

**HOW WE HANDLE GIVING  
LIVING THROUGH GIVING – PART 3 OF 3  
1 CORINTHIANS 16:3-4**

**CHRISTIANS ARE TO BE RESPONSIBLE**

1. The primary purpose of giving as taught in the New Testament is for the **support** of the **saints** who make up the church (1 Cor. 16:1).
2. Financial giving is a key part of the **Sunday** worship service, and giving should follow the receipt of your **paycheck** (1 Cor. 16:2).
3. A Christian's giving should not be based on periodic **emotional** appeals or feelings, but on regular **planned** contributions (1 Cor. 16:3).

**KEY THOUGHT:** As **often** as we give in weekly worship, it should remind us of our continued **stewardship** before the Lord of the possessions He has given us (Luke 16:10-11).

**I. HOW SHOULD THE GIVING BE HANDLED (1 CORINTHIANS 16:3-4)?**

- A. The expectation is that the funds given would be entrusted to **godly** and **responsible** men (1 Cor. 16:3).
  1. The early gifts were entrusted to the **apostles** to be **distributed** to those in need (Acts 4:35).
  2. As the responsibilities of the apostles grew, these leaders instructed the congregation “to select men of **good reputation**, full of the **Spirit** and of wisdom” to protect the funds given (Acts 6:2-3).
- B. One of the clearest signs a person has been redeemed is their **willingness** to **give** (1 Cor. 16:4).

**KEY THOUGHT:** The qualifications for the men who handle the church's funds are not financial or commercial but **moral** and **spiritual** (Acts 6:2-3).

**II. WHERE SHOULD GIVING THROUGH THE CHURCH GO (1 COR. 16:4; ACTS 1:8)?**

- A. The church should be **living witnesses** of the kingdom of God (Acts 1:8a).
  - 1. Witnesses tell what they have **seen**, **heard**, and experienced about the kingdom of God (1 John 1:1-2).
  - 2. A witness can give an **accurate**, **revealing** testimony about the life-changing reality of accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior (2 Peter 1:16).
- B. The Greek word for witness is the root from which we obtain our word “**martyr**”.
- C. The **blood** of many Christian martyrs is the **seed** of church according to the second-century theologian Tertullian.
- D. The witness and influence of the church is to be carried throughout our **city**, our state, our **country**, and to even the remotest parts of the world (Acts 1:8).

**KEY THOUGHT:** Christ expects **every** Christian to give of themselves **first** and then from their **poverty** to “live through their giving” (2 Cor. 8:3-5).

**FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH**

**May 22, 2011**

**SUNDAY:** ***Our giving as Christians is more about our worship than a particular amount or a percentage of giving (Luke 16:10-11)!*** Christians are to be responsible for the work of the ministry that is performed through their church. This includes the finances of the church and staffing the ministries to touch the lost and educate the saved. The primary purpose of giving as taught in the New Testament is for the support of the saints who make up the church (1 Cor. 16:1). Financial giving is a key part of the Sunday worship service, and giving should follow the receipt of your paycheck (1 Cor. 16:2). As often as we give in weekly worship, it should remind us of our continued stewardship before the Lord of the possessions He has given us (Luke 16:10-11). Ask the Lord to sharpen your focus on your giving. Seek to become more purposeful and be intentional in all that you do with your finances. ***May the Lord make it clear that the simple life is clearly the biggest blessing to you and the kingdom of God!***

**MONDAY:** ***The spiritual reputation of the men handling the money in a church is paramount in their qualifications (Acts 6:2-3)!*** The expectation is that the funds given would be entrusted to godly and responsible men (1 Cor. 16:3). Giving started after Pentecost to meet the needs of the impoverished believers (Acts 2:44-45). It became clear that additional direction was needed from the spiritual leaders in the congregation so the gifts were entrusted to the apostles to be distributed to those in need (Acts 4:35). As the responsibilities of the apostles grew, these leaders instructed the congregation to “select men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and wisdom” to protect the funds that had been given (Acts 6:2-3). The men chosen for the job were godly and known for their spiritual walk in the church. Pause and ask the Lord what sins and spiritual weaknesses need to be addressed in your life. Surrender yourself to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. ***May you be obedient to the Holy Spirit and listen to His leadership in your life!***

**TUESDAY:** ***The willingness to give is the mark of a genuine believer (1 Cor. 16:4)!*** A genuine believer recognizes that his home is no longer on earth, but it is in heaven. There is a freedom that his soul can experience as he understands the Treasure Principle (Matt. 6:19-21). The believer sends his treasure to heaven because that is where his heart is located (Matt. 6:21). Are you looking for the adventure of being a Christian? Do you long for meaning and purpose in your life that transcends the collection of earthly treasures? The life of a supernatural giver is exciting and fulfilling. Remember, it is not equal giving but equal sacrifice that the Lord requires! Ask the Lord how He would lead you to give. ***May the joy of supernatural giving become your own on at least some occasions this year!***

**WEDNESDAY:** ***The qualifications of the men that handle the money in a church are moral and spiritual above everything else (1 Tim. 3:8-13)!*** The qualifications described in Acts 6:2-3 are often described as the foundation of the deacon ministry outline by Paul in First Timothy 3:8-13. The men selected by the congregation in Acts 6 were men of moral and spiritual character. There was no debate about their knowledge of finances or business. The level of their success in commercial endeavors was not a topic of interest or concern. The apostles asked the people to propose a list of godly men that were full of the Spirit and

wisdom. Those qualifications should be the desire of every man who claims the name of Christ. What are the biblical principles you would like to see the Lord craft in your life? Developing a spirit of giving can bring honor and glory to the Lord. *May the joy of returning a gift to the Lord light up your life!*

**THURSDAY:** *Christians should be living witnesses of the kingdom of God (Acts 1:8)!*

A witness is someone that can give detailed testimony about someone or something that he has seen, heard, or experienced. Witnesses are experts in sharing about a specific event or something someone did. A witness for Christ shares with detail and precision what the Lord has done in his life (1 John 1:1-2). It is the accurate, revealing testimony of a witness that influences others about the life-changing reality of accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior (2 Pet. 1:16). Who should you be witnessing to about the greatness of the Lord Jesus in your life? Ask the Lord for the strength to testify clearly and convincingly with your finances that Jesus Christ is the most precious person in your life. Commit to the Holy Spirit your plan to be obedient to His leadership in all areas of your witness. *May the influence of your witness for Christ grow as you become more accustomed to sharing about the Lord as an expert!*

**FRIDAY:** *The witness of the church and its influence is to be throughout the city, the countryside, and around the world (Acts 1:8)!*

Witnesses for Jesus are to share their stories to encourage and influence our city to trust Christ. The power of that witness should impact our state, our country, and even remote areas of the world. Most Christians I speak to want their life to count for the kingdom of God. Christians desire to have a purpose greater than their jobs, paying their bills, and even a quiet deserved retirement. The problem is that few Christians have a vision for what they would really like to do with their lives. Finding ways in which you can be a witness without hyperventilating is the challenge. Giving of yourself, giving of your story, and giving of your financial resources are key ways that a Christian can share how Jesus changed his life completely. Tell the Lord you are ready to serve Him. Seek the strength to step forward to be counted and to live for Him. *May the decision to give in so many ways bring unspeakable joy and passion in your Christian life!*

**SATURDAY:** *The expectation for giving by the Lord is ourselves first and then beyond our ability to demonstrate a trust of God in sharing our finances (2 Cor. 8:3-5)!*

The Macedonian Christians were not wealthy. In fact, they were very impoverished. However, their gift to the Lord began with themselves. The Lord does not need your money; He wants what it represents in your life. The Lord wants you to trust Him above everything and everyone in your life. It is His desire that you love Him more than anything in this world. This was the struggle of the rich younger ruler (Mark 10:17-22). He had too many possessions that he loved more than Jesus. Before we condemn this young man, we need to look deep into our own hearts. If we are true to our own examination we too have many possessions that we love at least as much as Jesus. Pause and meditate on the amazing love of Jesus that brought you to salvation. Openly admit your need to be more giving. Commit to find ways to be a witness for your Lord. *May the lessons learned from this brief passage become a powerful influence in your Christian life!*