

# Giving (tithes and offerings)

A practice to help you grow as a generous steward of God's resources and free you from the love or control of money.

**Psalm 24:1 – “The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it”**

Money is the most common substitute for God because it offers security, comfort, purpose, and delight - all of which are meant to be found in God. The practice of generous giving directs our focus from the promises of money to the promises of God. It also reminds us that all we have is on loan to us from God. Here are a few principles to help direct your practice of giving.

Begin by giving to the church. A common practice that has its roots in scripture is to build towards giving a tithe or 10% (a tithe simply means a tenth) of your income to your local church. While this is a helpful guideline, it is more important for you to earnestly seek God's direction when it comes to what he is asking you to give.

Beyond your local church, there are countless worthy places where you can offer your money as a tangible way to advance God's kingdom. These are often referred to as 'offerings'. As you become aware of these needs, seek God's direction as to how he might want you to give.

As you give both tithes and offerings, pay attention to the attitude of your heart. In the end, God desires a cheerful and willing giver. If that is not the case for you, don't be discouraged. Instead, allow it to open a conversation with God (and maybe a spiritual friend) about your struggle.