



Giving Begins with a Thankful Heart

I hate people who start off a letter with statistics. That being said, I want to share these statistics with you. Sorry.

- Tithers make up only 10-25 percent of a normal congregation.
- Only 5% of the U.S. tithes, with 80% of Americans giving only 2% of their income.
- Christians are only giving at 2.5% per capita while during the Great Depression they gave at a 3.3% rate.
- If all believers increased their giving to a minimum of 10%, there would be an additional \$165 billion for churches to use and distribute.

For those of you who haven't put this in the trash yet and are still reading I want to interject a thought. *What is our heart when it comes to devoting to God financially?*

Matthew 6:21 says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." If this is true, could it be that it isn't a financial decision but a "heart" decision? Are we afraid to give because we know what is left and what is still needed for our bills? Do we not think about it so it becomes an "as needed" decision, or a leftover decision and not a first fruit to God?

I believe giving begins with thanksgiving. It is in knowing what has been given to you. It is taking time to recognize all the blessings that have been poured on you and needing to express it. It is in knowing that blessings are a regular part of God but we must open the door for Him to lavish them on us. Giving is a heart issue.

This isn't about money. God does not need our money and there isn't a minimum amount you must give to be blessed (read Luke 21). It is about being thankful that God provides for all your needs. It is about knowing all blessings come from God and so in cheerful giving, we open the doors of His blessings.

It is not a money thing...

As we approach Thanksgiving, how do you express your thanks?

From My Heart,

Billy