

Giving

Here's something that may shock you--in the Bible, Jesus talked more about money than the subjects of heaven, hell, or prayer. He gave us the reason for that in Matthew 6:

Matthew 6:21, 24 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also...No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

We believe that God owns everything, according to *Psalms 24:1*, "The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." We are simply stewards of what God has given us. We see giving not as an obligation or "God Tax" but as a privilege. When you give, you are not giving your money to God, but giving back what is God's to God, and He's letting you keep the rest.

How and why should I give? The apostle Paul had much to say on this topic.

Giving should be a regular, scheduled action:

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 "Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made."

--In this modern age, some give weekly, some biweekly, and some monthly. Whatever your choice, the point is that it should be a consistent part of one's routine.

Giving should be cheerfully generous, but there's no specific number to aim for:

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Giving is not a chore, but something we should seek to excel in, as a stepping stone in our spiritual growth:

2 Corinthians 8:7 "But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving."

Bottom line, GCC will never tell you how much to give. Your giving is a personal act of worship and faith. We believe that ultimately, everything belongs to God. Each of us has been called to see to the needs of His servants and love the brethren, and we will be held accountable for our stewardship of what God has entrusted to us. We don't have to give, we GET TO. How we give is an indication of our maturity in Christ.