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## Eternal Investing: Giving Back.

### Focus Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:8,11

*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work... You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion...*



**God knew the Good Samaritan was going to be good!**

### Scripture's Perspective on Giving

1. Believers should give to the poor, their local churches, ministries, and to support family.  
*Those who are taught the word of God should provide for their teachers, sharing all good things with them. Galatians 6:6 (TLB)*
2. A tithe or tenth is the model in the Old Testament.  
*"Will a man rob God...in tithes and offerings... Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven..." Malachi 3:8-9*
3. The New Testament model focuses more on our attitude and heart, but the validity of the tithe as a reference point is still implied by the words of Christ in Matthew 23:23.  
*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7*  
*"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices... But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former." Matthew 23:23*

**If Jesus is not Lord of your life, your giving isn't an issue with God.  
If Jesus is Lord of your life, giving generously won't be an issue for you.**

4. Believers should give to God first.  
*Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. Proverbs 3:9-10*
5. Whether giving financial gifts or helping the poor, we should consider our giving as an offering given directly to the Lord.  
*"... whatever you did for one of the least of these... you did for me." Matt. 25:34-40*
6. Giving allows us to invest for eternity.  
*But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. Matthew 6:20*
7. Scripture shows us some helpful patterns for giving.  
*On the first day of every week let each one of you put aside and save, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come... 1 Corinthians 16:2*

Our giving should be personal, periodic, private deposit and premeditated.

**Money is like time. If we don't plan it, it gets away.**

8. Most Biblical passages about giving are followed by a promise of God's blessing, but if we give in order to receive, we are giving with the wrong motive.  
*One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. Proverbs 11:24-25*
9. Giving helps grow our character  
*Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life. 1 Timothy 6:18-19 (NLT)*

**Giving is not God's way of raising money, it's God's way of raising disciples.**