

Generous Giving

What does the Bible
say about money



Generosity as a way of life

You can generally tell what's important to someone by looking at 2 things - their diary & their bank statement!

What we do with our time & money is a reflection of what we value and the kind of person we're becoming.

When we say yes to Jesus, a new way of living doesn't just happen because of that decision. Our old values have created habits & ways of thinking that need to change. This can take some time because some habits are deeply ingrained in us.

One of the basic values confronted when we become followers of Christ relates to money. Much of our world treats giving as a luxury or something to be avoided. The Bible shows us something very different. God Himself is a generous giver. In response, He calls us to surrender our whole lives to Him. Our money & time are His!

All we simply ask is this that you prayerfully ask God about your giving. We're expectant that God will answer you & give you the grace to excel as a generous giver.



**WORSHIP GOD
LOVE OTHERS
BE JESUS IN THE WORLD**

Some Biblical principles about giving

Three threads about giving run through the Bible: stewardship, first fruits and tithing.

1

Stewardship

A steward is someone who manages the property or resources of someone else. Our money belongs to God; we simply steward what God entrusts to us. Our stewardship is not measured by how much we keep hold of, but by how generous we are in God's Kingdom.

2

First Fruits

The Bible calls us to give to God first, from the best of what we have (e.g. Proverbs 3:9). It is wise to have our giving as the first line on our household budget, not as an after-thought once we've paid our other bills. For those with an income, it's good to give ahead of the tax man, other obligations, pension contributions, etc..

3

Tithing

In Old Testament times the tithe (10%) was the king's portion. Because Israel was conquered by God's love & care, the people became obligated to give a tithe to the Lord.

Tithes were used to support the priests (Numbers 18: 21-24) and take care of the poor (Deut. 14:28-29). The Old testament tithe requirements added up to ~28% of a person's income, on top of taxes levied by the government and for the temple. The basic instruction was this - "a tithe of everything... belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord" (Leviticus 27:30-33).

Some FAQ's...

1

Should my giving go to the local church?

In the Vineyard, we believe the local church is God's primary agent for advancing His Kingdom in this world. The local church is called to showcase God's new humanity, cutting across the dividing lines of ethnicity, age, gender and background.

Every Christian is part Jesus' universal church. As we read the New Testament, the concept of the local church is inescapable. About 95% of the references to ekklesia (Greek for "church") are about local, visible, & organised expressions of the world-wide church. The book of Acts records the founding of local churches.

We believe that "the local church is the hope of the world" (Bill Hybels) & therefore should be the focal point for the first portion of our giving (e.g. our tithe). God may also lead us to give over & above our regular giving to other great causes.

The pastoral staff, along with many others, give generously from their income to the church.

2

Is tithing legalistic?

Tithing existed before the law was given (Genesis 14: 18-21). The Christian church has historically followed this pattern, not as a legalistic edict, but rather a wonderful & helpful place that serves as a foundation for generous giving.

3

10% seems a lot, what should I do?

As someone starts a journey of giving, a tithe can seem a long way off. Someone once said that "a journey of a thousand miles starts with a first step". Wherever you are right now with financial giving, take a step towards a more generous future.

4

I'm tithing already, so nothing for me to do?

Whilst for some a tithe can seem a long way off, for others it can be an excuse that limits generosity! Jesus said that our righteousness should "surpass that of the Pharisees" (Matt. 5:20). Those religious people of Jesus' day were tithers. In the light of what Jesus has done for us, we believe that Spirit-led people will be led to give at least as generously as the Pharisees.

5

Should my giving be anonymous?

Jesus teaches (Matt 6: 1-4) that we should not boast about our giving & this is the context for Him saying "do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing". This is sometimes used to say that giving should be anonymous. If it was about this, Jesus would be contradicting His own teaching by drawing attention to the widow's offering (Luke 21: 1-4). The issue Jesus is addressing in Matt. 6 is not v, rather boasting about our giving to others.



10 good reasons to give:

1 To experience joy as we reflect God's nature

God is a generous giver and anytime we imitate Him, we connect into the very life and being of God.

2 To show gratitude to God

God has blessed us in so many ways. Giving is a primary way of saying "thank you" for what He has given us.

3 To participate in all the ministries of the church

Our church is growing & has a wide range of ministries. It's impossible to be physically involved in them all, but we can participate in them all through giving.

4 To demonstrate that what we have is entrusted to us

Either we view our money as ours (secular world view) or we view it as God's (Biblical world view). Giving acknowledges that all we have has come from God even if only a portion is given back to Him.

5 To express our love & support of the church's vision

Financial giving is not the only way to support a church, but it is a major way to show what we believe in & love. It's a blessing to give beyond ourselves.

6 To experience greater freedom from financial anxiety

People who hold tightly to their money are so often held captive to financial concerns. Opening our hands in giving opens our hearts to greater freedom in financial matters.

7

To pay for services that I & my family receive

It does seem amazing that some church members receive services from a church and whilst able to give, allow others to pay. Someone is picking up the bill for the coffee & doughnuts, lights, heating, pastoral salaries, children & youth groups, mortgage, and ministries that we all enjoy.

8

To position ourselves for God's provision & protection

In Malachi 3, God says we're to "bring the whole tithe" to Him. He invites us to test Him in this, with a promise that He will protect us & provide for us, opening up "the floodgates of heaven". Personally, I've yet to meet a tither for whom God has not provided for financially. God seems quick to bless those who take Him at His word in their giving.

9

To store up treasure in heaven

Jesus says we're to store up treasure in heaven rather than here on earth (Matt 6: 19-21). Those who give toward the work of God's Kingdom are having an eternal impact.

10

It simply feels great to give!

Paul recalls these words of Jesus - "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). In fact, giving is good for you - studies have shown that givers are less stressed, have better mental health, happier marriages & live longer!

"...It is more blessed to give
than to receive."

- Acts 20:35

Giving to Riverside Vineyard Church

We believe that giving should be a joyful act and not done so unwillingly or begrudgingly. It's also a vital discipleship habit and so we encourage everyone in the church to commit to and grow in generous giving. Here are some good ways to give:

Standing Order

This is our favourite way because there are no charges, so the church receives the full amount you give! There's a standing order form at the end of this brochure.

Online Banking

Regular or one-off gifts can be giving via the giving link on the church website, or you can get our account details from the connect area on a Sunday or the church office.

Cheque or cash

These gifts can be made via the offering on a Sunday. Please make cheques payable to "Riverside Vineyard"

Gift Aid

If you're a U.K. tax payer, please do complete a Gift Aid declaration. This enables the church to reclaim basic rate tax on gifts you make, at no cost to you. This amounts to an extra £25 on every £100 given. Simply complete a Gift Aid form (included in this brochure) and return to the church office.

Giving in your will

Please consider leaving a gift to the church in your will. In this way, we can give at the time of our death and continue the pattern of our lives.

be a part of something



STANDING ORDER FORM

Riverside Vineyard Christian Fellowship

PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS

TO: (NAME & FULL ADDRESS OF YOUR BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY. THIS CAN BE FOUND IN YOUR CHEQUE BOOK OR BANK STATEMENT)

PLEASE PAY RIVERSIDE THE SUM OF £: MONTHLY

START DATE:

YOUR ACCOUNT NO:

BRANCH SORT CODE:

DD / MM / YYYY

Payable to: CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Ave, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ **Sort Code:** 40-52-40 **Account No.** 00097030 **RVCF Giving**

PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS

YOUR FULL NAME:

YOUR ADDRESS:

YOUR POSTCODE:

YOUR SIGNATURE:

If you're amending a standing order, please contact your bank directly. Thank you.

Please return this form to:

Riverside Vineyard Church
Air Park Way
Feltham, TW13 7LX

T: 020 8890 3535
E: office@riversidevineyard.com

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Riverside Vineyard Christian Fellowship

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed by Riverside Vineyard Christian Fellowship from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK resident.

In order to Gift Aid you must tick one of the boxes below:

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £: [] and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years at Riverside Vineyard Christian fellowship.

I am a U.K. taxpayer and understand that if I pay less income tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

MY DETAILS: (PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS)

TITLE:

FIRST NAME OR INITIAL(S):

SURNAME:

HOME ADDRESS:

POSTCODE:

DATE:

Please notify Riverside Vineyard Christian Fellowship if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

Please tick this box if you only want to Gift Aid this **single, one-off donation**, and **not** any past or future donations, to Riverside Vineyard Christian Fellowship.

If you have any questions about any aspect of giving or the church finances, please do speak to a member of the staff team or a trustee, or contact the church office.

Riverside Vineyard Church
Air Park Way
Feltham
TW13 7LX

020 8890 3535
hello@riversidevineyard.com
riversidevineyard.com



Affiliated to  vineyard churches[®]

member of
evangelical alliance
together making Jesus known 



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