

Introduction:

What is the purpose of giving? What should my perspective be about giving, and what principles should guide me in it? Should I tithe at all, and if so, how much? This week Pastor Mark takes a look these important questions in part two of his series about generosity. You can find the sermon notes [here](#)¹ or listen to the sermon by clicking [here](#).²



Scripture:

Please see 1 Chronicles 29:10-22 and 1 Corinthians 16:1-4 in your Bible [or click here](#).

So What?

[Click here](#)³ to get the handout summary that was in the bulletin. In it you will see specific answers to the questions listed above, as they are found in this week's text. I encourage you to reread the text from this weeks sermon, especially the reading from 1 Chronicles. Though this section is written about David and Israel, who were under the Law, the spirit of joy, unity and worship is obvious. David and the people acknowledged that everything they had came from God, and it was from these God-given blessings that they were giving back to him. It's important to note that the principle of tithing came before the law was given, as can be seen in [Genesis 14:17-20 and 28:10-22](#). Also, aside from the various required tithes proscribed by the Law, a freewill offering was to be given from the heart as part of the temple building process ([Exodus 25:2; 35:29](#)). Rather than tithing, the New Testament teaches generous giving: "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." ([2 Corinthians 9:6-7 ESV](#))

"Giving
is not an
interruption of
worship, but
rather it is a
natural part
of it."

"Give generously, and see what God does."

What Now?

1. "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Why do you think it is that the New Testament stresses generosity rather than giving specific requirements for giving? Is this a New Testament teaching only, or has God always desired people with generous hearts? (c.f. Deut 15:7-11, 14; Prov. 3:9, 10; 2 Sam. 24:24)
2. Do you ever think about giving as "something the church makes us do?" It is our hope at First Central to be a people who give out of an overflow of worship, not in spite of worship. Read 1 Chronicles 29:10-22. How did David and the people view their giving? Was it an important part of their worship? How did their attitudes toward giving compare to what Paul talks about in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7? How does your attitude compare? Might we as a congregation need to ask God for a changed mindset in this area? What about as individuals?
3. Someone once said, "Stewardship is not about raising money; it's about raising Christians who willingly trust God." How we use what we have and how we give are outward reflections of our faith. Please pray that we at First Central would live lives of gratitude, trust, and generosity.

¹ <https://wheelsms.wordpress.com/2015/10/04/the-faqs-about-giving-2/>

² <http://firstcentralbaptist.com/sermons/generosity.html>

³ <https://wheelsms.files.wordpress.com/2015/09/the-faqs-about-giving-sermon-notes.pdf>