

**Thoughts about Giving from
Money, Possessions, and Eternity
by Randy Alcorn**

Guidelines for giving:

1. Give

2 Corinthians 9:7 “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give”

2. Give generously

Mark 14: 3-9 Mary anointing Jesus with the costly perfume

3. Give regularly

1 Corinthians 16:2 “On the first day of the week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income”

4. Give deliberately

Think and pray about what you’re giving.

5. Give voluntarily

2 Corinthians 9:7 “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion”

6. Give sacrificially

2 Corinthians 8:3 “ For I testify that they gave as they were able, and even beyond their ability” (Paul describing the Macedonian Christians)

2 Samuel 24:24 King David said “I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing”

7. Give excellently

2 Corinthians 8:7 “See that you also excel in this grace of giving”
(With practice we can get better)

8. Give cheerfully

2 Corinthians 9:7 “God loves a cheerful giver”

9. Give worshipfully

Acts 10: 1-4 “Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial

10. Give Proportionately

1 Corinthians 16:2 “each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income”

11. Give quietly

Matthew 6:1 “Be careful not to do your acts of righteousness before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven”

Questions to ask God about your giving:

Is the fact that you've entrusted me with so many resources an indication that you have given me the gift of giving and want me to learn to exercise it more frequently and skillfully?

Have you multiplied my assets not so I would stockpile them, but so I would distribute them to the needy?

Do you want me to assume that each financial blessing you entrust to me is not intended to raise my standard of living but to raise my standard of giving?

Am I treating you as owner and CEO/CFO of "my" assets, or am I treating you merely as my financial consultant, to whom I pay a fee (10% or greater)?

Do you want me to set a basic level of income and assets to live on, then give away whatever you provide beyond that (regardless of whether that's 50%, 90% or more)?

Am I holding on to something that is robbing me of present joy and future reward?

If I don't give something now, is it possible I may no longer have it to give later?

Is it ever wrong to give to you now rather than wait until later? If Christ commended the poor widow in Mark 12 for giving to you everything she had – considering her faithful, not irresponsible – how much would I have to give away before you would consider me irresponsible?

Am I living to hear others say of me, "He (or she) is a great success" or to have You say to me, "Well done, my good and faithful servant"?

Do the ministries I'm supporting financially help the poor in Christ's name, not just in the name of humanitarianism? Is the gospel offered to dying people once they've been fed?

How can I better communicate with and pray with my spouse so we can walk together down this exhilarating road of giving, leading each other and not leaving the other behind?

What am I doing to train my children to be generous givers – not just donors, but disciples?

Am I hanging on to money excessively as a backup plan in case you fail me?

Five minutes after I die, what will I wish I would have given away while I still had the chance?

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