

SEVEN P'S OF GIVING

I. GIVE PERSONALLY

A. **2nd Samuel 24:15-25**

King David's example demonstrates we can't let others give on our behalf.

B. **1st Corinthians 16:1-2**

1. The phrase "*let each one of you*" teaches personal duty.
 - a. No one can do it for you. There is no proxy religion.
 - b. Such a personal responsibility rules out fundraising through any other means like carwashes, bake sales, raffles, solicitations, etc.
2. Since the command is issued to the members of each local church, it proves personal duty on a local level.
 - a. This means that we do not request contributions from visitors.
 - b. It also means that members are obligated to arrange for their contributions to be collected in their absence.

II. GIVE PREVENTATIVELY

A. **1st Corinthians 16:2**

1. The phrase "*that there be no collections when I come*" proves that collections are taken up in order to avoid future shortcomings.
2. It implies the existence of a treasury held by the local church.

a. **John 13:29**

Prior to the church's establishment, there was a treasury among the apostles.

b. **Acts 4:34-35**

Early in the history of the church, a common treasury is evident

B. **Acts 5:1-4**

1. When contributing to this treasury, the gift is made to God (4).
2. Such a gift to God is offered so that the church can carry out its work.

- a. The church has a financial obligation to preachers.
 - i. **1st Corinthians 9:7-14; Matthew 10:5-10**
A preacher deserves to be paid.
 - ii. **2nd Corinthians 11:8; Philippians 4:15**
It is the church that owes him.
- b. The church has a financial obligation to elders.
 - i. **1st Timothy 5:17-18**
Elders deserve payment for the same reason preachers do.
 - ii. **1st Thessalonians 5:12-13**
What elders do in overseeing the church is correctly described as “work” which is worthy of recognition. Remember that a “worker is worthy of his food” (**Matthew 10:10**).
- c. The church has a financial obligation to needy brethren.
 - i. **Romans 15:25-27**
Those among the faithful who are needy deserve to be helped.
 - ii. **2nd Corinthians 8:1-4; 9:1-5**
When this need exceeds the ability of Christians individually, it becomes the duty of the church.
- d. The church has a financial obligation to carry out all its work, a suitable meeting place for instance.
 - i. **Hebrews 10:24-25**
We are obligated to assemble.
 - ii. **Romans 16:3-5; 1st Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 1-2**
A church can definitely assemble in the home of members.

iii. **Acts 19:9**

However, circumstances may demand that the disciples secure another location to meet in, which may require paying rent, paying a mortgage, paying a construction loan, or paying utilities.

III. **GIVE PERIODICALLY**

A. **1st Corinthians 16:1-2**

1. Giving "*on the first day of the week*" is an "*order.*"
2. We are nowhere commanded to give more or less often than the first day of the week.

B. **Acts 20:7**

The frequency with which we eat the Lord's Supper is the same frequency with which we ought to be giving.

IV. **GIVE PROPORTIONATELY**

A. **1st Corinthians 16:2**

What one gives should be in proportion to how "*he may prosper.*"

B. **2nd Corinthians 8:12**

God does not set a required amount and expect each one to give that sum.

1. **Deuteronomy 14:22-23; Colossians 2:13-14**

Tithing, that is giving ten percent, was required under the Old Law, but that Law is no more.

2. **Luke 21:1-4**

Those who are poor are not expected to give much.

3. **Acts 4:36-37**

Those who have much, should give appropriately.

C. **Luke 12:48,**

We are expected to give in accordance with what we have received.

V. GIVE PURPOSEFULLY

A. **2nd Corinthians 9:7**

“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart” requires that the gift be planned.

1. To say nothing about how distracting it is, writing a check during the Lord’s Supper is inappropriate because it indicates lack of preparation.
2. Looking in our wallet to see what’s available is spontaneous, not purposeful.
3. When we receive our paychecks, we should determine how much to give.

B. **Malachi 1:8**

God is offended by second best.

VI. GIVE PLENTIFULLY

A. **2nd Corinthians 9:6, 8**

Bountiful giving results in bountiful rewards.

1. **Proverbs 11:24**

Stinginess toward God results in stinginess from God!

2. **Philippians 4:15-17**

We have an account in God’s bank which only increases as we give.

B. **Malachi 3:8-10**

Insufficient giving is evidence of a lack of trust in the Lord.

VII. GIVE PLEASINGLY

A. **2nd Corinthians 9:7**

We should give because we’re pleased to give, not because the preacher tells us to.

B. **Acts 20:35**

We should gain greater pleasure from giving than from receiving.