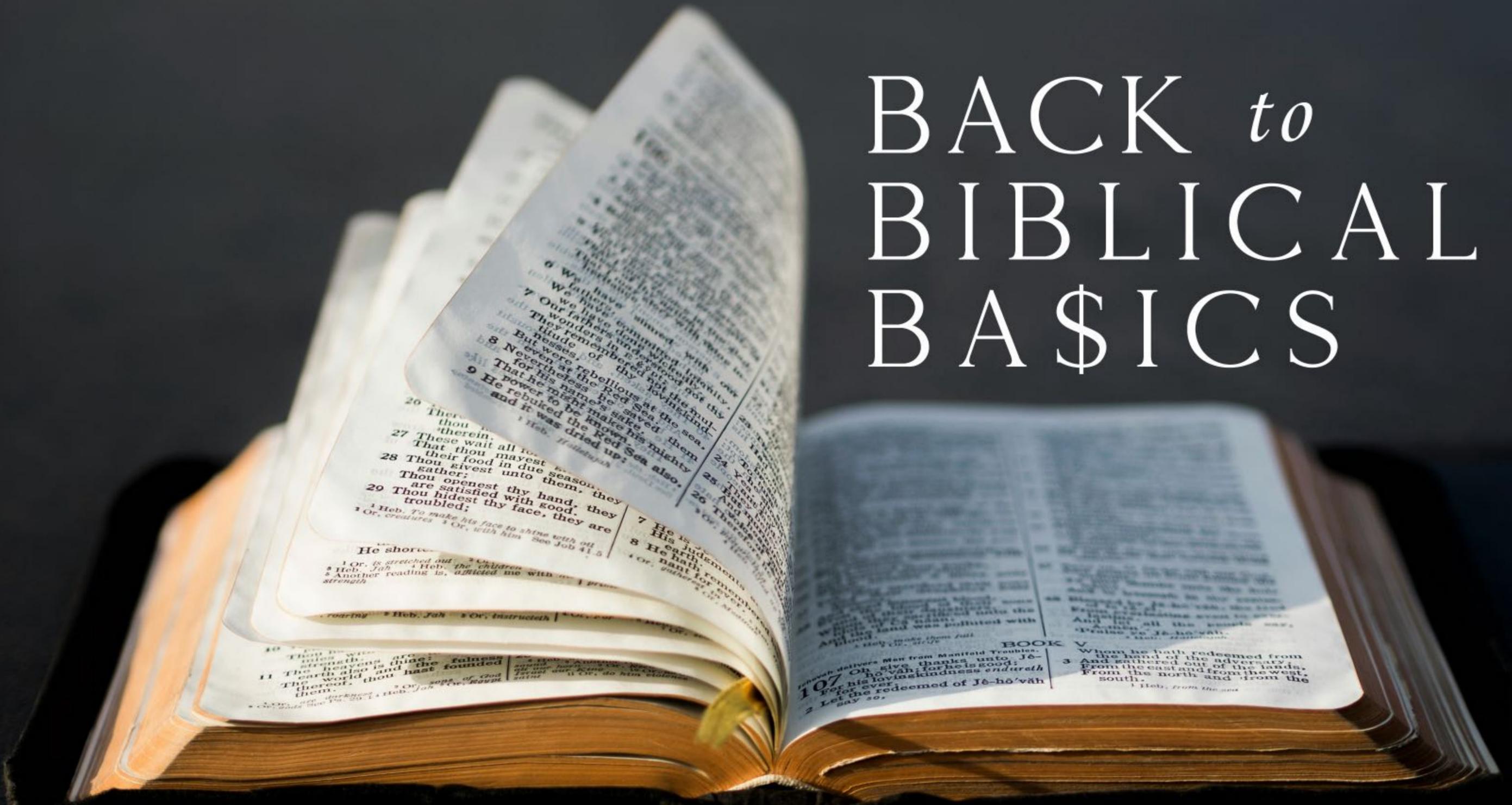


BACK *to* BIBLICAL BASICS



GIVING

The mind is a press secretary
of the emotions.

JONATHAN HAIDT

“There must be more money, there must be more money. The father, who was always very handsome and expensive in his tastes, seemed as if he never would be able to do anything worth doing. And the mother, who had a great belief in herself, did not succeed any better, and her tastes were just as expensive. And so the house came to be haunted by the unspoken phrase: There must be more money!”

“THE ROCKING HORSE WINNER”
D.H. LAURENCE



To talk about money can be painful because of our experiences. It can be painful because our schema—our sense-making outline for life—is already formed.



God's pattern for living faithfully in a world where money could become an idol or the servant of other idols was simple:
Learn to give it to God.



God built *giving* into the cultural/religious structures of the Jewish people.



Leviticus 27:30-33

³⁰ “A tithe [tenth] of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord. ³¹ Whoever would redeem any of their tithe must add a fifth of the value to it. ³² Every tithe of the herd and flock—every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd’s rod—will be holy to the Lord. ³³ No one may pick out the good from the bad or make any substitution. If anyone does make a substitution, both the animal and its substitute become holy and cannot be redeemed.”

Deuteronomy 14:22-27

²² “Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. ²³ Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and olive oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the Lord your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the Lord your God always.

Deuteronomy 14:22-27

²⁴ But if that place is too distant and you have been blessed by the Lord your God and cannot carry your tithe (because the place where the Lord will choose to put his Name is so far away), ²⁵ then exchange your tithe for silver, and take the silver with you and go to the place the Lord your God will choose. ²⁶ Use the silver to buy whatever you like: cattle, sheep, wine or other fermented drink, or anything you wish. Then you and your household shall eat there in the presence of the Lord your God and rejoice.

²⁷ And do not neglect the Levites living in your towns, for they have no allotment or inheritance of their own.

Deuteronomy 14:28-29

²⁸ “At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year’s produce and store it in your towns, ²⁹ so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

Numbers 18:25-32

²⁵ “The Lord said to Moses, ²⁶ ‘Speak to the Levites and say to them: ‘When you receive from the Israelites the tithe I give you as your inheritance, you must present a tenth of that tithe as the Lord’s offering. ²⁶ Your offering will be reckoned to you as grain from the threshing floor or juice from the winepress. ²⁸ In this way you also will present an offering to the Lord from all the tithes you receive from the Israelites. From these tithes you must give the Lord’s portion to Aaron the priest. ²⁹ You must present as the Lord’s portion the best and holiest part of everything given to you.’”

³⁰ “Say to the Levites: ‘When you present the best part, it will be reckoned to you as the product of the threshing floor or the winepress. ³¹ You and your households may eat the rest of it anywhere, for it is your wages for your work at the tent of meeting. ³² By presenting the best part of it you will not be guilty in this matter; then you will not defile the holy offerings of the Israelites, and you will not die.’”

“Do I have to?”



Exodus 13:1-2, 13-16

¹ “The Lord said to Moses, ² ‘Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether human or animal.’

¹³ Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem every firstborn among your sons.

¹⁴ “In days to come, when your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ say to him, ‘With a mighty hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ¹⁵ When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed the firstborn of both people and animals in Egypt. **This is why I sacrifice to the Lord the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.’ ¹⁶ And it will be like a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead that the Lord brought us out of Egypt with his mighty hand.”**

The biblical story is not about our giving to God. It is about what God gave for us.



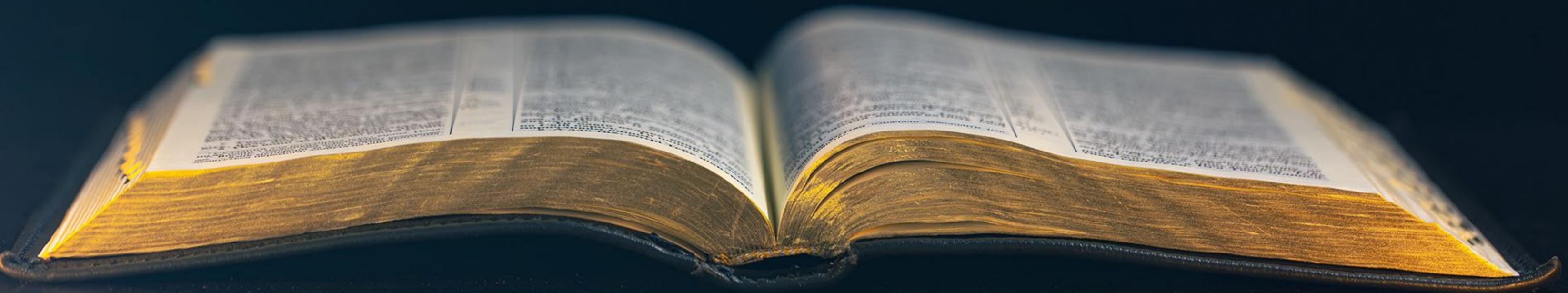
**God is not simply the Receiver.
And God is not simply the Giver.
God is the *GIFT*.**



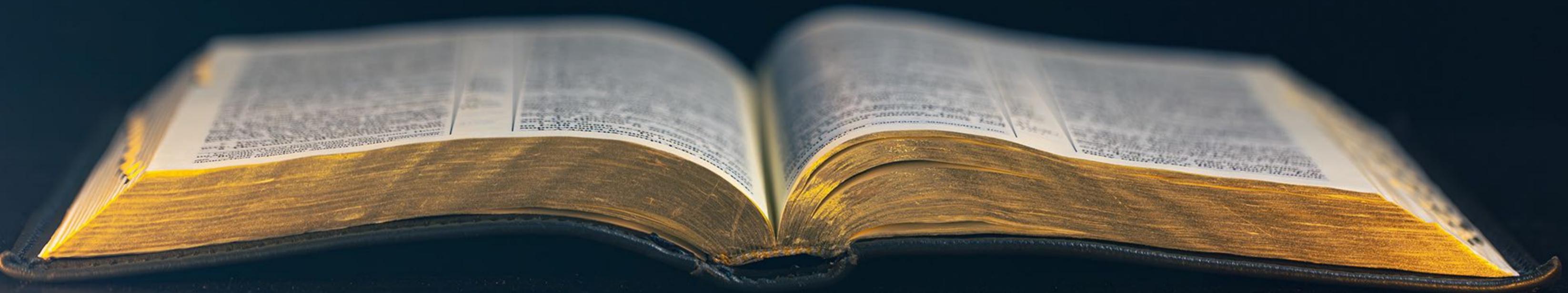
John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Christians are not in a covenant with God that is marked by circumcision and obedience to the Mosaic law, but a covenant with God established by the crucifixion of His Son and marked by faith in Jesus and obedience to His Spirit.



Tithing—giving the first tenth(s) of what I have to God—is not a religious command for Christians, but tithing as sacrificial giving remains a spiritual principle.



1. Tithing is not a **God-tax**.

Tithing is a way of participating in the reign and rule of God *and* giving God reign and rule in our lives.



2. Tithing is not a purchase of ministry.

Tithing is an act of worship as part of a body of believers. Tithing is about belonging to God in a local church devoted to the work of Jesus Christ.



**You will not be fully connected where
you are not invested.**



You are the means of God supporting the ministry of this church. You are the means of God sustaining, growing, and supporting King Street Church. And we are going to continue being a Resourcing church.



3. Tithing is not a bribe or barter for God.

Tithing is an act of devotion and loyalty to God.



**God takes our gifts, freely given in faith,
and uses them to do something we couldn't do
for ourselves. God uses your giving to make
you a gift.**



Matthew 6:21

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Tithing sets the trajectory of our heart.



**“Giving loosens the death grip
of control that we’re tempted to keep
on money.”**

NEIL HORNER

John 10:10

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

Giving is the *opposite* of stealing. God does not normally take what is not given. The enemy loves to take what is not given. Both will receive what is given to them. The devil uses what is given to him as a foothold for more bondage. God uses what is given to Him as a way to set the giver free.



DECIDE to give to God first.

A decision requires *internal resolution*
and *external reporting*.



Proverbs 3:9-10

⁹ “Honor the Lord with your wealth,
with the firstfruits of all your crops;

¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to
overflowing, and your vats will brim over
with new wine.”

DESIGNATE an amount.



1 Corinthians 16:1-2

¹ “Now about the collection for the Lord’s people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. ² On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.”

**“How much?” is a necessary, practical,
and faithful question.**



Be **DISCIPLINED.**



2 Corinthians 9:7-8

“⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

**“You don’t get caught up by
not giving to God.”**

PASTOR DAVID JEREMIAH

DELIGHT in what God is doing.



1. Local church
2. Christian charity
3. Sustained Christian mission
4. Short-term Christian mission



DELIGHT in what God is doing.

