

Theme: Good and Faithful Servants—Faithful with our resources

Objective: For all believes to understand what it means to be faithful with our tithes

Memory Verse: Either through memory or by looking it up, write out 2 Peter 1:3

Opening Question: Last week, we discussed how we would focus upon one the attributes listed in 2 Peter 1 (Goodness, Knowledge, Self-Control, Perseverance, Godliness, Kindness, and Love). Which attribute did you focus upon and how did it go this week?

Read Acts 4:32-37 and 2 Peter 1:3-11

- How do these passages relate to the idea of tithing?
- Would you characterize yourself as a cheerful giver, an obedient giver, a reluctant giver, or a struggling giver?
- Do you feel you (and your family) are in the “right place” in terms of giving? How did you get to this point? What needs to occur to move you to the Cheerful Giving status?
- Everyone’s incomes change over a period of time (for better or for worse). Has your attitude about giving remained the same during these times of financial change? Were you once a cheerful giver, but you are no longer a cheerful giver? Were you a struggling giver when you had a lower income and you are still a struggling giver as your income has gone up? What does this say about the relationship between your attitude of giving, your income, and your actually giving?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

- What is Paul’s point in this passage?
- Have you found the principles in this passage to be true in your life?
- Verse 7 seems to give some “wobble room” to the notion of 10% tithing. Was your first inclination that you could give less or you could give more? Why? (Pastor Verl Lindley used to say that he did not have a 10% requirement because he did not want people to be limited to only giving 10%).
- When have you given generously to other? What was the outcome?
- Who do you serve when you give generously?
- When someone does a kind act towards you, do you feel inclined to say thank you or to send a small gift? Do you take that same perspective when God blesses you?

Application: For many of us, we have considerable choice in how we spend our money. We choose to eat out at lunch, order sodas, stop regularly for coffee, etc. How can you budget your finances differently to be a more generous and cheerful giver?

Worship: Psalm 116:12-Psalm 117. Reflect on God’s goodness toward you and how you can bless others.

Prayer Requests

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 9:8—“*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*”