

ALIGN...

[Your finances with the Heart of God]



Pursuing Financial Freedom – Giving & Saving | Don Reed

Giving

In God's economy, the first thing to do with your material wealth is to give some away.

Exod. 34:26

Bring the best of the **firstfruits** of your soil to the house of the LORD your God.

I Cor. 16:2

On the **first day** of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

Eph. 4:28

Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, **that they may have something to share with those in need.**

II Cor. 9:6-11

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

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. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in

every good work. As it is written: **“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.”** Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of

seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way **so that you can be generous on every occasion**, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Emphases

Exod. 34:26 – firstfruits

I Cor. 16:2 – first day of the week, set aside..

Eph. 4:28 – give generously to others

II Cor. 9:6ff – sow generously/get generously

**Our generosity is an expression of the
character of our God!!**

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

**God's generosity to us is intended to
raise our standard of giving, not our
standard of living!!**

God's generosity is meant to be shared with others in need.

Is it the thought that counts?

No one would remember the Good Samaritan if he only had good intentions; he had money as well!

Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister/England

Jas. 2:15-17 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

This is the principle of the strong
helping the weak.

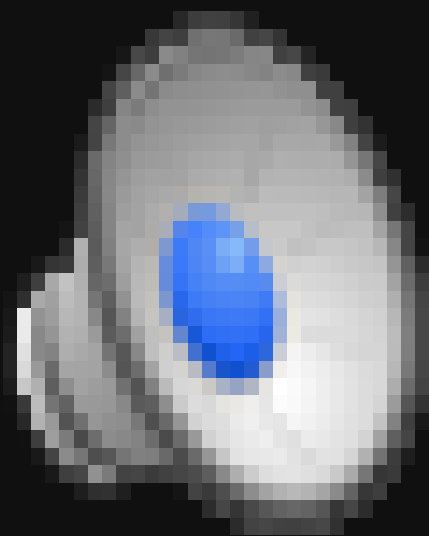
II Cor. 8:13-14

Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality.

When God Doesn't Say Yes..

Jas. 4:3

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.



Giving how much?

- The tithe - a starting point for giving, not the finish line! (The tithe is 10% of one's income)
- Goal: Giving what is 'acceptable' to God from your circumstances – ability, life stage, desire

Giving to where/what?

Giving by geography:

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea** and **Samaria**, and to **the ends of the earth**.

Jerusalem - our city/local ministry

First priority – Your Local church

I Tim 5:17-18

The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For Scripture says, “Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain,” and “The worker deserves his wages.”

Jerusalem - our city/local ministry

I Cor. 9:13-14

Don't you know that those who serve in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

Gal. 6:6

Those who are taught the word of God should provide for their teachers, sharing all good things with them.

Other local ministries

- community ministries and outreaches

Judea - our state/region

Ministries to the state of Arkansas

Campus ministries to universities

Christian radio ministries to our state

State prison ministries

Mercy ministries - Gospel missions

Other Christian outreaches beyond the local church

Samaria - our nation

National ministries

Television/radio, Evangelism, Family Life, Prison Ministries, Church Planting, Men/Women/Youth/Children, Bible distribution, etc.

Ends of the earth - International/cross cultural

Mission organizations that are reaching other cultures by means of Evangelism, Bible Translation, Media, Mercy ministries, Education/training, Church Planting (concentrate on unreached people groups)

Giving by category/function

Matt. 28:19-20

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Giving by category/function

Evangelism, discipleship, church planting,
leadership training, Bible translation,
community development, compassion

Discounts to our Giving!!

Giving for recognition/ostentation – widow's mite – Luke 21:1-3

Obligation – giving to meet expenses – II Cor. 9:7

Grudgingly – not cheerfully - II Cor. 9:7

Without love – I Cor. 13:3

With broken relationships – Matt. 5:23-24

Final Words...

**Give strategically!! Be open to
God's direction.**

**Always include giving to the poor!
(God always includes it in His
talks about giving!!)**

WARNING!!

Only give to organizations displaying
the ECFA symbol - Evangelical Council
for Financial Accountability.



EVANGELICAL COUNCIL FOR FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Enhancing Trust

Saving: A biblical principle

Prov. 21:20

The wise have wealth and luxury, but fools spend whatever they get.

Short-term Saving:

- Emergency fund/cash buying reserve
- Minimum need: \$1,000. Better to have three month's living expenses.
- Many people are always in debt because they have no emergency fund!

Long term saving:

For major purchases/retirement/long-term health care - a responsibility to your family when you start working and earning an income.

II Cor. 12:14

After all, children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.

