



## Biblical Giving

To be stewards of our blessings, there are six values which, taken together, lead to the goal of “biblical giving.” These practices, although most often applied to our money and possessions, are just as easily reflected in how we share the other two aspects of our stewardship triad—our talents and our time.

✂ **Intentional Giving.** First, we should develop a plan and then follow through with that plan. The *process* of making up our minds to give is important, perhaps even more important to our hearts than giving.

✂ **Regular Giving.** We should establish a pattern in our giving and follow that pattern. Give when you receive your “harvest,” whether biweekly paycheck or windfall gift, and not from some change and loose bills you happen to find in your wallet as ushers pass the plate.

✂ **Generous Giving.** Generosity with money and time is a cornerstone of discipleship. We have faith that God will provide us with all that we need, but there is a difference between want and need. If we first recognize God’s incredible generosity, then we can’t help but live generously ourselves.

✂ **‘First’ Giving.** Giving first means giving to God first and living off the rest. Not doing so means taking care of our needs and wants first, and then giving from the leftovers. A generous gift may seem impossible when drawn from budget leftovers. When given first, the same amount of money which is seemingly impossible fits more easily and also helps more fully align our total budget with the truly important stewardship of our lives.

✂ **Proportional Giving.** Many scriptures center on giving a fraction. God’s people are encouraged to “give in proportion to the blessings we have received,” with the tithe, or ten percent of all earnings, as the standard. Those with much wealth are expected to give in proportion. Those with little still give, but again in proportion. The touching parable of the widow’s mite highlights for everyone the value to God of all gifts, regardless of size.

✂ **Cheerful Giving.** If we can learn to be intentional, regular and generous and to give first and proportionally, then we should become cheerful in our giving. If we don’t, then all giving will seem like paying just another bill. Cheerful stewardship is proof to ourselves of our authenticity.