

5. Maintain a Worshipful Heart in Giving

In all your giving, keep an eye on the heart of giving. If giving becomes routine or grudging you may need to check your heart, or adjust the method of your giving.

Practical Questions to Consider

1. Is there a fear or unbiblical belief about money that is holding you back from regularly giving by faith?
2. Where do you find yourself failing to acknowledging God's ownership over your material possessions?
3. Where do you need to focus on growing in the discipline of giving?

Recommended Reading

- Bible Reading: Matthew 6, 2 Corinthians 8-9, 1 Timothy 6
- Foundations Book 2; Lesson 9 "Giving"
(<https://baptistfoundations.com/materials/foundations-2/2-9>)
- *Money, Possessions, and Eternity* by Randy Alcorn*
- *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn*

*These books contain similar content with *Money, Possessions, and Eternity* being the longer and more thorough of the two.

Five Spiritual Disciplines Schedule

8/1 – Introduction & Overview

8/7 - Bible Reading/Study

8/14 - Giving

8/21 - Church Attendance

8/28 – Prayer & Fasting

9/4 - Annual Missions Conference

9/11 - Witnessing

 CORE SEMINARS

The Five Spiritual Disciplines

Seminar 1: Introduction and Overview

August 14th, 2024

The Spiritual Disciplines are those personal and corporate disciplines that promote spiritual growth. They are the habits of devotion and experiential Christianity practiced by the people of God since biblical times. They are God-given means we use in the Spirit-filled pursuit of Godliness.

1 Timothy 4:7 - But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and **exercise thyself rather unto godliness.**

What Kind Of Giving?

In the USA, average household charitable giving is estimated at 2-5%

In the Old Testament, the common practice was to give a tenth (10%).
In the New Testament, we find believers giving even more!

- Gave land, homes, and other possessions - Acts 4:34-37
- Gave to the need of believers in other cities - 1 Cor 16:1-3, 2 Cor 8
- Provided for elderly widows without living family - 1 Tim 5:9-10, 16
- Met the needs of those who labored in teaching - Gal 6:6, 1 Tim 5:17-18
- Supported those engaged in missions work - Phil 4:10-10

Much charitable giving is occasional and sporadic

Scriptural giving is systematic, substantial, and sacrificial giving

Why Is Giving A Spiritual Discipline?

The Bible says a lot about money!

- ~2,300 verses that reference money, wealth, possessions
- ~15% of Jesus' words refer to this subject

Because Money Management *is* a Spiritual Matter

Zaccheus	Rich Young Ruler
Wealthy	Wealthy
Obviously Sinful	Obviously Righteous
Willingly Parted with Money	Unwilling to Part with Money
"This day is salvation come..."	"Went away grieved..."

Because Giving Counteracts the Evil of Loving of Money

1 Tim 6:10 - For ***the love of money is the root of all evil***: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- Godliness is loving God (Mark 12:30)
- The root of evil is loving money. What we love, we serve.

Matt 6:24 - No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. ***Ye cannot serve God and mammon.***

- Giving strikes at the root of evil, the love of money.
- Giving exercises our commitment to love God.

See also: Deu 8:12-14, Prov 30:8-9, 1 Tim 6:6-19

How Do We Grow In Giving?

2 Cor 9:7 - Every man according as he purposeth **in his heart**, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

1. *Begin with the Heart*

What do you believe about money and it's use? Consider scripture's teaching:

- God is the owner of all & we are stewards - 1 Cor 10:26, 1 Cor 4:2
- Give to worship & acknowledge God's ownership - 1 Chron 29:14
- Giving is a great blessing to the giver - Acts 20:35, Matt 6:20, Luke 6:38

Growth Step: Study & believe the truth about money and giving

2. *Commit to giving by faith*

We might consider 10% a good starting point (but not a law or limit) for our practice of giving. Using a percentage also highlights ***proportional giving***.

Growth Step: Purpose in your heart what you will give on a regular basis

3. *Prepare Diligently*

1 Cor 16:2 - Upon the first day of the week **let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him**, that there be no gatherings when I come.

Know your income, Set aside a portion for giving, Regularly bring your offering

Growth Step: Predetermine what, when, and how you will give.

4. *Consider Regular & Spontaneous Giving*

Growth Step: If you're weak in regular giving, commit to trust God in regular, systematic giving. If you're weak in spontaneous giving, respond to opportunities to give beyond regular giving and trust God in sacrifice