

Giving at Journey Christian Church

Someone once said “Giving is the key to everything.” That might be true, at least in God’s kingdom. It is important to keep in mind there are many ways to give, including giving time, talent, praise, forgiveness, compassion and more. While giving of finances is the subject of this pamphlet, remember that money is just one of the ways we give.

Many people are needed to provide for what God is doing at and through the Journey in other places—at home and around the world. The Bible teaches us to “*Honor the Lord from your wealth*” (Proverbs 3:9-10). Here are ways people give to the life and the services of the Journey.

Ways to give—Most people give through the weekend offerings. Increasingly, however, people are giving through electronic means. This involves using their bank’s billpay. It’s easy and convenient. People can also give through the church website. Look for details at www.cloquetchurch.com.

Where the giving goes—As you might expect, most of the income of the Journey goes for salaries, property, and church ministries. In addition to this, we send funds to **six home mission projects, twelve missions and missionaries around the globe**. A list and description of these organizations is available at the Lobby Kiosk.

What you can expect when you give—Donating at the Journey is a confidential matter. Offerings are counted and deposited by varying teams of trusted volunteers, recorded in our bookkeeping system. Each January a report of yearly giving is sent to individual contributors for tax information purposes. Any question regarding your own giving should be directed to Mary Wirtz, the church office manager.

Spending Accountability—The deacon board is charged with creating an annual budget. Once it is approved by our membership, the budget is monitored by department heads, the administrative pastor, and the deacons to see that income and expenses are in kept in line with the budget.

More questions—If you have additional questions, feel free to contact the church office. Either Administrative Pastor Fred Goldschmidt or Office Manager Mary Wirtz can help you.

What is a tithe?

A tithe is the biblical principle of giving one-tenth of one’s income to the work of God through the church. Many have found God blessing them in ways they could never have imagined as they give a tithe. The Bible says it best in Malachi 3:10:

“Bring one-tenth of your income into the storehouse so that there may be food in my house. Test me in this way,” says the Lord of Armies. “See if I won’t open the windows of heaven for you and flood you with blessings.”

Honoring God in our Finances

Proverbs 3:9-10 Honor the LORD from your wealth, and from the first of all your produce; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.

There is much more to honoring God with your finances than merely tithing. Here are a few thoughts on additional ways we can honor God with our finances.

Regard all your wealth and sustenance to be God’s own property—under his control—not just the first 10 percent. James 1:17

To honor God with our wealth is to recognize that everything we have and all our abilities and even your time belong to him.

Be quick to provide for the things that matter to God. Proverbs 19:17

To honor God with your wealth means to give towards projects or problems God cares about. Sure, we can sit back and let God help the poor, but that is not his way. He wants to provide for the poor, for missions, and for other causes—and he wants to do it through his people—through you.

Be responsible with what God allows you to keep. Luke 16:10-12

Honoring God with your wealth and produce means you will be Christ-like in all your financial dealings. Even though a tithe is just 10 percent, the remaining 90 percent should be spent with God’s approval!

Learn to be satisfied and content. Phil 4:11-12

To honor God with your wealth includes being grateful for what you have and for how the size of your income. You cannot honor God and at the same time wish he would treat you better. Learn to live within your means; spend only what you have; and express thanks for every gift God gives you.

Establish a savings plan for the future.

Prov 21:20; Prov 6:6-8

God never promised that your life would be a cakewalk—always looking up and never a rainy cloud in the sky. In fact, Jesus seemed to indicate that times of struggle and stretching are a part of everyone’s life here on earth. Such times may refine our character and strengthening our faith. We honor God when we set aside a portion of our income for the future—including emergency expenses or a unexpected opportunities awaiting a ready investor.

Avoid hoarding, which God despises.

Matt 6:19-21; Prov 23:4-5

Hoarding money and material goods inevitably denies God the opportunity to use for his purposes the resources he has entrusted to you to manage. Hoarding also makes money to be the love of your life—pushing God out from center stage.

Enjoy yourself. Prov 10:22; Ps 123:7-9

Jesus came into our lives to make them abundant with life and overflowing with joy! Refusing to enjoy and appreciate what you have is tantamount to rejecting God's provision. Give your tithe, be free with your offerings, and enjoy spending the rest of your finances in ways that honor God and bring a smile to his face!

Let your estate carry on your legacy of honor to God. Prov 20:21; Eccl 7:11; Prov 13:22

Most people give little thought to the affect their estate may have on God's kingdom. You will honor God by leaving a portion of your estate to carry on the work of the Gospel.

Honor God by setting aside his portion first.

2 Chr 31:5, 10

The Bible makes an absolute promise that God will provide for those who are faithful to him. We honor God's Word and his promise by setting aside our offerings first among our expenses. This "first fruit" is a way of boldly declaring your expectation that God will take care of everything else—from second to last place. Like a small key to a vast warehouse, giving is the point of access to the loving provision of God.



Giving at the Journey



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*"Helping each other take the next step
on our journey with Christ"*