



# Tithes and offerings.

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# Everything belongs to God.

## 1 Chronicles 29:13-14.

*And now we thank you,  
our God, and praise  
your glorious name.*

*But who am I, and what  
is my people, that we  
should be able thus to  
offer willingly?*

*For all things come  
from you, and of your  
own have we given you.*



# Tithing (Zondervan article)

## Malachi 3:10.

*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the LORD Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.*

While this is not an automatic guarantee that we will receive material blessings every time we give to God, this verse does show us that God will bless us and provide for our needs. Note that the Bible doesn't teach us to give in order to get. The Bible says that we get in order to give.

This reverse perspective makes all the difference. God blesses us so that we can give to others. Instead of trying to manipulate God to nurture our selfish expectations, our giving should come as a response to God's blessing upon us.

# Tithing before or after taxes?

Zondervan

Before or after tax? How many of us have said or heard those words in response to the exhortation to give a portion of our income back to God?

Our concern with such legalities illustrates our need to remind ourselves of the true purpose of giving. The Old Testament standard for giving was the tithe, or ten percent of any property or produce:

**Leviticus 27:30.**

*A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.*

# Tithing before or after taxes?

Zondervan

This gift was a response of thanksgiving and an expression of allegiance to God. Failure to observe the tithe was viewed as robbing God, for it belonged to him (**Malachi 3:8-9**).

The New Testament assumed that God's people would give proportionally from their income. Paul urged the Corinthian Christians to set aside a certain amount of money on the Lord's Day, depending on how much they had earned. This would then be given to other Christians enduring hardship in Jerusalem.

**1 Corinthians 16:2.** *On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.*

# Tithing before or after taxes?

Zondervan

Paul's instructions provide us with a good model for giving today. We should give as God has blessed us. We should set aside money regularly and purposefully.

**This habit of regular, proportional giving will remind us of several things:**

- 1) That God graciously provides for us;
- 2) That we are responsible to support others;
- 3) That we need to use our material treasure to secure spiritual gains.

God's grace is such that when we give him what is his, he gives generously to us.

# You can tithe and have no compassion.

**Mathew 23:23-24.** (The Message)

*You're hopeless, you religion scholars and Pharisees! Frauds!*

*You keep meticulous account books, tithing on every nickel and dime you get, but on the meat of God's Law, things like fairness and compassion and commitment, the absolute basics! you carelessly take it or leave it.*

*Careful bookkeeping is commendable, but the basics are required. Do you have any idea how silly you look, writing a life story that's wrong from start to finish, nit-picking over commas and semicolons?*





# You can tithe and not be justified before God.

## Luke 18:9-14.

*Then he told this story to some who boasted of their virtue and scorned everyone else: Two men went to the Temple to pray.*

*One was a proud, self-righteous Pharisee, and the other a cheating tax collector.*

*The proud Pharisee 'prayed' this prayer: Thank God, I am not a sinner like everyone else, especially like that tax collector over there!*



# You can tithe and not be justified before God.

**Luke 18:9-14.**

*For I never cheat, I don't commit adultery, I go without food twice a week, and I give to God a tenth of everything I earn.*

*But the corrupt tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed, but beat upon his chest in sorrow, exclaiming, God, be merciful to me, a sinner.*

*I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home forgiven! For the proud shall be humbled, but the humble shall be honoured.*







- Abraham forsook all to obey God. **Gen 12:1.**
- He did not seek wealth by shrewd dealings. **Gen 23:6.**
- He was generous. **Gen 13:9.**
- He obeyed the law of tithe. **Gen 14:18-20.**
- He refused the wealth of Sodom. **Gen 14:21-23.**
- He was willing to obey God even if it cost him everything.

**The secrets of Abraham's prosperity.**

# Abraham refused the wealth of Sodom.

**Gen 14:18-24.**

*The king of Sodom said to Abram, Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself.*

*But Abram said to the king of Sodom, With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the Lord, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, I made Abram rich.*

*I will accept nothing but what my men have eaten and the share that belongs to the men who went with me to Aner, Eshkol and Mamre. Let them have their share.*

# Tithing pre-dated the Law.

## Genesis 14:18-20.

*And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine.*

*(He was priest of God Most High.) And he blessed him and said, Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!*

*And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.*





# Tithing pre-dated the Law.

## Genesis 28:20-22

*Then Jacob made a vow, saying, If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you.*



# The sacred portion.

Remember what happened to Adam and Eve when they took from that which the Lord had said they must not eat when they had the rest of the garden to eat from.



# Achan.

Remember what happened to Achan when he took that which was consecrated to the Lord from the spoils of Jericho.

**Joshua 7:20-21.**

*Achan replied...When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them.*





# God owes us nothing.

## **Job 41:11.**

*Who has first given to me, that I should repay him?  
Whatever is under the whole heaven is mine.*

**Everything belongs to God and even our ability to generate income comes from Him.**

## **Deuteronomy 8:17-18.**

*Beware lest you say in your heart, My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth. You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.*

# Giving our best to God should be our priority.

An unconverted person thinks giving 10% of your salary to GOD is crazy, but once you have given yourself to GOD, giving 10% of your earnings to Him is just a starting point.

## **Malachi 1:6-14.**

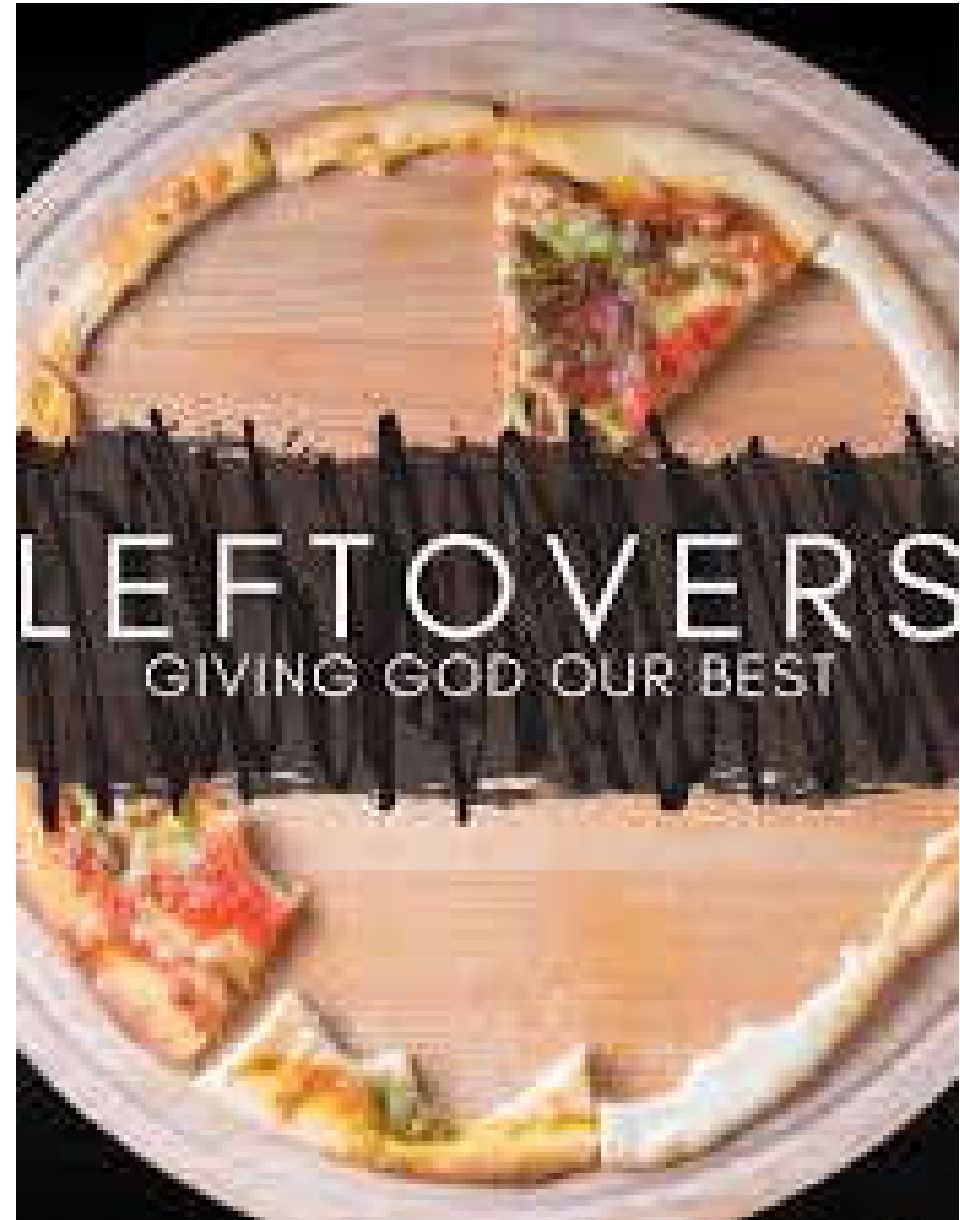
*A son honours his father, and a slave his master. If I am a father, where is the honour due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me? says the LORD Almighty. It is you priests who show contempt for my name. But you ask, How have we shown contempt for your name? By offering defiled food on my altar. But you ask, How have we defiled you? By saying that the LORD's table is contemptible.*

# Giving our best to God should be our priority.

## Malachi 1:6-14.

*When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice lame or diseased animals, is that not wrong?*

*Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you? says the LORD Almighty. Now plead with God to be gracious to us. With such offerings from your hands, will he accept you? says the LORD Almighty*



## **Malachi 1:6-14.**

*Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar!*


*I am not pleased with you, says the LORD Almighty, and I will accept no offering from your hands. My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets.*

*In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to me, because my name will be great among the nations, says the LORD Almighty.*



**GOD 1ST**

**Giving our best  
to God should  
be our priority.**





## **Malachi 1:6-14.**

*But you profane it by saying, The Lord's table is defiled, and Its food is contemptible. And you say, What a burden! and you sniff at it contemptuously, says the LORD Almighty.*

*When you bring injured, lame or diseased animals and offer them as sacrifices, should I accept them from your hands? says the LORD. Cursed is the cheat who has an acceptable male in his flock and vows to give it, but then sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord. For I am a great king, says the LORD Almighty, and my name is to be feared among the nations.*



One of the purposes of the Feast of First fruits was to remind the Israelites that God had given them the land and that the harvest rightfully belonged to him. They were just stewards as is made clear in the parable of the husbandman.

### **Proverbs 3:9&10.**

*Honour the Lord with your wealth, with the first-fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.*





# The Parable of the Tenants.

## Matthew 21:33-41.

*Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place.*

*When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way.*





## **Matthew 21:33-41.**

*Last of all, he sent his son to them. They will respect my son, he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.*

*So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants? He will bring those wretches to a wretched end, they replied, and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.*



# **The main characters in this parable.**

- 1. the land-owner — God,**
- 2. the tenants/farmers — the Jews (Particularly the Religious Leaders)**
- 3. the landowner's servants — the prophets who remained obedient and preached God's word to the people of Israel,**
- 4. the son — Jesus, and**
- 5. the other tenants — the Gentiles.**

This parable is an indictment on all the modern day religious leaders who use the Church ie: the Body of Christ, to enrich themselves and live lavish life-styles rather than use the funds to reach the lost.



# **The amazing story of an experiment**

One of my friends by correspondence was the late Perry Hayden who performed an experiment that was publicised all over America. He wanted to prove to people that the law of the tithe was the divine law of prosperity. He decided to plant a cubic inch of wheat and each year tithe the increase. He planted the first crop in the year 1940 and then planted the increase, minus the tithe the following year.

Henry Ford soon became interested in the experiment and furnished the land and equipment for harvesting the crop. But I shall let Mr Hayden tell the story for it shows the remarkable results possible in a wheat yield when the blessing of God is upon it.

# The amazing story of an experiment

On Sunday morning, September 22, 1940 I heard a message preached on John 12:24. “Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die it bringeth forth much fruit”.

Being a miller, and being interested in actually proving God in a rather unique way, I was led to do something the following Thursday that has since been heard of all the way around the world. I planted 360 kernels of wheat (1 cubic inch).

It takes 2150 cubic inches to make a bushel, so you can see what a small beginning this project had. When we planted the wheat, September 26, 1940, on a plot 4 by 8 feet, I told those present that in 1941 we were going to **tithe** the crop and replant it.

# The amazing story of an experiment

I was taking Malachi 3:10 seriously and I recommend right now that my reader study this verse as well as the 11th verse. In Leviticus 25 verse 3 and 4 we find to sow the field for six years and let it rest the 7<sup>th</sup>, that is what we set out to do. In 1941 we cut the worlds smallest wheat field, immediately returned over a tenth of the yield to the local Quaker church and replanted the remaining 45 cubic inches in September 1941.

In the summer of 1942, we cut the second crop with old fashioned cradles, and found the yield was 55 fold, or 70 pounds. Again we tithed the wheat and replanted the remaining 63 pounds on land that for the third year in succession, had been furnished by Henry Ford, who owned a large farm near Tecumseh.

# **The amazing story of an experiment**

In 1943 this acre of land yielded 16 bushels from one bushel of seed. Henry Ford himself came out to see the wheat cut, and furnish the Reaper to cut it and an old fashioned thresher from his famous Edison institute museum at Greenfield village, to thresh it. Not only that, but Henry again furnished land for the 4th crop. In 1944, this crop on 14 acres yielded 380 bushels. Again the 10th of the crop was tithed and the remaining cleaned and replanted. Henry Ford furnished the land for the 5th crop. It was 230 acres.

In the summer of 1945, a fleet of 40 combines was sent to the field by Ford. The yield from the dynamic kernels was 5555 bushels. The value of this little crop at the market price of \$1.55 per bushel, was \$8610.25. The tithe of \$861.03 went to the Friends church who, in turn, gave it to the Tecumseh hospital.

# **The amazing story of an experiment**

And now comes the interesting outcome after Henry Ford had turned over the 5th crop to me. The 5000 bushels of wheat were sold to approximately 250 farmers in Michigan and nearby states. They had to agreed to plant the wheat, and in 1946, to pay a tithe of the crop to their own church.

In summer of 1946 we expected to harvest \$100,000 worth of wheat, all from 360 kernels planted six years before, which for five years had been faithfully tithed. Mr Henry Ford's assistance in furnishing land, machines and labour for the first five years was deeply appreciated. And it was all voluntary on his part. How thrilled I was on different occasions when he might visit the wheat field at Tecumseh, or when I might visit him at Dearborn, to hear him say, “you had faith didn't you”, or “you are being led aren't you”?

The very last words Mr. Ford said to me one day after we had visited for possibly an hour, were “God is within you”!

# Tithing to Christ

Here is a striking truth, those who tithe may seem to be giving to man, but indeed their tithes are actually being received and accepted by Christ! They are received by the one “who dies no more” but lives forever more!

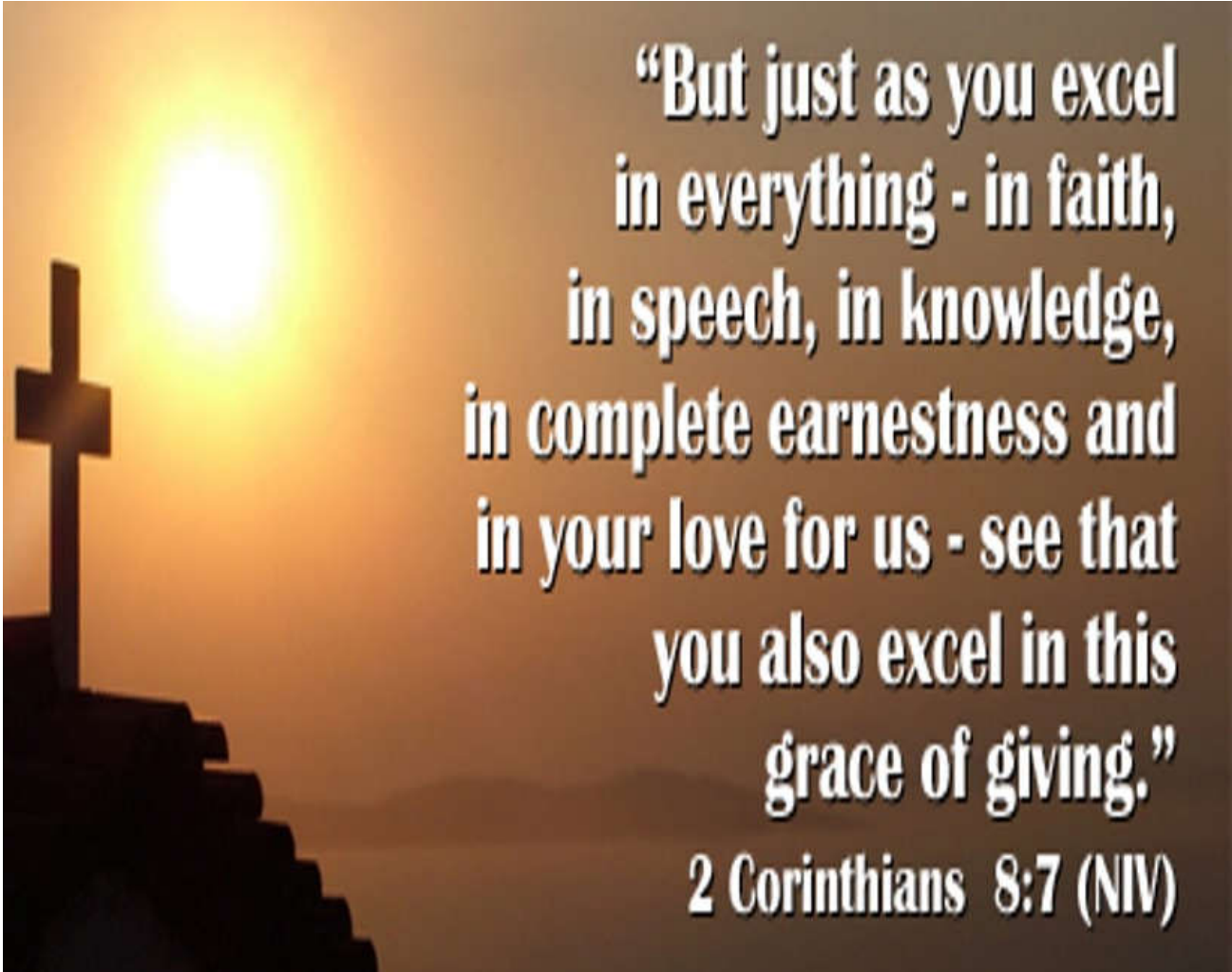
Thirty five years after Christ ascended to heaven, acting in his “High Priesthood after the order of Melchizedek”, he received tithes from men. And he still does! How important it is then that as stewards we see that which belongs to Christ is given to him. We do not in truth give them to men, actually the minister is only another steward to whom we give our tithes. They are received by Christ to whom they belong.



**God's master key to prosperity by Gordon Lindsay**



# Giving.



“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.”

2 Corinthians 8:7 (NIV)

# Givers and Takers.

**Acts 20:35**

*In everything I did,  
I showed you that by  
this kind of hard  
work we must help  
the weak,  
remembering the  
words the Lord Jesus  
himself said: It is  
more blessed to give  
than to receive.*

**There are two  
kinds of people  
in the world :  
GIVERS AND  
TAKERS.  
The takers may  
eat better, but  
the givers  
sleep better.**

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## Two Kinds of People. Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

—

*There are two kinds of people on earth today,  
Just two kinds of people, no more, I say,  
Not the good and the bad, for 'tis well understood  
The good are half bad and the bad are half good.  
Not the happy and sad, for the swift flying years  
Bring each man his laughter and each man his tears.  
Not the rich and the poor, for to count a man's wealth  
You must first know the state of his conscience and health.  
Not the humble and proud, for in life's busy span  
Who puts on vain airs is not counted a man.  
No! The two kinds of people on earth I mean  
Are the people who lift, and the people who lean.*



two kinds of people  
are the people who  
the people who

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

*Wherever you go you will  
find the world's masses  
Are ever divided in just these  
two classes.*

*And, strangely enough, you  
will find, too, I wean,  
There is only one lifter for  
twenty who lean.*

*This one question I ask. Are  
you easing the load  
Of overtaxed lifters who toil  
down the road?*

*Or are you a leaner who lets  
others bear*

*Your portion of worry and  
labour and care?*

**Ella Wheeler Wilcox**





## **Acts 2:42-47.**

*They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common.*

## **The Early Church.**





## **Acts 2:42-47.**

*They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts.*

*They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people, and the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

## **The Early Church.**



## II Corinthians 8:1-7.

*They gave not only what they could afford but far more; and I can testify that they did it because they wanted to and not because of nagging on my part.*

*They begged us to take the money so they could share in the joy of helping the Christians in Jerusalem. Best of all, they went beyond our highest hopes, for their first action was to dedicate themselves to the Lord and to us, for whatever directions God might give to them through us.*

*They were so enthusiastic about it that we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to visit you and encourage you to complete your share in this ministry of giving.*

## Cheerful giving (Macedonians)



## II Corinthians 8:1-7.

*You people there are leaders in so many ways you have so much faith, so many good preachers, so much learning, so much enthusiasm, so much love for us. Now I want you to be leaders also in the spirit of cheerful giving. I am not giving you an order; I am not saying you must do it, but others are eager for it. This is one way to prove that your love is real, that it goes beyond mere words.*



**Cheerful  
giving**

## II Corinthians 8:8-11.

*You know how full of love and kindness our Lord Jesus was: though he was so very rich, yet to help you he became so very poor, so that by being poor he could make you rich. I want to suggest that you finish what you started to do a year ago, for you were not only the first to propose this idea, but the first to begin doing something about it.*

*Having started the ball rolling so enthusiastically, you should carry this project through to completion just as gladly, giving whatever, you can out of whatever you have. Let your enthusiastic idea at the start be equalled by your realistic action now.*



**Cheerful giving**

These passages are reference to a special offering and are not a substitute for tithes.

## **2 Corinthians 9:5-11.**

*So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given.*

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.*

*\*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*





## 2 Corinthians 9:5-11.

*And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

*As it is written: They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever. Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.*

*You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*

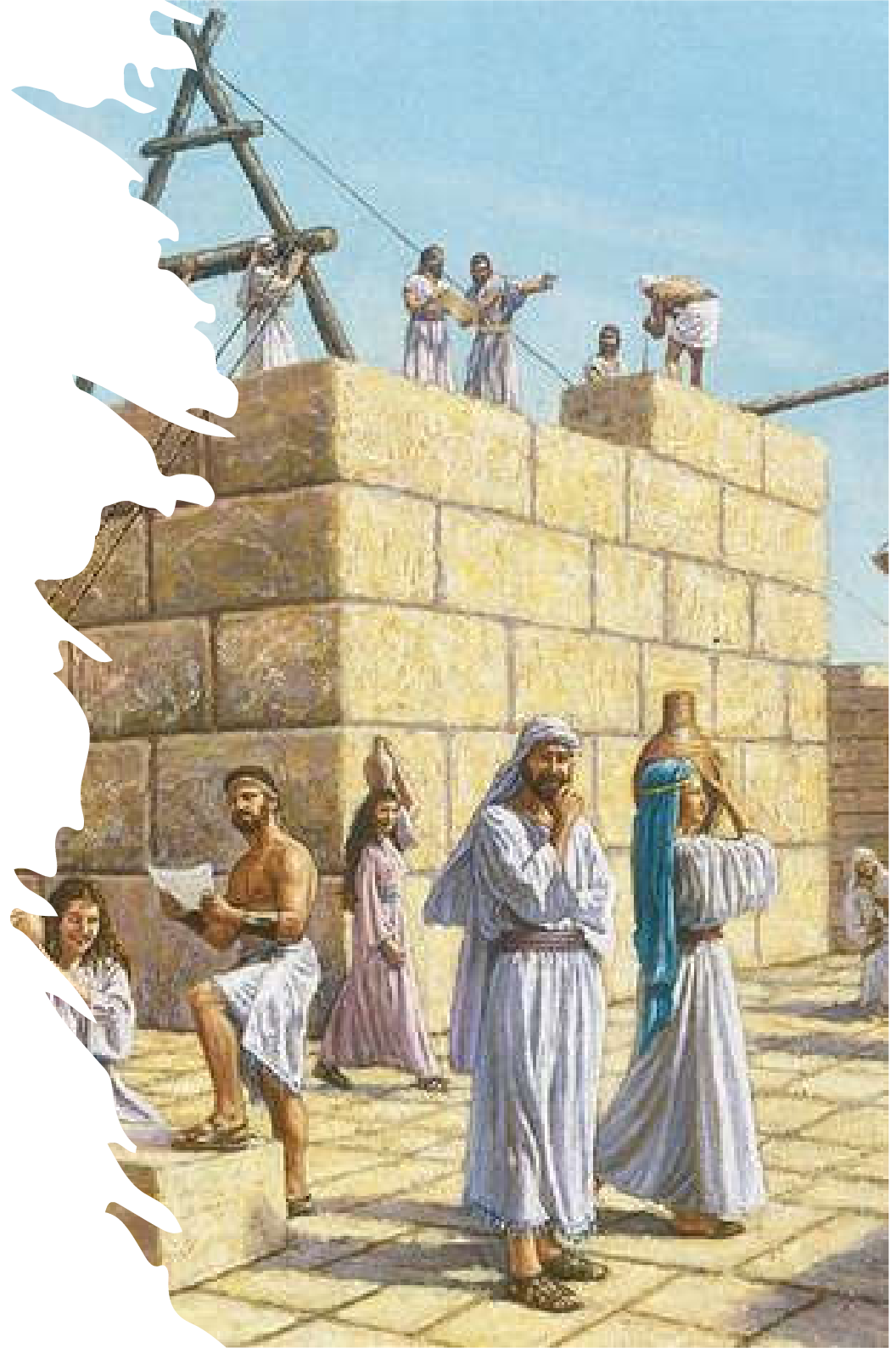


# Collections for building the Temple.

## Haggai 1:3-11.

*Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your panelled houses, while this house remains a ruin? Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: Give careful thought to your ways.*

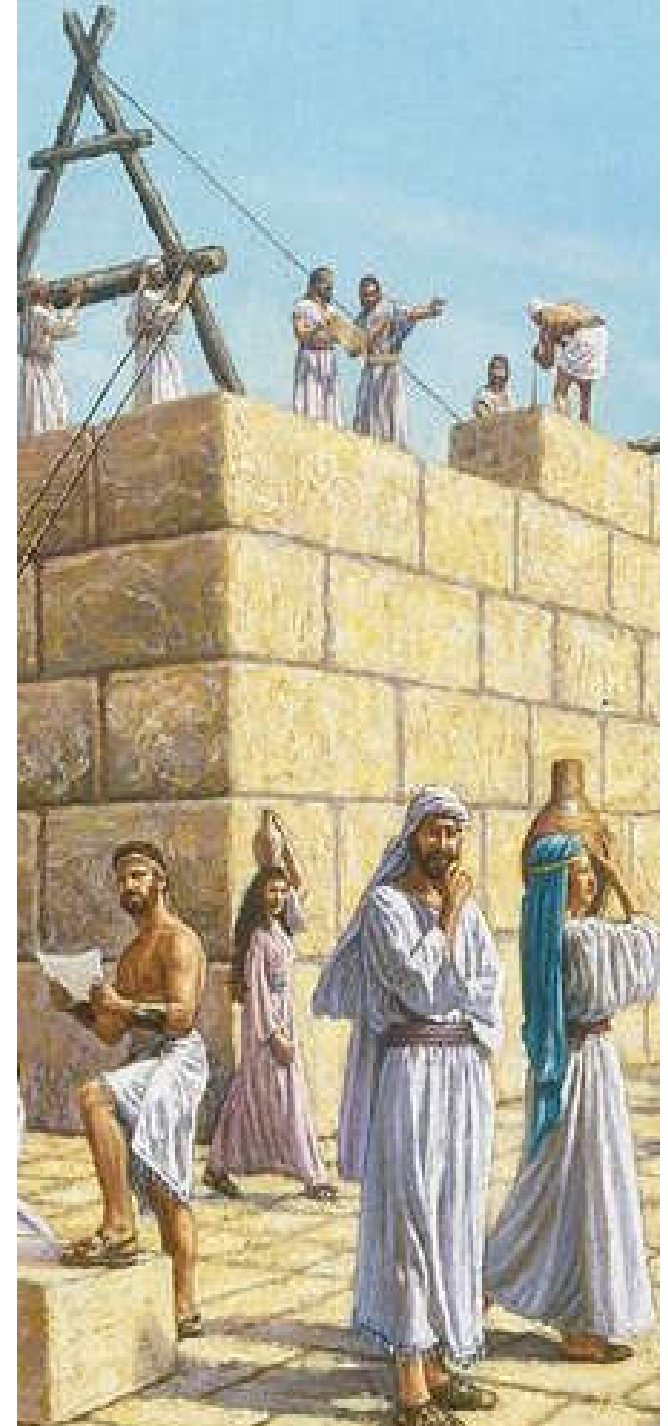
*You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.*





## Haggai 1:3-11.

*This is what the Lord Almighty says: Give careful thought to your ways. Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honoured, says the Lord. You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why? declares the Lord Almighty. Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house. Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the olive oil and everything else the ground produces, on people and livestock, and on all the labour of your hands.*



## Collections for building the Temple.

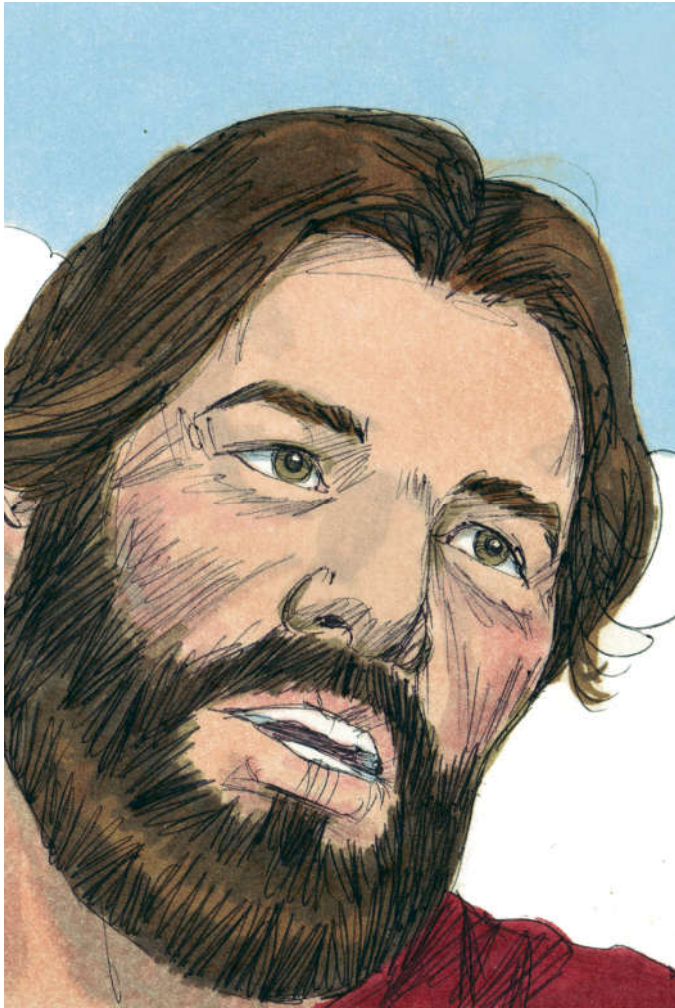


## **Luke 6: 27-34 (Giving to our enemies)**

*To you who are ready for the truth, I say this: Love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer for that person.*

*If someone slaps you in the face, stand there and take it. If someone grabs your shirt, gift-wrap your best coat and make a present of it. If someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. No more tit-for-tat stuff. Live generously.*

# Giving to our enemies.



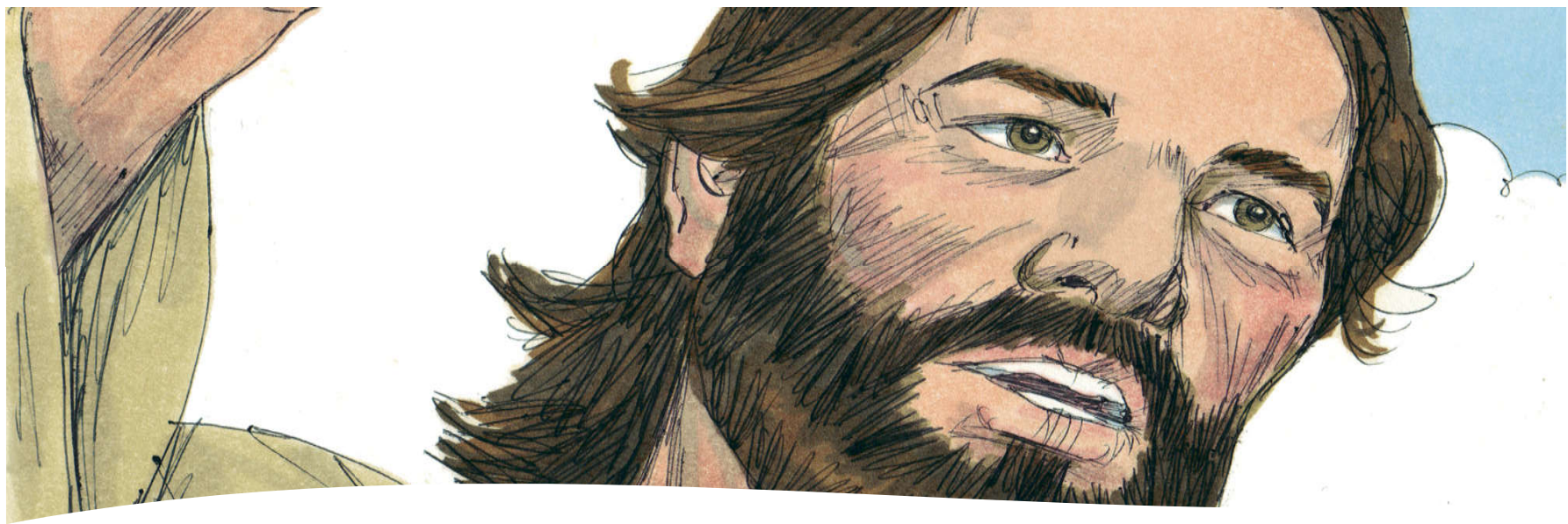
## Luke 6: 27-34.

*Here is a simple rule of thumb for behaviour: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them!*

*If you only love the lovable, do you expect a pat on the back? Run-of-the-mill sinners do that.*

*If you only help those who help you, do you expect a medal? Garden-variety sinners do that. If you only give for what you hope to get out of it, do you think that's charity? The stingiest of pawnbrokers does that.*





## **Luke 6: 35-38.**

*I tell you, love your enemies. Help and give without expecting a return. You'll never I promise regret it. Live out this God-created identity the way our Father lives toward us, generously and graciously, even when we're at our worst. Our Father is kind; you be kind. Don't pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults unless, of course, you want the same treatment.*

*Don't condemn those who are down; that hardness can boomerang. Be easy on people; you'll find life a lot easier. Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity.*

## Matthew 6:1-34.

*Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others.*

*Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*



**Giving in secret.**

# Giving.

**Matthew 25:44-45.** *They also will answer, Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you? He will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.*

**Hebrews 13:16.** *Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*

**Acts 20:35.** *In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.*



# Giving.

## **Proverbs 11:24.**

*One gives freely yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.*

## **Ephesians 4:28.**

*Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labour, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.*

## **Matthew 5:42.**

*Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.*

# Giving to Missionaries.

## **Philippians 4:14-18.**

*Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit.*

*I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.*