



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The Grace of Giving

1 Corinthians 16:1-4

Part 3



**Sometimes, the
greatest impact is made
by the quietest lives.**

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...**For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

Matthew 6:19-21



FIRST THINGS FIRST

- **Give with Purpose.** Principle 1: God wants to use you to meet the needs of His kingdom *“the collection for the saints”*
- **Give Consistently.** Principle 2: God wants to give in a systematic manner. *“upon the first day of the week”*
- **Give Personally.** Principle 3: God wants you (every one of you) to give. *“let every one of you”*

Principle 4:

**God wants you to
give through your
local church.**

- Where should I give?
Give through the church.

“lay by him in store”

Principle 4: God wants you to give to and through your local church.

- 1. It's consistent with the Biblical pattern.**
- 2. It's consistent with the word definition.**

“in store” → *thesaurizo*

thesaurizo* → **treasury*

(thesaurus = a treasury of words)

treasury → money box, chest; the place where you put your treasure or valuables


*In the pagan temples of Greece & Rome, there was a place for people to give their offerings, called a

thesaurus → the treasure box of the temple


Principle 4: God wants you to give to and through your local church.

- 1. It's consistent with the Biblical pattern.**
- 2. It's consistent with the word definition.**
- 3. It's consistent with the context.**

In the New Testament, generosity didn't flow around the church; it flowed through the church.



God designed the church to be the distribution center for His generosity!



Why is it so beneficial that the church would be the primary distribution center for God's generosity?

- 1. It multiplies impact.** *Individually we make a difference – together we make an impact.*
- 2. It keeps the mission first.** *The church keeps our giving aimed at what lasts.*
- 3. It builds unity.** *Different people. Different backgrounds. One mission.*
- 4. It ensures wise stewardship.** *When generosity is guided, it goes further.*
- 5. It forms you spiritually.** *God uses the church not just to distribute generosity – but to develop it in you.*

But whosoever hath this world's good,
and sees his brother have need, and
shutteth up his compassions from
him, how dwells the love of God in
him?

1 John 3:17



A blurred green field of grass, possibly a meadow or pasture, with a yellow oval border. The text is centered over the image.

**When generosity flows through
the church, impact multiplies.**

Principle 5:

**God wants you to give
in proportion to what
you have been given.**

- How much should I give?
Give proportionately.

“as God has prospered him”

“tithe” → “*a tenth*” (10%)

The first 10% of one’s income or increase, given back to God as an act of trust, worship and priority.

General Bible Generosity Principles

1. We should give to the Lord first.

- *Pr. 3:9-10* “Honor the Lord from your wealth, and from the first of all your produce. So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.”

General Bible Generosity Principles

1. We should give to the Lord first.
2. We should give generously.
 - ***2 Cor. 9:6 “He who sows sparingly, shall reap sparingly, but he that sows bountifully shall reap also bountifully”***

General Bible Generosity Principles

1. We should give to the Lord first.
2. We should give generously.
3. We should give sacrificially.
 - *2 Sam. 24:24 - “neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing”*

General Bible Generosity Principles

1. We should give to the Lord first.
2. We should give generously.
3. We should give sacrificially.
4. We should give cheerfully.
 - *2 Cor. 9:7 “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver”*

General Bible Generosity Principles

1. We should give to the Lord first.
2. We should give generously.
3. We should give sacrificially.
4. We should give cheerfully.
5. We should give proportionately.
 - *1 Cor.16:2 “as God has prospered him”*

The background of the image is a blurred, high-angle view of a green field, likely a grassy area or a field of crops. The colors are various shades of green, from dark to light, creating a textured, bokeh-like effect. A bright yellow oval border frames the central text.

**God is not looking for
pressured giving – He's
forming joyful generosity.**

**It's about the heart. It's about trust.
It's about worship. It's about the mission.**

FIRST THINGS FIRST

*God gets first place in
every part of your life.*

