

STEWARDSHIP

WHY GIVING MATTERS

Ever think that giving is a form of Worship? Many of us think of Worship as a time and place focused on music, prayer and listening to another great sermon. But Worship is much broader and encompassing than that. Paul says in Romans 12:1: *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship”*. Worship is about looking back at what God has done for us and then based on his GRACE, giving ourselves in a sacrificial way to please God. We are called to Worship and we are called to give – we are called to give of ourselves and that means our time, our talents, and yes, our money.

Here’s the question. Do you consider your act of Worship through giving a duty or a blessing? Is it a chance to acknowledge how God has blessed your life or an obligation to struggle through? Consider what Paul says:

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

We gain through giving. We should not give because we have to, but because we want to —“*spiritual act of worship.*” So what can we expect to gain?

1. Giving draws our hearts toward Christ – *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

(Matthew 6:21)

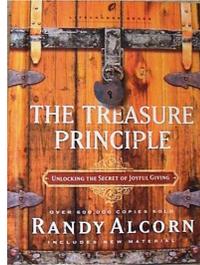
2. Giving develops character.
3. Giving allows us to invest for eternity – *“But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven....”* (Matthew 6:20)
4. Giving helps us follow the Master. Consider the rich young man in Luke 18:18-23:

A certain ruler asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.’ “All these I have kept since I was a boy,” he said. When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth.

5. Giving allows us at ADBC to participate in God’s plan to help people **take their next step!**
6. Giving is an important part of our walk with Christ. Part of our vision at Alice Drive is to help people because we need to learn to follow Jesus. For most of us it isn’t easy but, as the rich young man in Luke discovered, truly following Jesus never is.

Some additional resources to help you with giving and finances:

- Crown Financial Ministries: www.crown.org
- Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University: www.daveramsey.com
- Generous Giving: www.generousgiving.org
- *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn



GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Ministry Budget

The ministry budget supports the day-to-day ministries of the church. These include mission organizations and programs supported regularly by the church; ministry programs for preschoolers, children, students, and adults; the operation of the church campus including utilities, insurance, and maintenance; and personnel costs.

Open Door Offering

The Open Door Offering is our annual fund to support mission efforts locally, nationally, and internationally. We regularly support the Southern Baptist mission offerings (Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, and Janie Chapman) through this focus. In addition, this offering supports such efforts as Operation Inasmuch, United Ministries of Sumter County, the Sumter Pregnancy Center, and World Orphans. There is a special emphasis placed on mission giving during the spring of each year; however, you can give to the Open Door Offering all year.

Benevolence

The benevolence offering goes to support those in need in Sumter County and is taken on Sunday's when we serve The Lord's Supper. This benevolence fund allows us to provide direct assistance to those in need who come to us for help. This support is in addition to the funds we regularly give to support United Ministries of Sumter County.