



Giving

Why do we give?

There is a choice for each person to make; to be a giver, a self-centred receiver, or a robber who 'reaps where he or she has not sown'.

We, in King's Church, choose to be givers.

We are not compelled to give but choose to give generously, willingly, and cheerfully because of the reasons set out below.

God, our Father, is a giver

God gave us the whole of creation. The Universe, Earth, and everything in them belong to Him.

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;
for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters.

Psalm 24:1-2_{NIVUK}

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Hebrews 11:3_{NIVUK}

'The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. "For in him we live and move and have our being." As some of your own poets have said, "We are his offspring."

Acts 17:24-28_{NIVUK}

We understand that if God should withdraw His generous sustenance from the world, all will be destroyed. So, every human being, whether they realise it or not, owes everything to God. Therefore, withholding any aspect of our lives and resources from God is extremely unwise.

When God asks for a proportion of what He has given us so that His work through the Church can be done effectively, refusing to comply amounts to ingratitude, lack of faith and disobedience. It is a privilege to give generously to God's work on earth.

¹⁴'But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.'

King David - 1 Chronicles 29:14 NIVUK

God commands His people to give

God made it clear throughout Scripture that He expects His people to give wholeheartedly and generously, in proportion to their incomes, in order to demonstrate their love for Him and their trust and dependence on Him to continue to provide for them. Those who complied were blessed and those who did not exposed themselves to all sorts of difficulties.

There is evidence in Scripture that the minimum proportion of giving that would be acceptable to God is a tithe, ten percent of one's total income. Freewill offerings on top of that were also expected. People commended and blessed by God as cheerful and generous givers gave significantly more than the minimum requirement.

It is therefore unscriptural to suggest that people can be cheerful and generous givers to God's work if they are giving less.

Tithes and offerings

The principle of giving tithes and offerings can be found in all of God's dealings with human beings:

Before the law was given:

In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. But Abel also brought an offering - fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favour. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. Then the LORD said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷ If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.'

Genesis 4:3-4 NIVUK

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying,

'Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
Creator of heaven and earth.

And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.'

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Genesis 14:18-20_{NIVUK}

After the law was given:

God's people were required to give the first ten percent of their gross income (also called "firstfruits") to God to fund the Levites' ministry.

'I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the tent of meeting.

The LORD said to Moses, '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. Your offering will be reckoned to you as grain from the threshing-floor or juice from the winepress. 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. You must present as the LORD's portion the best and holiest part of everything given to you."

Numbers 18:21, 25-29_{NIVUK}

In addition to that, there were other freewill and special offerings required of God's people. These were used centrally to build community and for corporate celebrations. The Lord made it clear that the people were not to pick and choose where to give their offerings but must bring them only to the designated place of worship.

You are not to do as we do here today, everyone doing as they see fit, since you have not yet reached the resting place and the inheritance the LORD your God is giving you. But you will cross the Jordan and settle in the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, and he will give you rest from all your enemies around you so that you will live in safety. Then to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name - there you are to bring everything I command you: your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, and all the choice possessions you have vowed to the LORD. And there rejoice before the LORD your God - you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levites from your towns who have no land allotted to them or any inheritance of their own. Be careful not to sacrifice your burnt

offerings anywhere you please. Offer them only at the place the LORD will choose in one of your tribes, and there observe everything I command you.

Deuteronomy 12:8-14_{NIVUK}

God's view about tithes and offerings are clearly declared in Malachi 3. Many people have come to realise, from their experiences, that the truth revealed in Malachi's prophecy still holds today.

'I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,' says the LORD Almighty.

'But you ask, "How are we to return?"

'Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.

'But you ask, "How are we robbing you?"

'In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse - your whole nation - because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the LORD Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,' says the LORD Almighty. 'Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,' says the LORD Almighty.

Malachi 3: 6-12_{NIVUK}

In the New Testament:

Jesus did not abolish tithes and offerings.

'Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices - mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law - justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practised the latter, without neglecting the former.

Jesus - Matthew 23:23_{NIVUK}

Jesus indirectly endorses tithing: so, we do not neglect it. It is *not* as essential as justice, love, and mercy; but it is to be done.

In New Testament giving, tithing is a starting point. There is no compulsion because disciples of Jesus are people that God's law has been written in their hearts. They are people who live to do the will of God. They have put their complete trust in God and as such have renounced all forms of idolatry, love of money and greed.

We are voluntary, cheerful, and generous givers because we have received eternal blessings through the finished work of our Lord Jesus, beyond what was available

to the people of God in the Old Testament. We do not give less than those that were under the compulsion of the law. Many of us have learned how blessed it is to give beyond the tithe, in addition to regular free will offerings. All who do so have many testimonies of God's blessings upon their lives.

There are many examples from the New Testament to show that cheerful and generous giving in the current dispensation of the New Covenant exceeded the tithes and offerings that were required under the Old Covenant.

Jesus commended a widow who gave significantly beyond her tithe. She gave a generous offering. She gave all she had.

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few pence. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything - all she had to live on.' Mark 12: 41-44^{NIVUK}

The early believers certainly gave beyond ten percent of their resources. In fact, they were prepared to give everything so that their resources could be managed corporately, for the good of all.

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there was no needy person among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales^{and} put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means 'son of encouragement'), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet. Acts 4:32-37^{NIVUK}

The Macedonian Churches were extremely poor and were suffering severe persecution. Regardless of these challenges they gave beyond their means for the sake of the Kingdom, where God's will is done.

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. And they exceeded our expectations: they gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

Paul - 2 Corinthians 8:1-5^{NIVUK}

Although there is no compulsion, and reluctant people may choose to give sparingly, they risk reaping sparingly in terms of God's blessings and effectiveness in ministry.

Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 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. 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.

Paul - 2 Corinthians 9:6-8_{NIVUK}

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Jesus - Luke 6:38_{NIVUK}

One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

Proverbs 11:24-25_{NIVUK}

The way believers handle money demonstrates whether or not they are truly committed to doing the will of God as their LORD, and whether they really trust Him to provide for their needs. Voluntary, cheerful, and generous giving is part of our worship of God and shows that we are free from the love of money which is the root of all kinds of evil.

'No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

'And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you - you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.'

Jesus - Matthew 6:24-34_{NIVUK}

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'

So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.'

What can mere mortals do to me?

Hebrews 13:5-6_{NIVUK}

If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Paul - 1 Timothy 6:3-10_{NIVUK}

What do we give?

As obedient disciples of our Lord Jesus, members of King's Church are encouraged to voluntarily, willingly and cheerfully give:

- tithe as a minimum of our giving
- give free will offerings in addition
- give our time, gifts, talents, and other resources for the service of God in response to the call on our lives to be a house of prayer and make disciples for our Lord Jesus
- care for the poor and needy individually and corporately.

Caring for the poor and needy corporately makes it easier to obey the command of our Lord Jesus to give anonymously. When we give as individuals, as we should, we are encouraged to do so without drawing attention to ourselves.

'Be careful not to practise your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. 'So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honoured by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.'

Jesus - Matthew 6:1-4_{NIVUK}

Individuals are free to give to the work of other ministries or charitable organisations, but only after their full tithes and offerings have been given to their local church, as clearly shown in scriptures.

What about the children?

Parents and carers are encouraged to teach their children to give tithes and offerings from their own money; out of their pocket money and/or money earned doing chores. This training prepares them for blessed adult lives as they continue to give generously in obedience to God. The youth programmes also include opportunities to teach young people to put their trust in God and obey Him in this crucial area of giving.

**Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old they will not turn from it.**

Proverbs 22:6^{NIVUK}

How do we give?

- Most members find it more efficient to give directly into the Church account by establishing standing orders.
- There is an opportunity to give tithes and/or offerings during every corporate meeting on Sunday morning, as part of our worship.
- A locked post box is located at the front of the main auditorium, for people to put their gifts into at any time.
- Taxpayers are required to complete a gift-aid form to enable the Church, as a registered charity, to claim a standard percentage of their gift from the Government.

How is the money spent?

Money received by the Church is used to:

- Pay salaries for full and part-time workers
- Facilitate the day to day running of the Church
- Provide the resources for the various ministries within the church
- Maintain a benevolent fund for those in need
- Resource and maintain the facilities
- Fund corporate outreach events to the community
- Bless other Churches and Charities
- Fund training and development through conferences and courses

The letting of the rooms on the first floor of the Church House and the hiring out of the halls for appropriate activities help towards the payment of utilities and the maintenance of the facilities.

What about accountability?

One role of leadership in the church is to oversee all aspects of finance.

Church accounts are subject to charity law, which requires regular auditing. The Trustees ensure that the Church accounts comply with the charity law. In fact, in King's Church, we exceed the requirements of the law in ensuring that every penny spent is transparently accounted for. We adhere to strict policies to ensure that there are no loopholes in the handling of money. A financial report is made available to the whole Church every year, after the external auditing of the accounts.