

# Giving

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Genesis 14:18-20

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## 1.) Giving Was Established at the Very Beginning

### A.) We Were Created to Receive All Things From God and Return Thanksgiving and Honor to God

Romans 1:20-21, "*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead so that they are without excuse, **21** because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful...*"

Acts 17:25-27, "*...He gives to all life, breath, and all things **26** And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, **27** so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us"*

### B.) To Honor God- Acknowledge Him as the Giver of Every Good Gift

C.) Thankfulness is Demonstrated by Offering Back a Portion of What He has Given to Us.

D.) Giving Defends Our Hearts, Reminding Us we are Not Independent Creatures

### E.) Not All Giving Honors the Lord Because Not All Giving is Given in Faith

1 John 3:12, "*Cain who was of the wicked one...Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous"*

Hebrews 11:4, "*By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous...*"

Psalm 51:16-17, "For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise."

2 Samuel 24:24, "nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing."

Application: We Need to Be a People who Give Generously and First

## **2.) Giving Was Set in Stone Through the Patriarchs and Mosaic Law.**

### **A.) The Covenantal Setting of the Tithe**

Genesis 13:14-17, "And the Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; **15** for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. **16** And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. **17** Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."

Genesis 28:14, "Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 28:20-21, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, **21** so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God. **22** And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

### **B.) The Tithe Was An Act of Worship and a Reminder of Fellowship With God**

### **C.) The Tithe Was Sometimes Used to Care for the Needy**

Deuteronomy 14:29, "And the Levite, because he has no portion nor inheritance with you, and the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who are within your gates, may come and eat and be satisfied."

D.) The Tithe Supported Those in Full Time Ministry

Deuteronomy 14:27, "You shall not forsake the Levite who is within your gates, for he has no part nor inheritance with you."

E.) The Blessing of God was Contingent on Obeying the Tithe Commandment...under the Old Covenant.

**3.) Giving Is Exemplified by Jesus Christ**

A.) We are Members of A New Covenant and that Includes A New Law.

B.) What Compels our Hearts to Give is Not a Command to Tithe, but a Response to the Gospel.

Exodus 35:20, "And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses. **21** Then everyone came whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing..."

Exodus 35:22, "They came, both men and women, as many as had a willing heart..."

Exodus 35:26, ""And all the women whose hearts stirred with wisdom..."

Exodus 36:2, "...and every gifted artisan in whose heart the Lord had put wisdom, everyone whose heart was stirred, to come and do the work."

Exodus 36:6, "So Moses gave a commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp saying, "Let neither man nor woman do any more work for the offering of the sanctuary." And the people were restrained from bringing,"

**Application:**

T- To the Church

I- Investment

T-Thanksgiving

H- Help the Poor and the Pastors

E- Everyone

S- Spiritual