



**Sunday May 20, 2018**  
**Generosity (Part-2)**

Today, we wish to share about the practical side of generosity.

Generosity -giving - could be expressed in many ways:

- ✓ Finances - giving your money
- ✓ Time - giving your time to God and to people
- ✓ Material possessions - giving things
- ✓ Hospitality - providing food, shelter, care
- ✓ Skill - you give freely of your skills (e.g. Musicians who serve in the worship team, those in the media team, those in the setup team, etc.)
- ✓ other ways - e.g. encouragement, compassion, etc.

So we will focus on FINANCES in this sermon.

With respect to FINANCES we can categorize our giving as follows:

**Tithe** : the tenth of your gross income that you give to your local church

**Offerings** : anything above your tithe that you give to your local church

**Support** : give to other Christian ministries and organizations

**Gifts** : give gifts to bless other people

**Alms** : give to help with the poor and needy

Please note: this message does not cover every aspect of giving. We are keeping this message simple and practical.

Let's look at each a little deeper:

**TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

*The tithe is a tenth of your gross income that you give to your local church.*

*Offerings is anything above your tithe that you give to your local church.*

***A quick over view of tithing in the Old Testament***

Abram was the first person recorded as giving tithe. He gave a tithe of all that he got from his victory over his enemies. He gave it to Melchizedek, the priest of the Most High God.

(Reference: Genesis 14:20)

Next we see Jacob making a promise to God to give a tenth of all he would get, if God brought him back safe (Reference: Genesis 28:22)

Later the tithe was instituted as part of the Law of Moses. The tithe of the produce and livestock belonged to God.



### **Leviticus 27:30,32**

**30 And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's. It is holy to the LORD.**

**32 And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD.**

The tithe was holy - consecrated, sacred and set apart - to the LORD.

The tithe was to be given to the Levites who served in the temple. This was their portion. Then the Levites tithed from the tithes they received and gave it to the priests. This portion was for the priests. So we see here that the tithe was essentially a means to support the Levites and the priests who served in the temple. (Reference: Numbers 18)

The offerings, sacrifices and tithe were brought to the temple. (Reference: Deuteronomy chapters 12, 14, 26 for more about the tithe)

When there was a spiritual revival in the land, we see people bringing the tithe and the first-fruits to the storehouse of the Lord's temple (Reference: 2 Chronicles 31:5-6; Nehemiah 13:12)

The most well-known passage about tithing is Malachi. Notice the command, the invitation and the promised blessings:

### **Malachi 3:8-12**

**8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.**

**9 You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation.**

**10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.**

**11 "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the LORD of hosts;**

**12 And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land," Says the LORD of hosts.**

### **WHY DO WE BELIEVE THAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD TITHE?**

***1, Tithing was something people of faith (e.g. Abram, Jacob) did, even before the Law.***

Tithing is not just a "law thing", although it was also part of the Law, but really an act of faith. We as New Testament believers live by faith and hence include tithing is part of our walk of faith.

***2, Jesus spoke about giving the tithe***

### **Matthew 23:23**

**"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.**



### ***3, Hebrews chapter 7 indicates that the Lord Jesus receives our tithes***

#### **Hebrews 7:1-10**

- 1** For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,
- 2** to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "king of righteousness," and then also king of Salem, meaning "king of peace,"
- 3** without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.
- 4** Now consider how great this man was (i.e. Melchizedek), to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils.
- 5** And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren, though they have come from the loins of Abraham;
- 6** but he whose genealogy is not derived from them (i.e. Melchizedek, who is a type of Christ) received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises.
- 7** Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better.
- 8** Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he (i.e. Melchizedek, who is a type of Christ) receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.
- 9** Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak,
- 10** for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.

Melchizedek, who is a type of Christ received tithes from Abraham.  
So we the children of Abraham (spiritually) still offer tithes to Christ, who lives.

*[share personal story]*

#### **SUPPORT**

*This is our giving to other Christian ministries and organizations*

One example we see is that of the Philippians who gave to support the work of the apostle Paul:

#### **Philippians 4:15-19**

- 15** Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.
- 16** For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities.
- 17** Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.
- 18** Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.
- 19** And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

So each month or at whatever frequency you choose to, you can give financially to other Christian ministries and organizations. Typically you would give to those who are ministering to you spiritually or to ministries that you feel passionate about.

As a church we do not dictate where and to whom you give your support giving to.



## **GIFTS**

*give gifts to bless other people, especially those of the household of faith. It need not be that the person(s) to whom you are giving the gift are in need or difficulty. You just give to bless them or to share with them.*

### **Galatians 6:10**

**Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.**

### **Hebrews 6:10**

**For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.**

As a church we do not dictate where and to whom you give gifts to.

## **ALMS**

*give to help with the poor and needy. Here you are giving in order to help and meet their needs.*

### **Matthew 6:3-4**

**3 But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,  
4 that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.**

As a church we do not dictate where and to whom you give gifts to.

### **Side Note: What about First-fruits?**

While we read about Firstfruits in the Old Testament, we do not see this in the New Testament in connection with giving. So we leave this optional, and if you wish to practice this personally, that is fine. Some ways in which people practice this is to give their first salary from their first job, or the additional amount they receive when they get an increment, etc. We do not speak about this as a requirement.

Closing, each one can purpose how you go about giving to the Lord, His people and to the work of His Kingdom.

**Tithe** : the tenth of your gross income that you give to your local church

**Offerings** : anything above your tithe that you give to your local church

**Support** : give to other Christian ministries and organizations

**Gifts** : give gifts to bless other people

**Alms** : give to help with the poor and needy

Remember what we learnt from 2 Corinthians 9:6-10

### **2 Corinthians 9:6-10**



**6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.**

**7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.**

**8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.**

**9 As it is written: "HE HAS DISPERSED ABROAD, HE HAS GIVEN TO THE POOR; HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER."**

**10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,**

**9:6** Giving into God's kingdom is like sowing.

Sowing, when done properly, always - always - results in multiplication!

Every time you give, you are setting in motion a multiplication back to yourself!

The Lord Jesus Himself spoke about giving causing a multiplied return:

**Mark 10:29-30**

**29 So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's,**

**30 who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.**

**Luke 6:38**

**Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."**

**9:7** give as you purpose in your heart

give cheerfully

do not give grudgingly

do not give out of compulsion

**9:8** Here is our confidence when we give. God will take care of us, making sure that we have more than enough for all He has called us to do.

**9:10-11** God's part in this whole process

God supplies seed to the sower - God gives us seeds to sow.

God provided bread to the eater - God meets our needs.

God multiplies the seeds we sow and increases the fruits

God enriches us to all liberality (generosity)

Give generously.

Give in faith.

## **Prayer & Ministry Time**



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Sunday May 20, 2018**  
**Generosity (Part-2)**

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

**Preparation**

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at [apcwo.org/sermons](http://apcwo.org/sermons). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

**Welcome**

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

**LISTEN to God's Word**

Read the following Scripture passages: *Leviticus 27:30,32; Malachi 3:8-12; 2 Corinthians 9:6-10; Galatians 6:10*

**INVESTIGATE God's Word Together**

Discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

*1, Discuss, why do we believe that Christians should tithe?*

*2, Discuss, some practical ways we can be consistent with our giving for the work of God's Kingdom and in the other areas of giving, that were presented?*

*3, In practice, what are some situations where you would NOT give, even if an "apparent" need is presented to you?*

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.



**FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey**

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

**ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another**

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

*1, families to be protected and strengthened*

*2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*

Close by thanking God together.