

GIVING TEACHING | LIVING HOPE CHURCH CAMPERDOWN

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF GIVING?

- Giving is a form of worship – loving God, giving our money, gifts and time
- Giving is a Christian discipline

1. Difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant

- Believers are no longer under the Old (Mosaic) Covenant
- Jesus came to fulfil the law. His death and resurrection established a new covenant through faith and grace
- Tithing, or giving a tenth was first mentioned in Genesis 14 when Abram presented Melchizedek with a tenth of everything
- Tithing is tied to the temple and to provision for the Levites. In the New Covenant, Jesus is the high priest who made the sacrifice for sin once and for all
- In the new covenant, believers are urged to give generously and from the heart, not out of law or obligation.

Matthew 5:17, Romans 6:14-15, 2 Corinthians 3:4-6, Hebrews 4:7, 14, Hebrews 7:14-19, Matthew 23:23, Galatians 4:25-26

2. Giving is an act of WORSHIP

- God demonstrates His love through giving. He gave His son, and every good and perfect gift comes from the Father
- Giving may express a desire to love God, love His people and build His kingdom
- Giving demonstrates gratitude, promotes humility, reverence and honour to God
- As an act of worship, it is given freely and from the heart
- Jesus teaches that a person will place their treasure where their heart is.

Giving connects a believer's heart with treasure that cannot spoil or fade

- The love of money, greed and fear can be a stumbling block to true worship

John 3:16, James 1:17, Proverbs 3:9, John 15:9-17, Matthew 6:19-36, 1 Timothy 6:9-10, Matthew 19:23-24

3. Giving is an act of FAITH

- God is the source of all provision and He faithfully provides for His children. Believers can trust that God is in control and is able to supply their needs according to His Word
- God demonstrates His character of provision through multiple examples in scripture. Connected with His provision are stories of those who gave in faith and saw that God supplies e.g. The widow and Elijah, Jesus feeds the five thousand with the boy's lunch, the widow who gave the coins, the Philippians who gave an offering to the churches in need
- Giving as an act of faith, puts faith and obedience in action
- Jesus commands us not to worry about possessions but to trust in the Father
- Giving can move a heart from temporary to eternal perspectives, from earthly to heavenly riches

- Giving when done from an attitude of faith, ought to be done cheerfully and is done without compulsion
- Teaching the word builds faith in an area, so teaching about giving helps believers grow in faith and righteousness.

Philippians 4:17, James 1:17, James 2:17, Matthew 6:24-33, 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Corinthians 9:6

4. Giving is an act of GENEROSITY

- The Word commands believers to be generous and to share their resources with those in need
- Part of loving others is supplying physical needs, not just spiritual
- Giving generously creates community as believers unite and share together
- Giving supplies the needs of those who are called to minister the gospel
- Generosity promotes thanksgiving and brings glory to God

1 Timothy 6:17-19, 1 Corinthians 9:6-14, 1 Timothy 5, Acts 2:42, 2 Corinthians 8:2-7, 2 Corinthians 9:10-14

5. Giving and the principle of SOWING AND REAPING

- There is a spiritual principle of sowing and reaping, as in the natural, seed is sown, a harvest is reaped
- God supplies the seed, and when distributed is able to grow and produce more seed
- We are urged to sow in the spirit and to reap in the spirit
- The harvest timeline is in God's hands, it is in due season that the harvest is reaped
- Blessings are not merely financial, but spiritual, godliness, contentment, peace, joy and the fruits of the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 9:6-15, Galatians 6: 7-10, Galatians 5:22-23