

Apprenticeship 2025

Tithing & Generosity Study

All the questions in italics are to be answered in the response form for the week

Tithing & Generosity

Read Proverbs 30:7-9

You live in two kingdoms at once: the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of the world—the self-willed human system fueled by Satan. Simply stated, the two kingdoms are distinguished by their opposing values and priorities. The economy of the Kingdom of God, of which you are a citizen, is based on giving and receiving. The motivating force behind your decisions is others-focused generosity and success is determined by how much of your resources (money, possessions, time, and energy) you invest in eternal things (God's priorities).

By contrast, the economy of the world is based on buying and selling. Self-oriented spending or investing is the motivating force for most transactions, and success is determined by the accumulation of particular types of possessions, depending on who should be impressed.

What are some of these possessions you see in your friend/family groups? Or yourself?

As a citizen of the Kingdom of God, you must operate within this world's system of economic system of buying and selling, and yet you must withstand the subtle lure and deception of its priorities. You live in the world, but you have different priorities from a different kingdom, just as Jesus did when He was on earth. You live within the world's kingdom, but you do not love it. Love God. Keep your heart in the right place.

Read 1 John 2:15-17

John points out three things in these verses:

1. Craving for physical pleasure
2. Craving for everything we see
3. Pride in our achievements and possessions

Read Matthew 6:24

What is the choice that is presented?

Read Psalm 24:1-2

In Genesis 1:28-29, what command does God give Adam and Eve?

The earth and everything in it belong to God. He delegated responsibility to people to care for it. Your money, possessions, land, and everything else you have belong to God. He has made you a manager of his resources.

Read Deuteronomy 8:10-20

God says this as the people are preparing to enter the promised land.

When you prosper financially, what danger must you guard against? (v. 11, 14, 17)

Where does your ability to make money come from?

How will remembering this reality help you to manage your wealth?

When you relinquish the right to do what you want with your money, giving Jesus his rightful place, you step into the economy of His Kingdom. You sidestep the worry and selfishness of the world's way. God wants you to prosper **so that** you can make a difference in His name. Submit your financial goals to Jesus. Manage money His way and watch for miracles, great and small.

Read Matthew 6:19-21

*You can choose where to invest your money. How are the two choices contrasted?
How can you keep your heart motivated by Kingdom priorities?*

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19

*How do we invest in the Kingdom?
What is the result of laying up treasures in heaven?*

What are some ways to be generous?

Tithing

What is a tithe? It's the first 10% of your income.

This is commanded by God in the Old Testament in Leviticus 27. Then God asks his people to test him in Malachi 3

Read Malachi 3:8-12

But what about the freedom we have from the law because of Jesus? That's a great question. Jesus death and resurrection has given us freedom from civil and ceremonial laws that were set in place to ensure holiness and cleanliness – one of which is the tithe. So what did Jesus say about giving?

Read Matthew 5:42, Matthew 25:31-40, Mark 12:41-44, Luke 6:38.

Giving becomes not a way to earn or prove your holiness. It does not make you right before God. But it continues to be a means by which those who do the work of the ministry can be provided for (like in Leviticus) and by which we can care for other.

In the modern church, the tithe helps your church to do the work God has called it to do in your community.

Offerings

This is giving above and beyond the 10% of the tithe. It may include money for special projects or events or it may just be more giving into the general work of the church.

Missions

This is giving specifically toward the work of spreading the gospel around the world. Giving to missions helps those who don't know Jesus & the vulnerable & poor. Justice and goodness can be done through our money when we give it to reputable missionaries and organizations.

Time & talents

This isn't money, but it's giving what you have. Some important questions to ask yourself are:

1. How are you serving the people around you?
2. How are you serving the ministry you are a part of?

Discipleship Team expectations:

It is expected that every Discipleship Team member will tithe to the ministry of Chi Alpha, and encouraged that each member would support at least one missionary or missional organization (Feed One, Compassion, etc.) of their choice at the amount of their choosing, in order to learn and practice investing and sowing generously into the Kingdom of God and to keep from becoming a lover of money.

Why is this our expectation?

We want Chi Alpha and D Team to be a training ground for your whole life. Part of that is learning how to give. Practicing tithing and giving now will help students learn how to give and the joy of generosity. The point of our giving is not really the amount, it's the obedience and willingness to invest in God's kingdom work.