



Your Generosity Is About Your Heart!

Cheerful Giving

Cheerful giving is a joyful act of worship. Paul writes, “God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:7). God isn’t just pleased with moments of cheerful giving—He delights in people whose giving flows from joy and freedom. True generosity isn’t driven by guilt or pressure but by love. Paul deliberately avoided setting fixed amounts, knowing that forced giving can undermine the very joy God desires in our generosity. Cheerful giving is a visible expression of genuine love (2 Cor 8:8).

Generous Giving

God cares more about the heart of the giver than the size of the gift. He doesn’t need our money, nor are His purposes dependent on our resources. Generous giving is a grace—a privilege God gives us to join in His work. As we give prayerfully, sacrificially, and with joy, we grow in our discipleship and become more open-handed and Christ-like in all of life.

Sacrificial Giving

The New Testament consistently highlights the theme of willing sacrifice, including financial stewardship. Acts 2 shows early believers giving sacrificially, joyfully, and generously to meet one another’s needs. The question isn’t, “Am I required to tithe?” but rather, “Does my giving reflect a joyful willingness to sacrifice for the sake of Christ and His Church?”

It’s hard to imagine that the New Covenant—marked by deeper grace and greater glory—would ask less of us than the Old. If anything, it calls us to more: more love, more trust, more generosity.

God calls us to give, not because He lacks anything, but because giving draws us closer to Him. It grows our faith, loosens our grip on worldly things, and deepens our dependence on Him. Generosity isn’t just about money—it’s about the heart being shaped into the likeness of Christ.

Your Generosity Is for Your Good!

Throughout Scripture, God promises blessings to those who give generously—joy being one of the greatest. While we rightly reject prosperity gospel distortions—God does not guarantee wealth or perfect health to generous givers—the Bible is clear: there is blessing in giving.

When writing to the Corinthians about their promised gift to another church, Paul emphasizes this truth:

“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.... He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply

and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God." (2 Cor 9:6, 10-11).

God provides what we need—though not always what we *want*—so that we might enjoy Him, be rich in good works, and live generously, ready to share with others.

Love of Christ

The foundation of Christian generosity is God's own generosity. *"For God so loved...He gave"* John 3:16. *"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich"* (2 Cor 8:9). God's generosity in Christ is staggering. While we were still His enemies, Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8–10). What love is this! As recipients of such grace, Christians ought to be the most generous people on earth.

Mind of Christ

Through His Spirit, Christ renews our minds and teaches us to live as servants. We are called to faithfully steward all that He has entrusted to us. When we acknowledge God's ownership of everything, every financial decision becomes a spiritual one. This shift in thinking shapes how we manage money—not as consumers, but as servants of the King.

Provision of Christ

We are invited to give regularly and intentionally—whether weekly, monthly, or otherwise—as a spiritual discipline. This consistent giving draws our hearts to Christ, aligns us with His mission, and reminds us of His provision.

When we trust in the provision of Christ, we reflect His generosity to those around us. We give not out of pressure, but out of love, gratitude, and faith. That's a blessing—for us and for others. That's a *win-win*.

Your Generosity Is for the Good of Others!

Hands of Christ

Scripture teaches that generous giving should focus on three primary areas:

- 1) The local church
- 2) The poor
- 3) The expansion of the Kingdom of God in and through the Church around the world

Each of these areas is vital. However, giving to the local church should hold equal or even greater priority—*so long as the local church is actively involved in the other two*. This aligns with the wisdom of BCO 54-2, which reflects a holistic understanding of gospel-centered generosity.

At MRPC, we take this responsibility seriously. Through our Local Outreach and Deacons' Fund, we seek to care for "the least of these," recognizing that in doing so, we are giving unto Christ Himself (Matt. 25:40). Likewise, our support of Global Church Planting and Global Partners reflects our commitment to extend the Gospel to the nations. Still, our giving should begin with our local church home.

Scripture affirms this order of priority:

“Let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Gal. 6:10).

This “household of faith” is not an abstract reference to the universal Church—it’s a practical call to support our own church family. We give to God *through* the local church, which He has established as the primary vehicle for proclaiming the Gospel and advancing His Kingdom.

Giving to the local church is also an expression of our shared responsibility. Paul writes:

“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The laborer deserves his wages’” (1 Tim. 5:17–18).

Our generosity provides for:

- The ministries and outreach of the church
- The care of those in need
- The salaries of pastors, ministry staff, and those who assist them
- The maintenance of our property
- The support of missionaries both near and far

This responsibility is also affirmed in the membership vows of PCA churches. One question asks:

“Do you promise to support the work and worship of the church?” As members, we have committed to support the church with the full range of resources God has entrusted to us—our time, our talents, and our treasure.

Let us give joyfully, faithfully, and generously—for the glory of God and the good of others.

Who Is in Charge of “Your” Money?

As Christians, we believe God owns everything and provides all we have. He doesn’t need our money—we are His stewards, entrusted to manage His resources (BCO 54-1). Charles Bugg defines stewardship as “utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation.”

The Bible addresses money more than any other topic because our hearts follow our treasure. Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Mt 6:21).

The word *tithe* means “a tenth part,” but Scripture’s teaching on generosity goes beyond a fixed percentage. Christians often ask, “Are we still commanded to tithe under the New Covenant?” That’s an important question.

The Old Testament does not command only a single tithe. God’s people gave throughout the year as crops and livestock increased. They also brought various freewill offerings to the temple. Every 50th year was a “jubilee,” when debts were canceled and land returned—an act of profound generational generosity.

Though we can't determine the exact percentage of an average Hebrew's giving, it's clear God established a pattern of sacrificial generosity rooted in dependence on Him.

In Christ, the ceremonial laws—sacrifices, priesthood, festivals—have been fulfilled. These were temporary signs pointing to Jesus. Some believe the tithe may fall under these categories. However, in Genesis 14, Abraham gave a tithe to Melchizedek, a king-priest who foreshadowed Christ (Heb 7:1–2). This act of generosity occurred before Moses and the Law, showing that tithing is not just a ceremonial practice but an act of worship that transcends the Old Covenant.

So, are Christians required to tithe? While we aren't bound by Old Testament law, the Bible shows us:

1. God's people are called to sacrificial giving
2. Financial generosity is worship
3. Tithing is not limited to the ceremonial law

The core issue isn't the tithe—it's whether we put God first. We can't serve both God and money. As faithful stewards, we are called to live generously and cheerfully, giving in obedience to God's Word. In doing so, we reflect His image and worship Him with our lives.

Additional Scripture for Consideration (Your Generosity Is about Your Heart!):

Matthew 6:1-4 "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."

Matthew 6:19-21, 24 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.... No one can serve two masters, for 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 God and money."

Matthew 23:23-26 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel! Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean."

Mark 12:41-44 "And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all

contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

2 Corinthians 9:7 “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Additional verses: Luke 19:1-9; 1 Corinthians 13:3

Additional Scripture for Consideration (Your Generosity Is for Your Good!):

2 Corinthians 8:9 “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”

Colossians 3:23-24 “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”

1 Timothy 6:6-10 “But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.”

1 Timothy 6:17-19 “As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.”

Additional Scripture for Consideration (Your Generosity Is for the Good of Others!):

Nehemiah 10:37 “...and to bring the first of our dough, and our contributions, the fruit of every tree, the wine and the oil, to the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and to bring to the Levites the tithes from our ground, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all our towns where we labor.”

Proverbs 3:9 “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce....”

Malachi 3:8-10 “Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.”

Matthew 25:34-40 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous

will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'"

Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Luke 12:32-34 "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

1 Timothy 6:17-18 "As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share."

Additional verses: Mark 10:35-45; Acts 4:32-37; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Additional Scripture for consideration (Who Is in Charge of "Your" Money?):

Deuteronomy 10:14 "Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it."

1 Samuel 2:7 "The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts."

1 Chronicles 29:11-17 "Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. 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. For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. I know, my God, that you test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you."

Job 41:11 "Who has first given to me, that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is mine."

Psalms 24:1-2 "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers."

Psalm 50:10-11 *"For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine."*

Psalm 96:8 *"Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!"*

1 Cor 16:2 *"On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come."*

Additional Verses: Isaiah 45:6-7; Daniel 4:34-35; Matthew 25:14-30

Supporting Documents:

- Scripture (some notes/hyperlinks highlighting some of the many references throughout God's Word)
- PCA Study Committee Report (1981)
- PCA Directory for Worship, Chapter 54:

54-1 *The Holy Scriptures teach that God is the owner of all persons and all things and that we are but stewards of both life and possessions; that God's ownership and our stewardship should be acknowledged; that this acknowledgement should take the form, in part, of giving at least a tithe of our income and other offerings to the work of the Lord through the Church of Jesus Christ, thus worshipping the Lord with our possessions; and that the remainder should be used as becomes Christians.*

54-2 *It is both a privilege and a duty, plainly enjoined in the Bible, to make regular, weekly, systematic and proportionate offerings for the support of religion and for the propagation of the Gospel in our own and foreign lands, and for the relief of the poor. This should be done as an exercise of grace and an act of worship, and at such time during the service as may be deemed expedient by the Session.*

54-3 *It is appropriate that the offerings be dedicated by prayer.*