

Giving

It's never a money problem. It's a trust problem.

WHAT WE MEAN BY GIVING Honoring God with our finances through faithful, generous, and cheerful giving, trusting Him as our provider and investing in the work He is doing through Gateway Church and beyond.

Your money goes where your trust already is. Every time. And giving is never the price of God's favor. It is the proof you have already received it. He was rich, yet for our sake He became poor (2 Corinthians 8:9). The gospel funds the offering, never the other way around.

1. FAITHFUL

Giving is a decision you make once, not a debate you have every month.

REGULAR. Not when I feel it. On a rhythm, the way every other bill already works.

PLANNED. Settled before the paycheck lands, not negotiated after.

FIRST. From the front of the harvest, not out of whatever survived the month.

1 CORINTHIANS 16:2 *"set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income"* Regular, planned, for every one of you, and proportional. Four commitments in a single verse.

PROVERBS 3:9 *"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops"* Hebrew kabad, to make heavy, to give weight to. You give weight to what you fund first.

DEUTERONOMY 8:18 *"it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth"* The ability to earn was itself a gift.

THIS WEEK Sit down with God and decide what you are going to give. Not what you can spare. What you want to give. Then be done deciding.

2. GENEROUS

Generosity is measured by what it costs you, not by what it totals.

PROPORTION. A percentage, not a number. It rises and falls with what you have.

SACRIFICE. If it costs you nothing, it has not yet cost you anything.

BEYOND. The Macedonians gave past their ability, not within their comfort.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:3 *"they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability"* Written about churches in severe poverty who begged for the privilege.

LUKE 21:4 *"she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on"* He was not counting. He was weighing. He measured the gift by what was left behind, not by what was dropped in.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6 *"whoever sows generously will also reap generously"* Sowing language, not spending language. A farmer does not lose the seed he plants.

THIS WEEK Do not stop at what you will give. Ask what it should cost. If you never feel it, you never gave it. You just moved it.

3. CHEERFUL

God is not after your money. He is after your gladness.

NOT RELUCTANT. No arm twisting, no guilt, no pressure from a stage. Ever.

IN THE HEART. Settled on the inside long before it ever reaches the plate.

HILAROS. The Greek behind cheerful. Glad, not grim. Our word hilarious comes from it.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7 *“God loves a cheerful giver”*

ACTS 20:35 *“It is more blessed to give than to receive”* Paul quoting Jesus. The blessing lands first on the giver.

DEUTERONOMY 15:10 *“Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart”*

BLESSINGS → GRATITUDE → A HILAROS HEART → EMPTY SUITCASES

It only runs one direction. See the blessing and gratitude comes. Get grateful and gladness comes. Get glad and the hands open on their own. So if giving feels grim, the problem is not at the giving end of the chain. It is at the blessing end. We quit noticing.

THIS WEEK Before you write down a number, write down a list. Ten things, written, not just thought about. Nobody has to talk a grateful person into generosity.

4. TRUSTING

It's never a money problem. It's a trust problem.

HE OWNS IT. Nothing in my hand ever originated in my hand.

HE PROVIDES IT. Yahweh Yireh, the LORD will provide. Named on a mountain, not in a classroom.

HE IS WORTH IT. Giving is where belief finally gets a number attached to it.

GENESIS 22:14 *“The LORD Will Provide”* Named after the knife was already down. Trust first, provision second.

MALACHI 3:10 *“see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven”* Not a formula for profit. An invitation to trust.

PHILIPPIANS 4:19 *“my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory”* Written from a prison cell to a church that had just given sacrificially.

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS *Matthew 25:24-25*

The servant who buried his talent never said he was lazy. He said, “I knew that you are a hard man.” A wrong view of God produced fear, and fear produced a buried gift. We hold back when we believe God cannot be trusted.

THIS WEEK When something in you pulls back, finish the sentence honestly: I'm holding back because I think God is _____. Hand it to God. Then do it anyway. Not because the fear is gone, but because that is what trust is.

ALL OF IT IN FOUR WORDS

COUNT what He has already given you.

DECIDE what you are going to give.

WEIGH what it should cost.

DO it. This week, not someday.

REFLECT & RESPOND

- *If someone laid out the order of my spending, where would God land on that list?*
- *If He sat down across from my giving and weighed it, what would He see left over?*
- *When was the last time giving actually made me glad?*
- *What does my giving reveal about what I actually believe God is like?*

Take some time this week and decide with God what you want to give.

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GATEWAY CHURCH MONROE

Pastor Jon Dunwell · linktr.ee/GatewayChurchMonroe · Same service 9:00 AM & 5:30 PM

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All That He Gave

God saw the need before we did and met it Himself.

HOW TO USE THIS This is yours to work through quietly, at your own pace. No one will ask you to share it. Come forward for communion whenever you're ready. You don't have to finish first.

1 What He gave before you ever asked

You didn't earn your first breath. You didn't arrange to exist.

Name one thing about your life you've never once thanked God for, because you assumed it was simply yours.

2 What He gave that you stopped noticing

Provision so steady it became invisible.

Think back over this past week. Where did something you needed simply show up?

3 What He gave that money could never buy

Peace. Rest. Strength on a day you had none of your own.

What has God carried you through that no amount of money could have fixed?

4 What He gave that cost Him everything

"He did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all." Romans 8:32

Don't rush this one. Sit in it. What would your life be without this gift?

NOW COME

You're not coming to this table to give God something. You're coming to receive what He has already set out. The bread was already broken. The cup was already poured. It was waiting here long before you walked in this morning.

When you're ready, come. "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift." 2 Corinthians 9:15

Four Steps for This Week

It's never a money problem. It's a trust problem.

01

COUNT.
Before anything else, write down what He has already given you.
Ten things. Not spiritual answers only. The truck that still runs. The job. The kid who came home.

02

DECIDE.
Sit down with God and decide what you are going to give.
Not what you can spare. What you want to give. Then be done deciding.

03

WEIGH.
Now decide what it should cost.
If you never feel it, you never gave it. You just moved it.

04

DO.
When something in you pulls back, finish the sentence. Then do it anyway.
"I'm holding back because I think God is ____." Not because the fear is gone. Because that is what trust is.

Take some time this week and decide with God what you want to give.