

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

In addition to being good stewards of our time and spiritual gifts, God also calls us to be good stewards of our finances. In Christ's kingdom, we understand the purpose for earthly wealth is to invest it in eternal treasures.

*"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:19-20)*

The faithful use of our resources is not only commanded by God; it is an undeniable indicator of our spiritual health. Materialism, selfishness, greed, hoarding, anxiety over finances – all of these reveal that our trust lies not in God but in money. In the same way, generosity and faithfulness reveal that our trust is in God.

There were very specific giving instructions provided for Israel in the Old Testament. The tithe was a requirement of the Law in which the Israelites were to give 10 percent of the crops they grew and the livestock they raised. In fact, the Old Testament Law required multiple tithes—one for the Levites, one for the use of the temple and the feasts, and one for the poor of the land—which would have pushed the total to around 23 percent.

Under the New Covenant of grace, Christians are released from a legalistic tithing system. The New Testament nowhere designates a percentage of income a person should set aside, but says gifts should be "in keeping with income". We look at the concept of the Old Testament tithe as a tutor to guide us in our giving as Christians under the New Covenant. The New Testament talks much about the importance and benefits of giving. We are to give as we are able. Sometimes that means giving more than 10 percent depending on the ability of the Christian and the needs of the church. It is our expectation that members of Calvary Fellowship will contribute faithfully to support the ministries of this church.

In addition to the command to give, Scripture also addresses our motives and attitudes toward giving. Here are a few examples:

- Giving is to be generous, not stingy. (2 Corinthians 9:6)
- Giving is to be enthusiastic, not forced. (2 Corinthians 9:7)
- Giving is to be deliberate, not haphazard. (2 Corinthians 9:7)
- Giving is to be proportionate, not standardized. (1 Corinthians 16:2)
- Giving is to be discreet, not showy. (Matthew 6:1-4)

Above all, tithes and offerings should be given with pure motives and an attitude of worship to God and service to the body of Christ. "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver". Without question, giving based on the teaching of the New Testament is expected and should be considered a privilege of participating in the work of the kingdom.

Why is giving back to God financially so important to our spiritual growth?

Additional Resources:

Financial Peace University by Dave Ramsey

Master Your Money by Ron Blue

Giving and Tithing by Larry Burkett

The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn

### GENERAL FUND GIVING

The Elders of Calvary Fellowship establish a faith-based budget each year that is affirmed by the members. When you give weekly to the General Fund, you are supporting our staff, the operation of the church, ministry expenses, and local and international missions. We are pleased to offer you several convenient methods for giving your tithes and offerings, as well as other contributions.

- On the Weekend: On offering is received at each of our weekend services. Simply make your check payable to Calvary Fellowship.
- Secure Give Mobile App: Through this app you can use your mobile device to give with a credit card or set up an electronic automated transfer. Download the SecureGive app from your app store and search Calvary Fellowship.
- Bill Pay: Set Calvary Fellowship up in your bank's bill pay system. Using the memo line you can designate amounts to any of the 4 approved designations (General Fund, Mortgage, Missions and Helps).
- The Web Site: Simply logon to our website [[www.cfdowningtown.com](http://www.cfdowningtown.com)] and easily set up a one-time or recurring gift. By creating an account you will have access to schedule and change your giving. You may use a credit card or set up an automated electronic transfer.
- Electronic Fund Transfer: You can set up recurring weekly, bi-weekly or monthly automatic transfers of funds by requesting a form from Debbie Avila at [davila@cfdowningtown.com](mailto:davila@cfdowningtown.com).
- Mail: We welcome you to mail your contributions directly to our main office: Calvary Fellowship, Attn: Finance Department, 95 West Devon Drive, Downingtown, PA 19335.
- Stock Donations: If you would like to make a stock gift by electronic transfer, please contact Debbie Avila for more details.
- Foundation/Trust Giving: If you have a Charitable Foundation or Giving Trust, please consider making Calvary recipients of your funds.

If you have questions or need a giving number, please contact Debbie Avila in the Finance Department at 610.363.7171 x2138 or [davila@cfdowningtown.com](mailto:davila@cfdowningtown.com).

