

## The Faithful Giver's 7 Great Surprises...

When you begin to actively and faithfully return 10% or more of all your income(s) to the Lord's work, you will be surprised at...

- 1) *The generous amount of money you will be able to give to the Lord's work.*
- 2) *The deepening of your spiritual life through the godly discipline of honoring and trusting the Lord by tithing.*
- 3) *The increased ease in which you meet your other financial obligations on the 9/10th's of the income you have left.*
- 4) *The way that tithing leads to more generous giving than you ever dreamed possible.*
- 5) *The effect tithing has in making you a wiser manager over all the rest of the money and possessions you have.*
- 6) *The unexpected provisions and advancements that come into your life.*
- 7) *And the surprise you have when you wish you had started tithing much sooner.*



**Giving 10% isn't the ceiling of giving; it's the floor.  
It's not the finish line of giving;  
it's just the starting blocks.**

**Tithing is God's training wheels to launch you into the mindset, skills, and habits of grace giving.**



## Practical Advice About Giving

Many people have questions about giving to the Lord's work at their church and beyond. Here is some practical advice to help people work through this important aspect of their life and spiritual journey.

- **If you are NOT a Christian:** Don't worry about giving to God -- but realize and accept what God wants to give to you -- complete forgiveness, a brand new start, the power to be good and to do good, help for your problems, the ability to forgive, and home in heaven. If you recognize your need for these things in your life, bow your head and invite (by praying) and telling Jesus Christ that you are a sinner that needs a Savior. Invite him into your life and ask Him to begin making you into the person He wants you to be.
- **For all Christians:** Always make it a priority to faithfully support the work of your local church first. After supporting your church, give special gifts and offerings to other Christian causes, projects, missions or the needy.
- **If you're fearful about giving 10% or more, try a 90-day test:** Because God says in Malachi 3:10 that people can "Test Him" in the matter of tithing (giving the first 10% of our income to God's work), I encourage people that are fearful about giving to try a 90 day test. Begin giving 10% of your income(s) to the Lord's work and watch and see if God does not begin to work in your life in ways you haven't previously experienced. If during the 90 day testing period you regret the decision you've made to give 10% of your income to God OR if you feel you never experienced God's divine help in your finances during this time period, then discontinue the test. But if you experience joy and contentment during this time and you are seeing God's help in your finances, continue to faithfully give to the Lord's work.

- **If you want to begin to actively give to God FIRST:** Here are four different ideas to choose from: 1) Whenever you get any money, set aside 10% or more of this money in a special place to give as the Lord directs. 2) Whenever you put a deposit in your checkbook, write out the first check(s) to God's work for 10% or more. 3) If you track your finances through a bookkeeping system or computer program, set up a category for your church giving and another one for other Christian causes -- then begin to faithfully set aside 10% or more of your income into these accounts.
- **If you are married to a Christian but the two of you do not agree on how much you should give to the Lord's work:** See if your spouse will read through this material and listen to the cassette sermon message that was provided with this workbook. Then talk together and pray about a mutually agreeable "testing period" and then begin to faithfully give to God's work.
- **If you are married and your spouse is not a Christian:** Identify any money you know you do have freedom with (read Luke 8:3) and set aside 10% or more of this money to give to the Lord's work AND/OR show this material to your spouse and see if you can try the 90-day testing period.
- **If you are deciding whether to give off the gross or the net of your income:** Pray and ask God what He wants you to do. If He prompts you in your heart to give off the gross, go ahead and do this and trust Him with the results. If you don't have a peace about this, begin giving 10% off the net amount for a few months and see what happens. If after a few months you experience His creative care in your life, then begin to give 10% or more of the gross.
- **If you're wondering about how much to give to your church and how much to give to other places:** A good practice I discovered was to give 10% of my main source of income to my local church (i.e. my main income goes to support the work of my main source of Christian fellowship and teaching). Then, use 10% or more of all other incomes sources, unexpected blessings, etc. to help fund other Christian needs and opportunities that God brings into your life.

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- **If you are a parent:** Help your children set up a place where they can set aside "God's portion" of any money they receive (i.e. - allowances, work projects, gifts of money, etc.). Have them give at church, to missions or to help people in need from the money they "set aside" for God.
- **If you have "fallen behind" on your giving to God's work:** If you knowingly or accidentally have fallen behind on your giving to God's work, you will never regret the decision to "get right" in this area of your life. Review your financial records from this past year and pray about "making up" the amount you have fallen behind. The reality is that everything you have will someday need to be released to someone. Why not faithfully release a portion of what you have now to the "Someone" that's given you everything you have. One elderly lady in her 90's sent a tithe check to the church office with the note, "I want to be prayed up, paid up, and ready to go!"
- **If you want to give to God's work through stocks, real estate, investments or assets:** If God has blessed you with investments or tangible assets (stocks, bonds, a vehicle, equipment, land, buildings, etc.) that you would like to give for God's work, please feel free to call the church office (719-634-3144) and let someone know you would like assistance in doing this as effectively as possible.
- **If you want to give to the Lord's work through your estate plans:** The Bible says in Prov 3:9 that you should, "Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase." If God has increased your financial and material resources over your lifetime, it would be very appropriate to designate a specific percentage or amount to your church and other ministries that you care about. In order to do this strategically and effectively, it is wise to have a qualified and competent Christian lawyer or planned giving advisor help you develop or update your estate plans. If you need help identifying someone that can help you in this, please contact the church office (719-634-3144).

**FINAL THOUGHT:** As people in our congregation are faithful and generous to the Lord's work at our church, we can continue to minister to those in our church, community and around the world. Your gifts DO make an eternal difference for our church, for others, and for you!

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