

# BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE OUR GIVING!

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How many times is the word GIVE mentioned in the Bible?



Tom Davis noted that “Love is mentioned 714 times in the Bible, yet “giving” or “possessions” is mentioned 2,172 times.”

## SOME STATISTICS ON GIVING FROM 2022

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- The average giving of churchgoers is \$74 per month
- The average churchgoer today gives a smaller percentage of their income than they did during the “Great Depression”

## SOME STATISTICS ON GIVING FROM 2022

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- Roughly 5% of churchgoers actually “Tithe”
- The most prominent group of people who tithe are in the age range of 55-65 years old
- If every Christian tithed, there would be an estimated \$139 billion dollars per year to be used for Kingdom work



# FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS

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- 1) GIVING IS A PART OF BEING A DISCIPLE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (Matt. 28:18-20)
  - Go and as you go, make disciples.... (ones who walk in the footsteps of Jesus)
  - Teaching them (the new disciples) to observe (obey) all things that I (Jesus) have commanded you
  - One of the things Jesus had taught His disciples was the importance of giving



# FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS

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- 2) JESUS COMMANDED US TO GIVE
  - Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse (Malachi 3:8-10)



## MATTHEW 23:23-24

- <sup>23</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. <sup>24</sup> You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!



# FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS

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## – 2) JESUS COMMANDED US TO GIVE

- Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse (Malachi 3:8-10)
- God still wants us to “tithe” even in the New Covenant (Matt. 23:23)
- When you give.... Not if you give... (Matt. 6:1-4)





# FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS

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## – 3) GIVING IS A MEANS OF PROVIDING FOR KINGDOM WORK

- To pay a workman his wage (1 Timothy 5:17-18; Galatians 6:6)
- To provide a means for reaching the lost (Phil. 4:14-20)
- To provide for those less fortunate than ourselves, this would include the poor, the widows, the orphans (Acts 2-6; James 1:27)
- To keep the lights on



# FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS

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## – 4) GIVING IS AN ACT OF WORSHIP

- Give of your first fruits as a means of reminding ourselves that God has first place in our lives (Prov.3:9-10)
- Give trusting God to provide for your needs as you learn to seek first His Kingdom and His Righteousness (Matt. 6:33)
- Your gift is a “sweet smelling aroma to the Lord (Phil. 4:18)

## PHILLIPIANS 4:18-20

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- <sup>18</sup> But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. <sup>19</sup> And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. <sup>20</sup> Now to our God and Father *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.



# FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS

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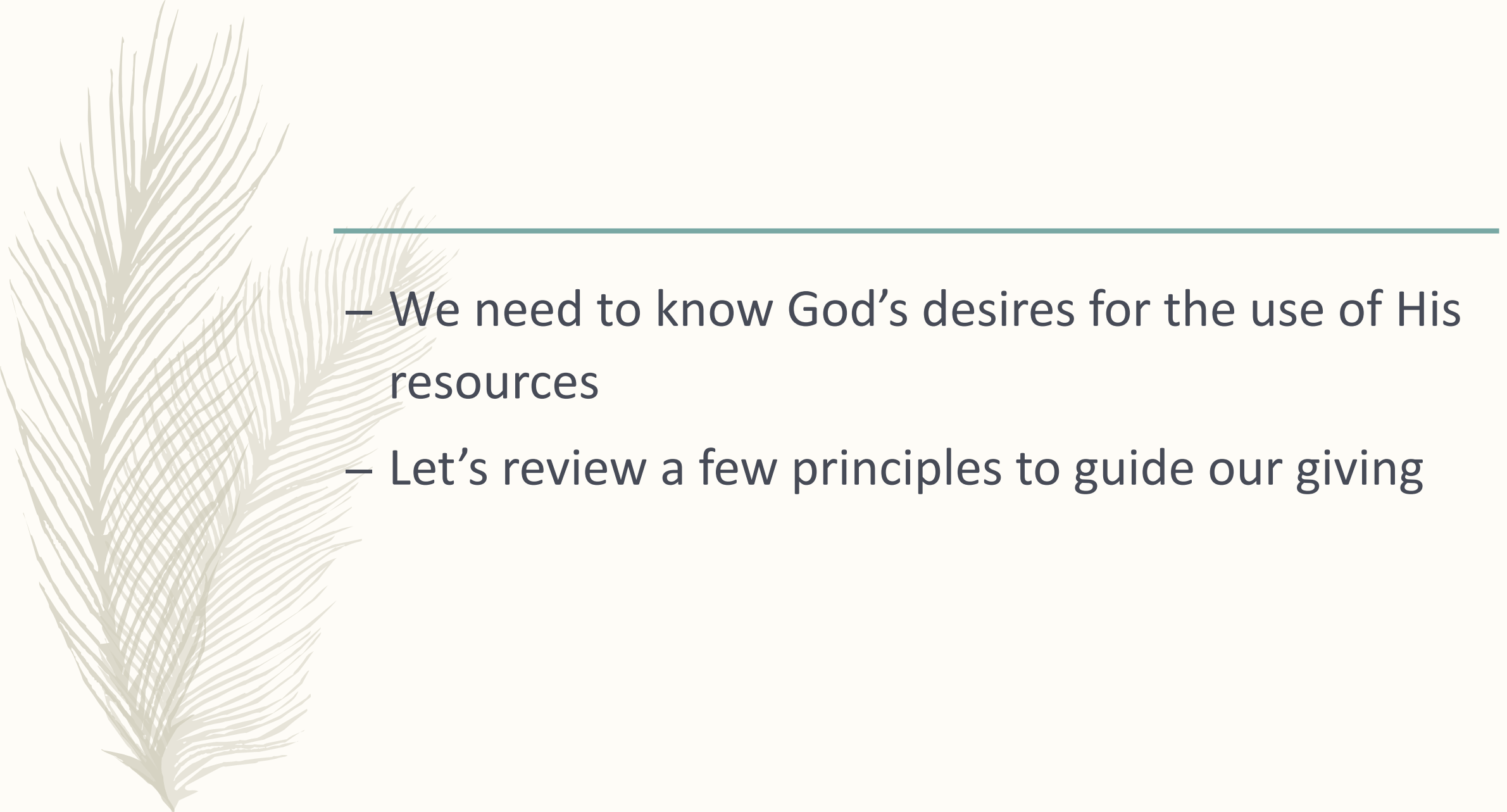
- 5) ALL WE ARE AND HAVE BELONGS TO THE LORD!!!
  - You have been bought with a price... therefore glorify the Lord in your body (1 Cor. 6:19-20)
  - You have been redeemed (released on receipt of a ransom payment) from your futile way of life (1 Peter 1:17-19)
  - WHO IS THE OWNER???



# FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS

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- 6) WE ARE CALLED TO BE “STEWARDS” OF GOD’S RESOURCES
  - As each one has received... minister... as good stewards (1 Peter 4:10-11)
  - We will be called on to give an account of how we have administered God’s resources (Matt. 25:14-30)

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- We need to know God's desires for the use of His resources
  - Let's review a few principles to guide our giving

## MARK 12:41-44

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- <sup>41</sup> And **He sat down** opposite the treasury, and *began* **observing** how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large sums. <sup>42</sup> **A poor widow came** and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent.



## MARK 12:41-44

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- <sup>43</sup> Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, “Truly I say to you, **this poor widow put in more than all the contributors** to the treasury; <sup>44</sup> for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on.”





# PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE OUR GIVING

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- 1) IT IS NOT ABOUT THE AMOUNT, RATHER IT IS AN ISSUE OF THE HEART (Mark 12:41-44)
  - Can we trust God to provide for our needs when we obey Him?
  - Are we rich towards God? Or are we only storing up treasures on this earth? (Luke 12:13-21; 1 Tim. 6:17-19)

## PHILLIPIANS 4:15-17

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- <sup>15</sup> You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; <sup>16</sup> for even in Thessalonica you sent *a gift* more than once for my needs. <sup>17</sup> Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.



# PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE OUR GIVING

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- 2) GIVING IS AS MUCH FOR OUR BENEFIT AS IT IS FOR THE ONE WHO RECEIVES THE GIFT
  - Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the benefit which arises to your account.... (Phil 4:15-20)
  - A practical way of storing up treasures in the heavenlies

## 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-5

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- **8** Now, brethren, we *wish to* make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, <sup>2</sup> that **in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.**

## 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-5

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- <sup>3</sup> For I testify that according to their ability, and **beyond their ability**, *they gave* of their own accord, <sup>4</sup> **begging us** with much urging **for the favor of participation** in the support of the saints, <sup>5</sup> and *this*, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.



# PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE OUR GIVING

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- 3) GIVING SHOULD NOT BE DEPENDENT UPON OUR CIRCUMSTANCES (2 Cor. 8:1-5)
  - During affliction
  - In spite of poverty
  - With great joy
  - Beyond their means
  - Freely-willingly





# PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE OUR GIVING

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- 3) GIVING SHOULD NOT BE DEPENDENT UPON OUR CIRCUMSTANCES (2 Cor. 8:1-5)
  - Begged for the “opportunity” to give
  - Gave themselves first (as top priority) to the Lord
  - Gave themselves to Paul and his companions (a trusted relationship) (there are always more needs than funds)

## 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8

- <sup>6</sup> Now this *I say*, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;





# PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE OUR GIVING

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- 4) GIVING SHOULD NOT BE DONE UNDER COERSION OR OUT OF GUILT (2 Cor. 9:6-8)
  - God desires you give “as you have purposed in your heart”
  - God does not want you to give “grudgingly”
  - God loves a cheerful giver

## 2 CORINTHIANS 9:5

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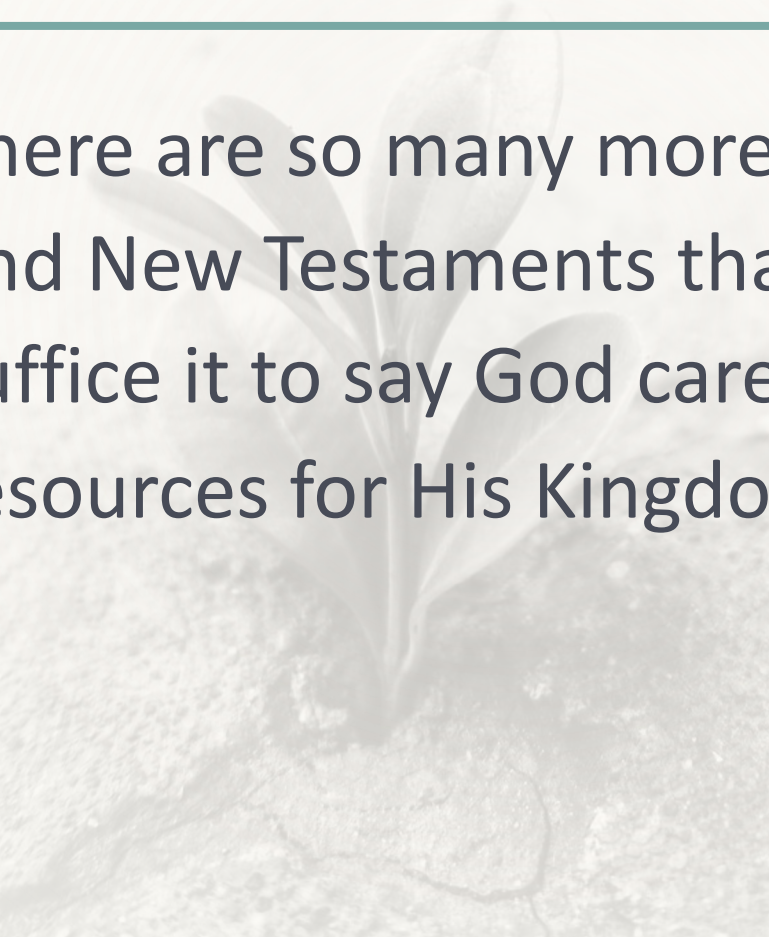
- <sup>5</sup> So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for **the generous gift you had promised**. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, **not** as one **grudgingly given**.



# PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE OUR GIVING

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- 5) GIVING TO GOD IS PERSONAL! IT IS BETWEEN YOU AND THE LORD! (1 Cor. 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 9:5)
  - Giving should be purposeful
  - Giving should be planned
  - Giving should be consistent
  - Giving should not be affected by covetousness (a desire to take advantage through the gift) (or changing what we had committed to give because we want something new)

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- There are so many more passages in both the Old and New Testaments that we could look at but suffice it to say God cares about our using His resources for His Kingdom!



# SO WHAT?

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- We have openly expressed our current need.
- Our books are open.
- We are asking you to give to The Lord to help us balance the books.

# SO WHAT?

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- More importantly, we desire that each of us walk in obedience to Jesus even in this area of our lives!
- We are challenging each of us to examine our giving to see if it is in line with God's desires for us!