

Summer Selection Series Money, Giving, & Stewardship From Sermon 8.17.25

Read Malachi 3:8-10

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Following our Momentum Killers sermon, it's always helpful to revisit biblical giving and stewardship. New Heights has traditionally not camped on this doctrine very often and for a variety of reasons. Yet, finances and tithing are a major topic in the Bible. Christians are missing out on a blessing when God's design and commands are neglected by the clergy or the laity. The mindset and practice of giving to the local church is one of the best indicators of spiritual health or spiritual weakness.

- 1. Read *2 Corinthians* 13:5. Since the Bible calls us to examine/test our faith, what are some gauges and indicators of our genuineness? My view of my sin. My love for the house of God, the worship of God, the Word of God, and the people of God. My attitude regarding serving. My giving: Time, talents, treasures. My friends, calendar, & checkbook.
- 2. From our key text (and the entire Bible), what's the only area in which we are allowed to test God? Giving. Discuss.
- 3. What has been your view and practice of giving to the local church you belong to? How has it changed over the years? <u>Various Personal Answers</u>
- 4. What's the Bible view of money? <u>Useful tool but a Lousy god</u>. *Luke 12:34 & Matthew 6:24* 4a. Is money or being rich evil? <u>No. The love of money is evil.</u> See also *1 Timothy 6:10*
- 5. What three terms does the Bible use to outline faithful New Testament giving?

Regularly vs spotty, irregular, seasonal, or inconsistent giving

Sacrificially vs. overflow/leftovers giving

Percentage Based vs. a flat equal amount for the rich and poor.

See 1 Corinthians 16:2 & 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Biblical Money Management

- 1. Scriptural Giving to the Local Church
- 2. Pay your bills, debts, & taxes
- 3. Save wisely
- 4. Enjoy what God has given you.
- 5. Be ready to share with those in need.
- 6. What do you think prevents many from becoming biblical givers? <u>Various answers. Faith. Fear. Pressure from those outside the Church. Misplaced priorities. Debt.</u>

Discuss the crippling dilemma of debt. See also *Proverbs 22:7* (especially in light of the earlier Matthew 6:24 passage)

7. How has God blessed you for financial faithfulness? <u>Various personal answers</u>. He has met all my needs and more. He's promised an immeasurable return as I invest in the Kingdom. He's caused me to be thankful and fully rely on Him. He has established a hedge of protection that has guarded me from crisis and hazards <u>I'll never know about this side of glory</u>.