

## “The Treasure Principle”

Adapted from the book *The Treasure Principle*, by Randy Alcorn © (Multnomah Publishers Inc.)

*You can't take it with you, but you can send it on ahead.*

**God owns everything. I'm his money manager.** We are the managers of the assets God has entrusted – not given – to us.

**My heart always goes where I put God's money.** Watch what happens when you reallocate your money from temporal things to eternal things.

**Heaven, not earth, is my home.** We are citizens of a “better country – a heavenly one” (Hebrews 11:16)

**I should live - not for the dot - but for the line.** From the dot – our present life on earth – extends a line that goes on forever, which is eternity in heaven.

**Giving is the only antidote for materialism.** Giving is the joyful surrender to a great God and His greater agenda. It dethrones me and exalts Him.

**God prospers me not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving.** God gives us more money than we need so we can give generously.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What does the weekly offering need to be at Discovery Christian church?**

Our current budget requires our weekly offerings to be approximately \$4,500.

### **Exactly where does the money go?**

Basic budget categories are: children's ministry, men and women's ministries, youth ministry, missions/outreach programs, worship program, facilities rental, payroll and administration.

### **Who makes these decisions?**

The elders, in conjunction with the church treasurer, staff and church leadership, plan the budget each year.

### **Who gives oversight to the spending?**

The church treasurer and the elders, review the spending for each month. Budget statements are always available for the church's review.

### **How can the church catch up so the offerings will be equal to the budget?**

If each person who considers Discovery Church his or her home church would tithe his or her income, we will meet our budget.

**We are glad to discuss your questions with you. Please contact us anytime.**

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# What the Bible Teaches About GIVING

## **BIBLICAL GIVING**

Here at Discovery, we want you to know what the Bible teaches. We believe our giving should be worshipful (*Proverbs 3:9*), purposeful (*Acts 4:35*) and cheerful (*2 Cor. 9:7*). As you read through the following scriptures, we pray that God will lead you to a deeper understanding and experience of Him, and that you may give as the Spirit leads you.

### **What is a tithe?**

God established the principle of tithing in the Old Testament 430 years before He gave the Law to Moses. The word “tithe” means “a tenth part” or 10%. God commanded a tithe in Leviticus 27:30: *“A tithe of all you produce is the Lord’s, and it is holy.”*

### **Is tithing just an Old Testament teaching, or is it also found in New Testament teaching?**

The Bible tells us that we are to give the first 10% of all we earn back to Him. Jesus repeated this command in the New Testament: *“Yes, you should tithe, and you shouldn’t leave the more important things undone either.”* Matt. 23:23.

### **Aren’t New Testament followers of Christ to live by grace, not the law?**

The New Testament teaches that we live by grace and that we are no longer under the law. But if God’s people in the Old Testament gave a tithe under the law, 10% should be the minimum for Christians today who live under grace.

### **What does my giving show God?**

Deuteronomy 14:23 tells us *“The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.”* Putting God first in my finances shows God that He has first place in my life.

### **Whose money am I giving to God?**

Deuteronomy 8:18 explains, *“Always remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you the ability to produce wealth.”* Rather than saying “I’m giving God 10% of my money”, realize God is letting you keep 90% of His blessing.

### **How does God use giving to test the true condition of my heart?**

If we are to consider giving to God, and the extent of our giving, we’ll need to examine our hearts and ask ourselves how much we trust God and believe Him. Tithing shows I really love and trust God. *“Where your treasure is, your heart will be also.”* Matt. 6:21

### **What will my giving accomplish?**

Tithing is an investment for eternity. Jesus told us to *“Store up treasures in heaven”*. (Matt 6:19-20). How do you do that? By investing your money in helping people get to heaven. Most of the things you spend your money on will not even last for ten years, much less for eternity.

### **How much should I give?**

Your giving should be in proportion to God’s blessing. Tithing expresses our gratitude to God for helping us earn income. Psalm 116:12 says, *“How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me?”* Deuteronomy 6:16-17 declares, *“Each of*

*you should bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.”* Remember, God has called us to give from our hearts as in 2 Corinthians 9:7: *“You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully.”*

### **But what about my own needs?**

You cannot outgive God. Jesus said in Luke 6:38, *“For if you give, you will get. Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure. Whatever measure you use to give, it will be used to measure what is given back to you.”* God invites us in Malachi 3:10, *“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 you will not have room enough for it.”*

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## **What Others Have Said**

*“A checkbook is a theological document. It tells who and what you worship.”*

- Billy Graham

*“It’s not about what the church needs; it’s about what the Lord wants.”*

- Tom Nebel

*“God uses our giving to test the true condition of our hearts. Do we trust God? Do we trust God’s plan? Do we trust in godly church leaders?”*

-Discovery’s Pastor John Richert