

Giving for God's Glory

Biblical Basis and Approach to Giving in Ichthus



*Giving is found in God's heart,
in the heart of the Gospel and
in the heart of the true believer.*

*Giving is part of worship and brings much spiritual
blessing and release*

Roger and Faith Forster

In Ichthus Christian Fellowship we are committed to extending God's kingdom and to helping men, women and children know the love of God.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life"

(John 3 v 16)

Loving and giving are in God's heart. He desires to reach people in our lost world. We are committed to being partners with Jesus in this great mission. For the work to advance the necessary finances must be available.

In this document we look at how to honour God with our money.

Principles of Giving

- ✓ *God provides for us (John 3 v 16, Phil 4 v 19)*
- ✓ *Give with a cheerful heart (2 Cor 9 v 7)*
- ✓ *Give generously (2 Cor 9 v 6)*
- ✓ *Give responsibly and regularly (1 Cor 16 v 2)*
- ✓ *Give in faith (Mark 12 v 41-44)*

Have Faith in God!

There is much anxiety in our world today about money. But this is not a new thing. Jesus addressed these fears in the Sermon on the Mount when he told us not to be anxious about material things but to seek first His kingdom and righteousness and then all these things *would be added to us*.

Notice that He totally reversed the way we look at things. We tend to think that if we first take care of all we think we need, then we can trust Him to add to our income enough to give away! But Jesus said the opposite is true (Matt. 6 v 24-34).

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'Ichthus' is a Greek word signifying 'Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour'.

ICHTHUS
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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Jesus was merely summing up the whole thrust of the Old Testament teaching on giving. In the Old Testament God's people were exhorted to give a tithe (i.e. 10%) of their income to the Lord and His work. (Numbers 18 v 21) On top of that, they were encouraged to bring freewill love offerings also! (Exodus. 25 v 1-3, 35 v 22).

These tithes and offerings were a recognition of their dependence on the Lord and His protection, and also a thanksgiving for all the blessings they enjoyed as His people. (Deut. 8 v 6-18) The gifts made provision for the services and the servants of the Lord.

"I have personally found that in making tithing a habit of my life, I have had more to give again in special offerings"
- Roger Forster

Blessings and Promises

This is a useful principle for us as we think about our own giving today. Tithing was an Old Testament regulation to help the people establish a pattern of giving their money and the first fruits of their harvests to the Lord. The New Testament assumes that we will be doing more than that, as we recognize that everything we have is His. However, as a discipline on our lives we have found that to make tithing (10%) the basis of our giving enables us to give over and above that. This is in line with the Bible's teaching that giving is good for you, and that God blesses it more than we can dream.

"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse so that there may be food in my house and test me now in this" says the Lord of hosts "and see if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows." Malachi 3 v 10

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians he has much to say about giving to God in terms of the laws of sowing and reaping. (Read 2 Cor. 9 v 5-15 - there are wonderful promises here!)

A Biblical Pattern

We in Ichthus follow the guidance of Paul (1 Cor. 16 v 2) in regularly setting aside part of our income to give to the Lord and His work. Since the Bible encourages us to support Christian workers, both those who serve us and those who carry the gospel to others, we recommend you give all or most of your tithe into Ichthus if you are part of our movement. This provides not only for the growth and development of your local congregation but also supports work overseas, community projects at home, and also our ministries throughout the UK and beyond.

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