

Spiritual Disciplines Within The Church

Chapter 8: Why Give to the Church?

Introduction:

Do you always feel that you are being asked and almost forced to give money to your church? You give your tithe and sometimes to missionaries, why should you do more? The following chapter may help in your understanding of why giving to the church is important.

I. Giving shows love and gratitude for Jesus Christ.

- A. The main reason you should give to the church is that you love Jesus Christ and are grateful for what He has done for you. (*II. Cor. 8:1-4*)
- B. Giving should come from the heart. (*II Cor. 9:7*)
- C. Giving shows that we remember what He has done for us. (*II Cor. 8:9*)

II. The church is the only organization Jesus said He would build. (*Matt. 16:18*)

- A. Every local expression of the church belongs to Christ.
- B. When you give to the church you are giving to help build for the Lord.

III. Giving helps fulfill the great commission. (*Matt. 28:19-20*)

IV. Giving is a form of worship.

- A. God is well-pleased when we worship by giving. (*Phil. 4:18*)
- B. When you give to the church, you are giving a part of yourself to God.
- C. Giving to the church testifies to the church and others of your love for God.

V. Giving is a form of fellowship.

- A. When we give to the church we are giving to each other. (*Acts 4:32*)
- B. By giving to our church we share together in the work of Christ's kingdom.
- C. Giving to the church weakens selfishness.

VI. Giving testifies of a changed life and a concern for others. (*Acts 4:34-37*)

VII. Giving supports the ministry that supports us.

- A. Financial support of ministers is biblical. (*I Cor. 9:6-14, I Tim 5:17*)
- B. Financial support of ministries is practical.

VIII. We should use God's money for God's work and God's glory. (*Ps. 24:1, II Pet. 3:10-11*)

- A. Giving is a commanded privilege.
- B. Giving brings rewards.

IX. God promises generous blessings for generous givers. (*Malachi 3:10*)

X. Applications

- A. Will you give systematically, proportionately, and sacrificially to your church? (*I Cor. 16:1-2*)
- B. Giving to the church is of no eternal benefit to you unless you have first given yourself to the Lord. (*II Cor. 8:5*)