

Twelve biblical practices of excellent givers

1. Give with a conscious desire to please God (Philippians 4.18) and to see God praised and thanked through your giving (2 Corinthians 9.10-13).
2. Give proportionally always (1 Corinthians 16.2; 2 Corinthians 8.12), and sometimes give until you really feel it (2 Corinthians 8.1-3). Even though the Old Testament tithe (10%) of what you earn (Deuteronomy 26.12-14) is not *commanded* in the New Testament, it is still a useful baseline of giving to shoot for. After all, those of us who are God's people living after Jesus are even more blessed than those who lived before Jesus! Why should we give less?
3. Give *yourself* to God and to others as you give your money (2 Corinthians 8.5). In other words, let your giving be an expression and proof of your LOVE (2 Corinthians 8.8, 24). If you give this way, your love will often be reciprocated by those to whom you give (2 Corinthians 9.14). God-centered giving creates human fellowship.
4. Give because you desire a greater reward. Philippians 4.17. Matthew 6.4, 19-21. Luke 14.12-14. Malachi 3.8-12. Hebrews 11.24-26. 'He is no fool, who gives what he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose' (Jim Elliot).
5. Give together with other Christians. Most of Paul's commands on giving are addressed not to individuals but to *churches* (2 Corinthians 8-9; Philippians 4).
6. Give regularly (1 Corinthians 16.2).
7. Give cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9.7). Tithing in the OT was a time for feasting and celebration (Deuteronomy 12.17-19; 14.22-29)!
8. Give to establish *equality* within the Christian community (2 Corinthians 8.13-15).
9. Give from a heart that has compassion for the poor (Deuteronomy 26.12-15; Isaiah 58.6-12; Psalm 41.1-3; Proverbs 14.31; 19.17). Give to Jesus in your giving to the needy (Matthew 25.31-46).
10. Give in conscious reliance upon God as the true giver (1 Peter 4.10-11; Philippians 4.19; 2 Corinthians 9.8).
11. Give to support Christian leaders and teachers (Numbers 18.21-32; Galatians 6.6; 1 Corinthians 9.6-14; 1 Tim 5.17-18).
12. Commit *all* your resources to God's purposes (Luke 14.33).