

The FAQ\$ about Giving

1 Chronicles 29:10-22 & 1 Corinthians 16:1-4

When you bring up the subject of giving, people raise a number of questions. This message aims to answer the basic questions about giving.

❑ **Perspective: How should I think about Giving?**

- God owns it all (1 Chronicles 29:11-12)
- We give back to God what he has given to us (1 Chronicles 29:14-16)
- Giving is a natural part of worship (1 Chronicles 29:10, 13, 20-22)
- You cannot separate doctrine & duty (1 Corinthians 15:1-16:1)

❑ **Purpose: What does Giving accomplish? How will my gifts be used?**

- Our gifts support the ministry of the church (1 Chronicles 29:16)
- Our gifts minister to those in need (1 Corinthians 16:1; Galatians 2:10)
- Giving has a unifying effect on the church (1 Corinthians 16:1)

❑ **Principles: How should I Give?**

Giving should be ... (1 Corinthians 16:1-4)

- **Periodic** – “On the first day of every week...” (2a)
- **Personal** – “...each of you...” (2a)
- **Planned** – “...put something aside and store it up...” (2b)
- **Proportionate** – “...as he may prosper...” (2c)
- **Properly Protected** – “...those whom you accredit...” (3-4)

❑ **Practice: Should I Give a Tithe?**

- The principle of the tithe existed long before the Law was given
 - Abraham gave a tithe to Melchizedek (Genesis 14:17-20)
 - Jacob promised to give God a tithe (Genesis 28:10-22)
- The Law required three tithes (which totaled up to 22.3%)
 - A tithe (10%) of all produce and all animals was given to God (Leviticus 27:30-33)
 - A festival tithe (9%) was eaten in Jerusalem as part of a sacred meal (Deuteronomy 12:5-6, 11, 18)
 - A charity tithe (10% over 3 years, or 3 1/3% each year) was used to help the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow (Deuteronomy 26:12-15; 14:28-29)
 - In essence, the Old Testament tithe was a flat tax on everyone who was part of Israel
- A freewill offering was to be given from the heart (Exodus 25:2; 35:29)

❑ **Practice: How much should I Give?**

- The tithe (10%) was the practice of godly people before the Law was given
- Rather than requiring a tithe, the New Testament teaches generous giving (2 Corinthians 8-9)
- 10% might be a good starting point, but it was never meant to be a requirement or a limit

Give generously, and see what God does