

Blessed.

A Pastoral Guide to Generosity & Tithing



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Money can often feel like a deeply personal and sensitive subject. For some, conversations around giving in church have brought encouragement and growth. For others, they may have created discomfort, confusion, or even hurt.

As a church, our desire is not to pressure people or simply talk about finances. Our heart is to help people grow as disciples of Jesus in every area of life — including how we handle money and possessions. Throughout Scripture, generosity is never primarily about money; it is about trust, worship, discipleship, and becoming more like Jesus. God is not after our money — **He is after our hearts.**

Whether you are completely new to faith, exploring what the Bible teaches, or have been following Jesus for many years, we hope this guide helps answer questions, bring clarity, and encourage you as you learn what it means to put God first in every area of life.

What Does the Bible Teach About Generosity & Tithing?

Throughout the Bible, generosity is consistently connected to worship, trust, gratitude, and discipleship. God is not primarily concerned with raising money — He is concerned with shaping our hearts.

From beginning to end, Scripture teaches that everything we have ultimately belongs to God, and generosity becomes one of the ways we acknowledge His goodness, put Him first, and participate in His work in the world.

The Bible speaks about giving not as a burden or religious obligation, but as an invitation into a life of trust, freedom, and partnership with God. Below are some key passages that help shape our understanding of generosity and tithing.

Old Testament Foundations

Genesis 14:18–20 | Abraham gives a tenth to God as an act of worship and honour. Leviticus 27:30 | The tithe is described as belonging to the Lord and set apart as holy. Proverbs 3:9–10 | We honour God by putting Him first with our finances and resources. Malachi 3:10 | God invites His people to trust Him through faithful giving.

Jesus & the Gospels

Matthew 6:19–24 | Jesus teaches that our hearts follow what we treasure most.

Matthew 6:33 | We are called to seek God's Kingdom first in every area of life.

Matthew 23:23 | Jesus affirms generosity while reminding people that the heart matters most.

Luke 21:1–4 | The widow's offering shows that God values sacrifice and trust over amount.

New Testament Generosity

Acts 2:44–47 | The early church lived with radical generosity and care for one another. 2

Corinthians 8–9 | Paul teaches about cheerful, willing, and grace-filled generosity. Philippians 4:10–19 | Giving becomes partnership in the mission and work of the Gospel.

LWC Heart and Values around Generosity & Tithing

We Put God First. Generosity is one of the practical ways we worship God and place Him first in our lives (Proverbs 3:9)

We Give Willingly, Not Under Pressure. Biblical generosity is always a response of the heart, never manipulation or guilt (2 Corinthians 9:7)

We Give from Gratitude, Not Obligation. Everything we have is a gift from God, and generosity flows from thankfulness for His grace (Matthew 10:8)

We Believe Generosity Is Part of Discipleship. Following Jesus affects every area of life — including how we handle money and possessions (Matthew 6:21)

We Believe Everyone Can Take a Next Step. Generosity is a journey of growth and trust, whether someone is new to faith or has followed Jesus for many years (2 Corinthians 9:7)

We Value Integrity & Transparency. We believe church finances should be handled with wisdom, accountability, and faithfulness (2 Corinthians 8:21)

We Believe Generosity Fuels Mission

Our giving helps support ministry, discipleship, compassion, and the sharing of the Gospel locally and globally (2 Corinthians 9:12)

We Believe Generosity Changes Us

Giving not only impacts others — it shapes our own hearts to become more like Jesus (Acts 20:35)

Real Questions About Generosity & Tithing

1. **What is tithing?** Tithing simply means “a tenth.” In the Bible, it describes giving the first portion of our income back to God as an act of worship, trust, and putting Him first in our lives.
2. **Is tithing still relevant for Christians today?** While Christians may hold different views on tithing, we believe generosity remains a central part of following Jesus. Tithing can be a helpful biblical starting point for living a generous and God first life.
3. **What if I'm new to faith and this feels overwhelming?** That's completely okay. Generosity is a journey of discipleship, not pressure or performance. Start by praying, learning, and taking one simple step of trust at a time. You could even start at 1% and increase it by 1% each month and see what God does.
4. **What if I'm struggling financially?** God understands our circumstances and cares deeply about every area of our lives. Giving should never come from fear or pressure, but from a heart that is learning to trust Him, even in difficult seasons.
5. **Should I tithe off gross or net income?** The Bible doesn't specifically answer this question. Rather than focusing on minimums, we encourage people to prayerfully consider what it means to honour God first with sincerity, faith, and generosity.

6. **Should I only give to the church?** The Bible points to the local church as the primary place for our regular giving, while also encouraging generosity toward those in need, mission, and acts of compassion.
7. **Why does the church talk about money?** Because Jesus talked about it often. Money is closely connected to our hearts, priorities, and trust in God, which is why generosity is an important part of discipleship.
8. **How does the church handle finances?** We are committed to handling finances with integrity, accountability, and transparency. Giving supports the ministry, mission, care, and outreach of the church both locally and beyond.
9. **What if I've been hurt by another church's teaching on money?** We are sorry to hear this. At LWC our heart is always to approach this subject with grace, honesty, and a desire to help people grow in trust and freedom.
10. **Does God really say to "test" Him in this area?** In Malachi 3:10, God uniquely invites His people to trust Him through faithful giving and says, "Test me in this." Rather than a promise of instant wealth, this is an invitation to trust God's faithfulness, provision, and care as we put Him first in our lives. Generosity is not about trying to earn God's blessing, but about learning to depend on Him more deeply.
11. **Can generosity be more than money?** Absolutely. Generosity includes our time, encouragement, hospitality, gifts, and serving others. Financial giving is one expression of a generous life shaped by Jesus.



Generosity is ultimately not about losing something — it is about gaining freedom, trust, and deeper partnership with God. As we learn to place Him first, we discover again and again that He is faithful.

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