

**TEST ME IN THIS**

*90-Day Giving Challenge*

# Introduction

Malachi 3:10 says, “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

We know that tithing for 90 days can seem like a huge challenge, but as with everything we do, we don't want something from you, we want something for you! This reading plan is designed to take you on a journey over the next 90 days as you test God's word. We will look at questions about tithing as well as how giving can strengthen our relationships with God. Our prayer is that after 90 days you will have a better understanding of giving and a stronger relationship with God.

# What is a tithe?

**Read:** Leviticus 27:30, Proverbs 3:9-10

A tithe simply means a tenth. As we see from these verses, we are told to honor God with our “first fruits.” While God is the provider and owner of everything we have, He only asks for a tenth of it back. For us, this means that God asks us to give 10% of our income. That number may seem pretty intimidating at first, but don’t worry. As we continue through the Bible, we will see that God is more concerned with our heart behind giving.

**Ask God to prepare your heart for this journey. Pray that He speaks to you through His word and reveals your next step in giving.**

# What is a tithe?

**Read:** Exodus 20:3, Matthew 6:19-21

The first commandment God gives to Moses is that we are to have no other gods before Him. In the book of Matthew, Jesus tells us that our heart will be where our treasure is. For many of us, money becomes our god. Money has our hearts, not God. Think of it as a string that goes from your heart to your wallet. Giving is an act of worship. It helps us cut that string. We not only thank God for all He's given to us by giving back some of it, but we also ensure that we are worshiping God and not our money. How are you honoring God with your money? How does how you spend your money show what you worship?

**Ask God to forgive you for worshiping money. Ask Him to show you how you can honor Him with your finances.**

# What is a tithe?

**Read:** Mark 12:41-44

God designed the tithe to make us more like Christ. In the story of the widow's offering, we see the hearts of two different types of people. Many of the rich people gave large sums of money. Then we have a poor widow that gave all the money she had. The point of this story is not how much the people gave, but their hearts behind it. Think about how much faith it took for the widow to give the last of her money. Do you think she probably had to trust that God was going to continue to provide for her? Do you think that made her a little more like Jesus?

**Pray that God would continue to make your heart more like His.  
Ask Him to show you how He wants you to handle your finances.**

# What is a tithe?

**Read:** Matthew 19:16-26

Through the story of the rich young ruler, we can see how giving makes us more like Jesus, but with a different result than the poor widow. This young ruler was anxious to talk with Jesus. He wanted to be a good person; perfect in fact! He just didn't know how to actually be perfect. We soon find out that this guy has completely missed the point. After talking with Jesus, he walks away disappointed. He was really counting on his wealth to save him. He may not have said it in so many words, but his inability to part with his money spoke for him. In instructing us to tithe, God is reminding us that our money can't save us. Jesus reminds us that there is only one who is perfect and He is the only way to salvation. A true sign that we're trusting God with our lives is if we're trusting Him with our money.

**Ask God to forgive you for relying on your money instead of Him.**

**Ask Him to continue to show you how to honor him first with your finances.**

# What is a tithe?

**Read:** Ecclesiastes 5:19

This verse reminds us that God not only gives us our wealth and possessions but also the ability to enjoy them. God calls us to be good stewards (or managers) of what He has given us. Stewardship is defined as the conducting, supervising, or managing of something. Tithing is one way that we do that. By tithing, we are demonstrating good management of what God has given us. How are you doing managing what God has given you? How could you manage what He's given you better?

**Ask God to give you the wisdom to steward what He's given you well.  
Ask Him to show you areas in your finances that you should steward better.**

# Grace and Tithing

**Read:** Matthew 10:8, 23:23-24

These verses talk a lot about our attitude about giving. Jesus points out in Matthew 10:8 that we give freely because we have received freely. This means that we don't give out of obligation or to follow some commandment. Instead, we give out of joy because God has given us so much. Jesus' conversations with the Pharisees show us the wrong attitude when it comes to giving. These religious men were so intent on following the law, they tithed a tenth of even the smallest spice! Their heart was not to honor God but to try and earn their salvation. In Christ, we are no longer bound by the law. Instead, God extends us grace in every area of our lives, including our tithe.

**How are you giving? Is it out of joy or obligation? Ask God to remind you of everything He's blessed you with and give you a heart of joyful giving.**



# Giving Shows God's Faithfulness

**Read:** Hebrews 13:5-6

Giving can be kind of scary, especially if your finances are tight, but God tells us to keep our lives free from the love of money and be content with what we have. How can we do this? While the journey to tithing can be scary, you're not on the journey alone. God promises to be right there with you. He promises to never leave us. When we give, we have an opportunity to test God's promise and experience his faithfulness in meeting our every need.

**How has fear kept you from giving?  
Ask God to strengthen your heart against fear.**

# Giving Shows God's Provision

**Read:** Philippians 4:19

This verse assures us that God will meet all our needs (notice it doesn't say all our "greeds"). When we give, we have the opportunity to experience God's provision in our lives. We can go through our lives without worry, knowing God will take care of us.

**How have you seen God provide for you? How does knowing He will provide for your needs give you confidence when it comes to tithing?**

# Giving Shows God's Love

**Read:** Genesis 12:1-3

Abraham's life is a demonstration of God's love. Abraham, just like us, was an imperfect man. He made mistakes along the way; many we can read about throughout the book of Genesis. However, God showed him favor and made him "the father of a great nation." God loves us even when we mess up. He freely offers us forgiveness and grace daily. In Christ, we give not to earn God's forgiveness, but because he has already forgiven us!

**How has God shown you love even when you make mistakes?**

**How does God's great love for us affect the way we tithe?**

# Giving Shows God's Vision for the Church

**Read:** *Acts 4:32-37*

Isn't this a great picture of the early church? God was at work in their lives. They brought their possessions together and they shared with one another. There was not a needy person among them. That's exactly what God had in mind when He designed the tithe. He calls us to tithe to the local church, not to support a building, but to support the body of believers.

**How have you felt supported by the local church? Pray that God uses your tithe to continue the work He is doing in the local church.**

# Giving Shows God's Vision for Our Lives

**Read:** Matthew 6:24

This verse is pretty cut and dry. We cannot serve God and money. Among other things, the tithe was designed for our good. God wants us to have a heart more like his. Our love of money prevents us from that. By tithing, we ensure that we are serving God first and foremost in our lives. Jesus talked about money more than any other subject because He knew it would be the number one competitor for our hearts. Every time we give, we cut the string of idolatry between our hearts and our wallets.

**How have you served money over God in the past? Ask God to help you keep him first in every area of your life, including your finances.**

# Giving Shows God's Faithfulness

**Read:** Philippians 1:6

You've made it 12 days into the 90-day giving challenge! You're doing great! If you haven't realized it yet, God is faithful! This verse in Philippians makes it clear that God will continue to work in our lives, growing us in the likeness of Jesus. Tithing is one part of our spiritual growth.

**What challenges have you come across in your first 12 days? Do you have questions or need help? We are always here for you!  
Contact us at [finance@connection-church.com](mailto:finance@connection-church.com)**

# Giving Shows God's Provision

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 9:8-11

In these verses, Paul points us to God's provision. He tells us that God will provide for us and bless us. He doesn't stop there! He also points out in verse 11 that God blesses us so that we can be generous to others. In addition, he tells the Corinthians and us that their generosity will result in people giving thanks to God. God promises to provide for us. He also intends for us to be generous to others.

**How has He blessed you and allowed you to be a blessing to someone else?**

**How could your generosity lead someone else to give thanks to God?**

**Pray that God gives you opportunities to be generous.**

# Giving Shows God's Love

**Read:** 1 John 3:1

This verse contains a great foundational truth for us as Christians. We should probably commit it to memory. God loves us so much he calls us his children! The love we experience from God is all consuming, non-stop, deeper than anything, life-changing love! When our hearts receive that love, we can't help but change! When we experience that love, our hearts should also long for other people to experience that love. That's the very core of sharing our faith. One way we can share the love of God with others is by giving. Through our generosity and giving to the local church, we help share the love of God with other people.

**How have you been effected by God's love? How have you been able to share his love with others? Pray that God reminds you of his deep love for you. Ask him to give you more opportunities to share his love with the world.**



# Giving Shows God's Vision for the Church

**Read:** Acts 2:42-47

These scriptures give us another glimpse into the early church. We see that the church did many things together including meeting together to learn from the apostles and eating together. We see that God moved among them and many people received salvation. In addition, the early church gave to anyone that was in need. While giving was just one aspect of the early church, there is no doubt that it was important. They weren't perfect (none of us are) but they were unified in the mission to share the gospel. This included providing for the physical needs of the people as well as their spiritual needs.

**How are you involved with the local church? How have you seen God move when the church is unified together? Pray that God would continue to move in the hearts of people and draw them to himself. Ask him to use you in the local church to accomplish his will.**

# Giving Shows God's Faithfulness

**Read:** Philippians 4:4-7

School, work, family and finances can create a lot of worry and anxiety for us. The people in the bible were no different, but God doesn't want us to live in a state of worry and anxiety. In Paul's letter to the Philippians, he tells them to rejoice! "That may seem easy for you Paul," you say, "But you don't have a family to provide for or a job that isn't going so well." While Paul's concerns may not have been exactly like ours, he and the Philippians had their own issues. Instead of allowing us to wallow in our worry, Paul tells us to approach God with prayer and thanksgiving. This is the direct remedy for worry. Paul tells us that if we'll pray, God will give us a peace that surpasses all understanding.

**How have you experienced God's peace in the midst of a stressful situation? What areas do you need His peace right now? Ask God to remind you of his faithfulness and to show you areas you need to trust in his faithfulness.**

# Giving Shows God's Provision

**Read:** Luke 12:22-34

Are you still worrying? In these verses, Jesus tells us that we shouldn't worry about what we will eat or our clothes. He reminds us that God feeds the birds and he loves us much more than birds! Think about it, if He provides enough for the birds, don't you think he'll provide for His children?

**What worldly concerns are distracting you from God's provision? How has God provided for you recently? Thank God for all he's given you.**

**Ask Him to remind you that He is your provider.**

# Giving Shows God's Love

**Read:** Luke 16:10-12

These verses talk a lot about our stewardship. Stewardship simply means, “the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; especially: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.” God loves us so much that he gives us everything we have. In return, he asks us to be good stewards of it. Verse 11 tells us that if we can’t be good managers of what God’s given us, then he isn’t going to give us anything else to manage. This isn’t meant as a punishment but as love. Just like you wouldn’t give a 16-year-old boy a Ferrari to drive because he couldn’t handle it, God doesn’t want to give us something He knows we can’t handle.

**How are you being a good steward of what God’s given you? How have you shown that you can honor God with your finances? Ask God to show you areas of you life that you can improve your stewardship and to give you guidance on how to do that.**

# Giving Shows God's Vision for the Church

**Read:** James 2:14-16

Does your faith have fruit? That's exactly what James is asking in these verses. We can't claim to have faith in Christ if we aren't moved to help one another. That's the heart of Jesus, and the heart the Holy Spirit is creating in us. As the church, we're called to same thing. Church isn't supposed to be a holy huddle of people, but an opportunity to participate together in sharing the Gospel.

**How have you seen the fruit of your faith? What kind of generosity is God calling you to? Ask God to continue to create a generous heart in you.**

**Ask Him to give you a heart for people around you.**

# Giving Shows God's Vision for Our Lives

**Read:** 1 Timothy 6:6-10

Contentment is often something that escapes us. Culture will gladly tell us that we are missing out on something we don't have. There are plenty of people who will sell you the answer to all your problems and insecurities for \$9.99. That was never God's intention for our lives. In 1 Timothy, Paul writes to Timothy that godliness with contentment is great wealth. We should be content with what we have. God has richly blessed us and He wants us to be content with that (and Him). Paul also reminds us that the love of money can cause all kinds of trouble for us and can cause us to wander away from God.

**How has God blessed your life? Are you content with what he has given you?**

**Thank God for the many blessings in your life. Ask Him to help you  
be content with your life.**

# Giving Shows God's Faithfulness

**Read:** 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

In whatever situation we face, we can rest on the fact that God is faithful. Paul writes the same thing to the Thessalonians. He is encouraging them by telling them that God is going to continue to work in their lives. The same is true for us. The fact is, we don't always feel like this true. We stumble around and get frustrated at ourselves for making the same mistakes. Take encouragement from these verses. God's faithfulness trumps our feelings.

**Thank God for his faithfulness.**

**Ask him to continue to change your heart to be more like his.**

# Giving Shows God's Faithfulness

**Read:** Psalm 50:9-11

You know those high school movies where the broke boy promises an equally broke girl the world. It doesn't really mean very much, because he can't really give her anything. God created the whole world. Everything in it belongs to him. He really doesn't need anything from us. On the flip side, he really can provide everything for us! As believers, God's provision should help us worry less about worldly things so we can focus on the eternal things.

**What eternal things does God want you to focus on instead of worldly things?**

**Thank God for his provision in your life and ask Him to continue to show you ways you can share about His love.**



# Giving Shows God's Love

**Read:** Matthew 7:9-11

Jesus gives us a great picture of God as our loving father. God loves us as his children and he gives us many good things. Some of these things are financial, but many of them are physical and spiritual. Our families, health, jobs, and relationship with God are all examples of God's gifts to us.

**How does being the recipient of God's love change the way you talk about God's love? How does being the recipient of God's gifts change the way you see giving and generosity? Thank God for his gifts to you.  
Ask Him to make you a blessing to someone else.**

# Giving Shows God's Visions for the Church

**Read:** Philippians 4:15-17

We aren't all called to be missionaries across the globe (we are called to missionaries where God has put us). However, one of the unique calling of the church is to support missionaries and other churches throughout the world. In writing to the Philippians, Paul is also thanking them for supporting him throughout his missionary journeys. As a churches, God wants us to support each other in sharing the Gospel.

**In addition to financial support, how can you support the work of global discipleship? Thank God for the missionaries and churches He has called to reach the world. Ask Him to bless their efforts and protect them as they continue to share His love with the world.**

# Giving Shows God's Vision for Our Lives

**Read:** Acts 20:35

Have you ever noticed when you go out of your way to serve somebody that you start thinking of your own problems less? In asking us to give and support one another, God is making us more like him. We have already seen that God is rich in love and generosity, and He wants the same to be true for us. In addition, Paul reminds us that in giving to other people, we receive a blessing as well.

**Thank God for continuing to make your heart more like his. Ask Him to give you opportunities to serve others. (Be prepared for Him to do it!)**

# Giving Shows God's Faithfulness

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 1:7-9

Do you ever feel like you just can't do what God has called you to do? Maybe it's completing this 90-challenge. Maybe it's sharing your faith with your neighbor or being a supportive parent. We all have areas of our lives where we feel like we can't succeed. The people in the early churches were no different. In writing to the Corinthians, Paul reminds them they do not lack any spiritual gift to do what God has called them to do. He recaps to them that God is faithful and will continue to equip them to do what God has called them to. The same is true for us. God has created us each with a specific purpose. Thankfully, He equips us through the power of the Holy Spirit to fulfill that purpose.

**How does the reminder in these verses change the way view what God has called you to do? Thank God for his faithfulness and ask him to continue to strengthen and equip you to fulfill His unique purpose for your life.**

# Giving Shows God's Provision

**Read:** Acts 17:24-25

These verses reiterate to us that God does not need anything from us. God didn't ask us to tithe so that we would take care of him. On the contrary! He created the whole world, and everything is at his disposal. Instead, we can see that He has the desire and ability to provide for us.

**How do these verses affect the way you view giving? How does God's ability and desire to provide for you change your thoughts?**

**Thank God for His provision in your life.**

# Giving Shows God's Love

**Read:** Mark 10:17-31

Can you grasp the fact that God knows the number of hairs on your head? He even remembers all the birds, but he still thinks of you. That's some serious attention to detail! Really, that's what we call love. Jesus tells us that we are much more valuable to God than the birds.

**How would your life look different if you lived your life knowing God loved you that much? How does your knowledge of God's love affect the way you serve other people?**

# Giving Shows God's Vision for the Church

**Read:** Mark 10:17-31

The man in this story really wanted to follow Jesus, until he realize how much he would have to surrender. He was willing to do some things like keep the commandments, but he wasn't willing to give up his money. We're told that the man went away sad when he realized that. We have to understand that following Jesus is not about doing a few things on our list. He calls us to absolute surrender! That means everything from the way you talk to your family to the way you handle your finances.

**What is God calling you to surrender to him? What is preventing you from absolute surrender? Ask God to show you areas of your life that you haven't surrendered to him.**

# Giving Shows God's Vision for Our Lives

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 9:6

These verses are all about our heart in giving. Paul is writing to Corinthians with the understanding that the tithe is already established. He reminds us that we have been blessed so we can bless others. God doesn't intend for this to be something we do under compulsion. Instead, He wants us to be joyful about giving!

**Are you a cheerful giver? Thank God for all the blessings He has given you.  
Ask Him to continue to make you more generous.**



# Giving Shows God's Faithfulness

**Read:** 1 Kings 15:7-16

The Old Testament is full of stories of God's faithfulness. In this account, God tells the prophet Elijah to go in to a town and there would be a widow that would supply him with food. Elijah does as God commands him but he soon finds out that there is a drought in the land and neither the widow, nor anyone else has any food. Was God wrong? Is Elijah stuck without food? Once again, God displays his faithfulness. Not only did Elijah get food, but the widow and her family had food until the drought was over. Even though God's command may have sounded a little crazy, Elijah remained faithful and so did God. God asks us to trust Him in a lot of situations. From our careers to our finances, He is faithful.

**How has God shown his faithfulness in your life, even when the situation seemed hopeless? Thank God for his faithfulness. Ask Him to help you trust Him in every situation.**

# Giving Shows God's Provisions

**Read:** Matthew 6:25-34

God does not want us to live our lives in fear and anxiety. Verse 33 tells us that if we will pursue God and His plan for us first, He will see to it that we will have everything we need to do His will and bring Him glory.

**What material things are causing you to live in fear and anxiety? What areas of your life do you need to surrender to God? Ask God to remind you of his faithfulness and provision. Ask Him to help you focus on His will and plan for your life.**

# Giving Shows God's Love

**Read:** James 1:17

Think about all the things you enjoy in life. It may be your family, time spent on vacation, or simply time spent resting. James reminds us that every good gift comes from God. We do not have to look very far to see how much God has blessed us. Even when we go through tough times, blessings still surround us. When we give, we are thanking God for what He has given us.

**What are some of the blessings you see in your life? Thank God for these!  
Thank Him for his generous, unfailing love.**

# Giving Shows God's Vision for the Church

**Read:** 1 Chronicles 29:1-9

What an exciting time for the Israelites! Building the temple was no small task, but the people stepped up to the challenge. Verse 2 tells us that David gave all of his resources to the project. Verse 6 tells us that the other leaders also gave willingly. In this show of unity and cooperation, the people provided enough resources to build the temple. This project was more than any one of them could do on their own. However, by their willingness to give in unity, they were able to accomplish more together.

**How is your attitude when it comes to giving? Are you willing to give generously?**

**Ask God to create a willing, generous heart in you.**

# Giving Shows God's Vision for Our Lives

**Read:** 1 Peter 4:8-11

Peter reminds us that we are called to be faithful stewards of God's grace. We can see God's grace in our lives through His love, provision, and blessings. We are called to be good stewards of our money, but that falls under the over arching command to be good stewards of God's grace. How are we managing what He's given us out of grace? Are we using our gifts and talents to serve ourselves or other people?

**Thank God for His grace in your life. Be specific. Ask Him to continue to show you ways that you can show grace to others.**

# Giving Shows God's Faithfulness

**Read:** Genesis 28:10-22

In these verses Jacob has a dream straight from God. In the midst of his uncertainty, God promises to bless him and his family. He also promises that he will never leave Jacob and He will fulfill all of His promises to him. Jacob's response to this dream is renewed faith and gratitude. He further demonstrates his gratitude by setting up an altar to God and promising to give a tenth of whatever God provides back to Him. How do God's promises move you to gratitude? In what ways do we demonstrate our gratitude to God?

**Thank God the work he is doing in your life.**

**Ask Him to create in you a gracious heart.**

# Giving Shows God's Provision

**Read:** Exodus 16:1-5

In these verses, the Israelites demonstrate how quickly we can forget God's provision for us. God had already led them out of captivity in Egypt, but then they started grumbling about how they didn't have any food. They even said it would have been better to stay in Egypt because they had food there! Even though they were complaining, God still provided food for them. It's probably easy for us to look at the Israelites and think, "How could they be so ungrateful? God already did so much for them and they're going to worry about food." The truth is, our attitudes towards God are often not much different. He continually demonstrates his love, faithfulness, and provision to us, but we still find something to complain about.

**Ask God to forgive you for forgetting all of His provision in your life.  
Thank Him for his continual provision in your life.**

# Giving Shows God's Love

**Read:** Isaiah 41:8-10

Like Jacob, God chose you. He promises to never leave you. He promises to strengthen you. That's a serious promise of love. How does knowing that God loves us that much change the way we view giving? How does that love give you courage to give sacrificially?

**Thank God for His immense love for you. Ask Him to remind you of that love and use it propel you forward.**



# Giving Shows God's Vision for the Church

**Read:** Acts 11:27-30

The believers in the early church were willing and able to help others. They heard about a need, and they stepped up to meet the need. If we really think about it though, one member of the early church could probably not have met the need that the believers in Judea were facing. It was only through a unified effort of all the believers, that they could provide help for the other church. The same is still true today. On our own, we may not be able to end world hunger, poverty, or even share the love of Jesus in another country. But together, we can. As a unified body of believers, focused on sharing the love of Jesus, we're an unstoppable force for the Gospel.

**What are some things that you cannot accomplish on your own, but are made possible when you work with other believers? Thank God for the church. Ask Him to continue to provide resources and opportunities for the church to carry His name in to the world.**

# Giving Shows God's Vision for our Lives

**Read:** Luke 14:25-34

To successfully embark on a project, you have to understand how much it's going to cost you. Jesus uses that same idea to show us that we have to count the cost of following Him. He tells us in verse 33, that we have to be willing to give up everything to follow Him. Everything means the way we spend our money, the way we parent our kids, and the decisions we make about our careers. Being a follower of Christ requires complete and absolute surrender. We will never be perfect at this. There will always be areas of our life that we need to surrender. So, we must examine ourselves often in this journey.

**What is God calling you to surrender to Him? Ask Him to show you.  
Now surrender it to Him daily.**

# Giving Shows God's Faithfulness

**Read:** Joshua 1:1-6

This is a monumental time for the Israelites. They are about to be able to finally enter the Promised Land. These verses open 40 years after the Israelites left Egypt. Even after all that time, God is fulfilling His promise to His people. How does God's assurance of faithfulness encourage you to take risks for the Gospel?

**Thank God for His faithfulness. Be specific in ways He has shown you faithfulness.  
Ask Him to give you courage as you take His love to the world.**

# Giving Shows God's Provision

**Read:** Nehemiah 9:16-21

Building off of yesterday, these verses reference God's provision toward the Israelites. These verses show us specific examples of how God provided for His people. We see that God guided them (vs. 19), instructed them (vs. 20), sustained them (vs. 21), and they ultimately lacked nothing (vs. 21). God didn't do these things for the Israelites and then stop doing them for us. If we take a minute to examine our lives, we will find that His provision is still very present.

**Think back to some times when God guided you. Instructed you. Sustained you. Thank Him for his provision in your life. Ask Him to show you can demonstrate thankfulness for that provision.**

# Giving Shows God's Love

**Read:** Romans 8:31-32

When you love someone, how does your behavior towards them change? You may want to spend more time with them or give them special tokens of your love. If someone you really loved was in need of something, you're probably going to find a way to give it to them. In these verses, Paul once again reminds us of the deep love God has for us. God gave his own son for us, how would we think He would not also graciously give us anything else.

**Thank God for his deep love for you. Ask Him to show you ways you can demonstrate this love to other people.**

# Giving Shows God's Vision for the Church

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

In writing to the church in Corinth, Paul informs them of what's been happening with the church in Macedonia. As he tells them, the Macedonian church faced trials and extreme poverty, but this did not stop them from being generous. Paul uses this example to challenge the church in Corinth to give as well. In verse 8, Paul tells them that he's not commanding them to give, but testing the sincerity of their love. When the church talks about giving, it's not to command you to do something. Instead, it's to help you see the privilege of giving as well as it's benefit to your relationship with Christ. Giving is a blessing from God. When we don't give, we miss out on knowing God more intimately.

**When you hear about giving through a filter of love, how does that change the way you view tithing? Ask God to reveal why you resist giving. Ask Him to show you His Truth that trumps that resistance.**

# Giving Shows God's Vision for our Lives

**Read:** Matthew 25:14-30

There are many applications that we could draw from this parable. The overarching idea is that God has entrusted us with things. Whether that's your money or talent, God does not desire for us to just bury it in the ground like the third servant. We have been entrusted with certain things, so that we can go out and grow the kingdom. We see this with the first two servants. They were entrusted with the master's treasure and they went out and used it to grow his wealth even more. After they did this, they were told that because they were faithful with a few things, they would be put in charge of many things. Are you being a good steward of what God's given you? If we aren't faithful now, we definitely won't be later. More specifically, are you using what He's given you to grow His kingdom?

**Thank God for the things He has entrusted you with. Ask Him to help you be a good steward of those things. Ask Him to show you ways you can grow His kingdom and not your own.**

# Giving Shows God's Faithfulness

**Read:** 2 Timothy 2:11-13

Paul writes to young pastor Timothy to encourage him. Verses 11 through 13 focus on God's trustworthiness and faithfulness. God cannot be unfaithful to His word. It is absolutely impossible! It goes against His very nature. Knowing that truth, and reading verse 11, should give us confidence in doing what God has called us to do.

**What areas of your life do you need to be reminded of God's faithfulness? Thank God for His faithfulness. Ask Him to help you have boldness and confidence in fulfilling the purposes He has for you.**



# Giving Shows God's Provision

**Read:** Matthew 14:13-21

We've already approached this story once, but let's look at it again from a different angle. Have you ever thought about what it was like to be the young boy in this story? He probably really wanted to eat his lunch, but instead, he got to watch Jesus and the disciples take it and feed over 5,000 people with it. God's provision in your life is not just meant to benefit you. Instead, as God is generous with us, He also intends for us to be generous with others. Just like the little boy in Matthew 14, God will honor our generosity more than we can imagine.

**Thank God for His provision in your life. Ask Him to show you ways you can reciprocate that generosity towards other people.  
Ask Him to remind you that He is your provider.**

# Giving Shows God's Love

**Read:** Romans 8:38-39

The greatest thing you have ever or will ever be given is the love of God. Paul makes the depth and intensity of God's love very clear in these verses. NOTHING can separate us from His love. How have you experienced this love in your own life? As believers, our desire should be that others are also able to experience this amazing love! By giving your money, your time, and yourself, you can be a part of spreading this great love!

**Thank God for his amazing love. Ask Him to give you a heart to share this love with other people. Ask Him to show you specific ways you can share His love.**

# Giving Shows God's Vision for the Church

**Read:** 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16

There are a lot of things that we can draw from these verses, but we will just focus on a couple to see God's vision for the church. In writing to the church at Thessalonica, Paul spends the first 7 verses of chapter 2 explaining that he is not motivated in writing to them by a desire to please people. Instead, he is moved by a great love for them. In fact, in verse 11, he tells them that he cares for them as a father. All of this changes the way the Thessalonians hear what he is trying to tell them. This concept is still true for us today. When we know that someone cares about us, we can receive what they say and apply it.

**Thank God for the local church. Ask Him to show you ways you can support the local church.**

# Giving Shows God's Vision for Our Lives

**Read:** Proverbs 30:7-9

Think about the prayers you hear when it comes to money. Some people pray for wealth. Some pray for stuff. The writer of these proverbs prays something very different. He asks God to give him what he needs just for today. He asks for just enough so that he doesn't become poor and dishonor God or have too much and forget Him altogether. These truths apply to us today. Money has a deceiving way of taking our eyes off of Jesus. How do your prayers about money and provision need to change to honor God?

**Thank God for his provision in your life. Pray that He gives you your portion for today and helps you be satisfied with that.**

# Giving Shows God's Faithfulness

**Read:** Deuteronomy 7:9

Knowing who makes promises has a lot to do with whether you believe they will come through on them. If you're six-year-old promises to give you a million dollars tomorrow, you might laugh, but chances are, you're not expecting to actually have a million dollars tomorrow. Deuteronomy 7:9 tells us that God is faithful! He keeps his covenant of love to a thousand generations! That's a REALLY long time! By knowing that God is who He says He is, we can trust He will fulfill His promises. How can this understanding of God's character give you confidence in His promises? How can this new confidence in His faithfulness help you take your next steps in your relationship with God?

**Thank God for His faithfulness. Ask Him to remind you of His promises, especially in the midst of taking big next steps.**

# Giving Shows God's Provision

**Read:** Mark 6:6-13

When Jesus sends out the twelve disciples, they do not take a lot with them. In fact, Jesus tells them to take nothing with them, not even food or clothes. Instead, he assures them that wherever they go preach the Gospel; there will be someone there to provide that for them. Jesus didn't send them out without a plan in hopes that things might work out for them. Instead, they went in confidence knowing that as they were faithful to what Christ commanded them, their needs would be met.

**How has God met your needs? Thank Him for those things. Ask Him to give you confidence in His provision as you continue in His purpose for you.**

# Giving Shows God's Love

**Read:** Psalm 118

This psalmist is full of love and gratitude towards God. Can you relate to some of the things he wrote? God is our refuge. His love does endure forever. He is good. Knowing all of this, the psalmist praises God. He is full of gratitude and joy. How do you respond to God's great love? Whether it be our money, our words, or our time, we can show gratitude to God in multiple ways.

**Thank God for his great love. Ask Him how He wants you to respond with gratitude. Serving in the church? Giving financially? Don't just ask, but be prepared to respond!**

# Giving Shows God's Vision for the Church

**Read:** Romans 12:9-12

This section out of Romans 12 provides us with a lot of practical application for what it means to love. While it may seem like it's wishful thinking to "be devoted to one another," "share with the Lord's people who are in need," or even "live at peace with everyone," but how would the church look if we really tried some of these things? When we are faced with decisions about giving, serving, or even getting along with people, what if we strived to "honor one another above yourself?" No church is perfect. Anything that consists of broken people will never be perfect, but by striving to truly love one another, we can all grow to be more like Christ.

**In reading the section out of Romans 12, what did God convict you about? Pray about that, and ask God to help you love people more like He would.**



# Giving Shows God's Vision for Our Lives

**Read:** Matthew 13:44

Have you ever wanted something enough that you would give anything to have it? That's exactly what Jesus is saying about himself in this passage. When we truly treasure Christ, we will give up anything to follow Him. As we have seen already, there is a cost to following Jesus. He requires absolute surrender from us. This parable reminds us that although the cost is great, the treasure we gain in Christ is invaluable.

**Do you view your relationship with God as a treasure? Why or why not? Pray through that and ask God to give you a greater hunger for Him.**

# Giving Shows God's Faithfulness

**Read:** Joshua 4:19-24

Do you ever think back on times when God was faithful? That's exactly what Joshua is trying to get the people to do in these verses. Earlier in chapter 3, the Israelites successfully crossed the Jordan River. When they had done so, they gathered twelve stones from the river. In these verses, Joshua sets up the stones to be a memorial to what God had done for the Israelites. In verse 24, Joshua reminds the people that God showed faithfulness to the Israelites so that everyone would know and glorify God.

**What are the memorial stones of your life? Reflect on those times when God proved His faithfulness. Thank God for his faithfulness. Pray that He will give you an opportunity to tell about His faithfulness to other people.**

# Giving Shows God's Provision

**Read:** Mark 8:1-10

Unfortunately, it's easy to forget God's provision in our lives. In this scripture, we have Jesus and the disciples facing a very familiar situation. There are 4,000 people that need food. Now we know that just a few chapters earlier, Jesus fed over 5,000 people with just a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish. It seems the disciples have already forgotten that event. They even say in verse 4, "Where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?" Even though they had forgotten how Jesus had provided for them before, He once again showed them His provision.

**Have you forgotten how God provides for His children? How does being reminded of that change the way you approach giving? What about other areas of your life?**

# Giving Shows God's Love

**Read:** Ephesians 2:1-10

Isn't it crazy that even when we were neck deep in sin, God made us alive in Christ? Paul tells us that it's because of God's great love for us that He did this. God is rich in mercy and love. Both of which, He lavishes on us as His children. Do you reflect this same kind of love and mercy to other people? We certainly didn't do anything to deserve God's love, and there are times when other people aren't very lovable. How does being the receiver of this type of unconditional love help you reciprocate it?

**Thank God for his unmerited love for you. Ask Him to help you show the same love to other people.**

# Giving Shows God's Vision for the Church

**Read:** Galatians 6:9-10

We all need to be reminded of this! Sometimes, when we are pouring everything we have into pursuing God, discouragement can creep in. Sometimes we feel like no matter how hard we try, nothing changes. Paul knew that the Christians in Galatia would face discouragement. That's why he encouraged them to continue pressing on. Paul reminds us as the church that we shouldn't tire of doing good and in the end we will reap a good reward if we persevere. God's timing is perfect. When His people are pursuing Him, they are unstoppable. The combination of those two things helps us press on.

**Ask God to re-energize you. Ask Him to remind you of His perfect timing and the unstoppable force that is the church.**

# Giving Shows God's Vision for Our Lives

**Read:** Job 31:24-28

You've made it 60 days in to the giving challenge! How about some verses that are really direct? Job doesn't sugar coat this for us. If we find our security or joy in our wealth, then that's sin. We are robbing God of His proper place in our lives (idolatry). As Job says, we've been unfaithful to God. Good things like money, school, job, or even our families can become idols in our lives. That's sin and we need to repent. The crazy thing is, when money isn't our god, it's easier to give away. The thing that hinders us the most from being generous is that we worship what God has called us to give away.

**What have you made an idol in your life? Recognize that it's an idol, repent of it, and put God back in His proper place in your life.**

