. If God has control of your _____, He will fund His mission through control of your _____.

9. Explain what true New Testament giving is.

10. Who benefits the most from giving: God, the church, the pastor, or the giver?

11. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Key memory verses:

II Corinthians 9:7; Matthew 6:21;

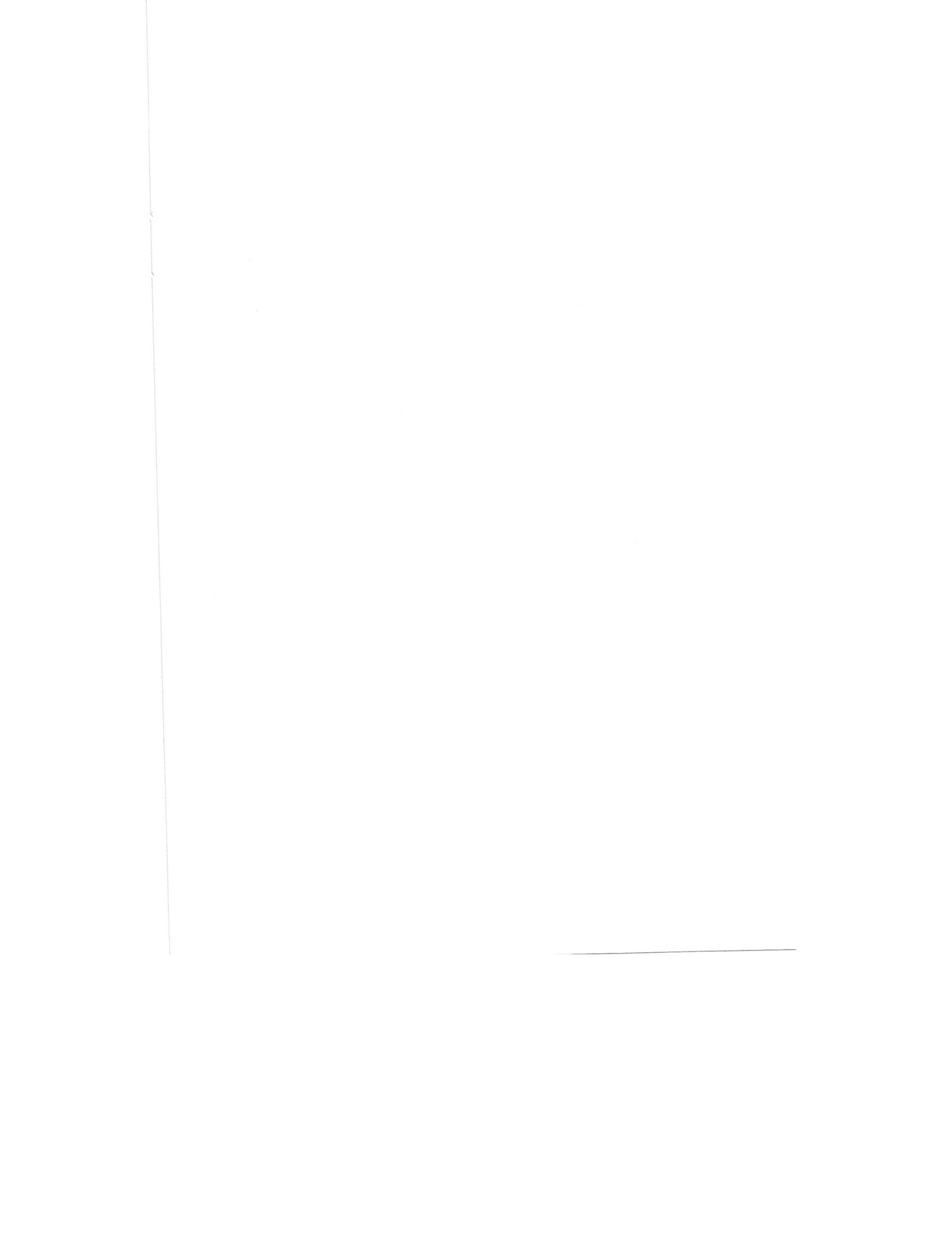
II Corinthians 8:9

NOTE: From many pulpits, and on many radio and television shows, you will hear the following teachings regarding giving:

1. The Christian's primary responsibility is in giving his money.
2. Christians are obligated to give to any good cause.
3. If you cannot give cheerfully, then you should not give at all.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand these teachings are false and why.

→Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.



ISBN 1-888220-08-2