



Jay Rhodes

Family

Lives on a small farm (homestead)

Restaurant owner

Army

Life-long learning

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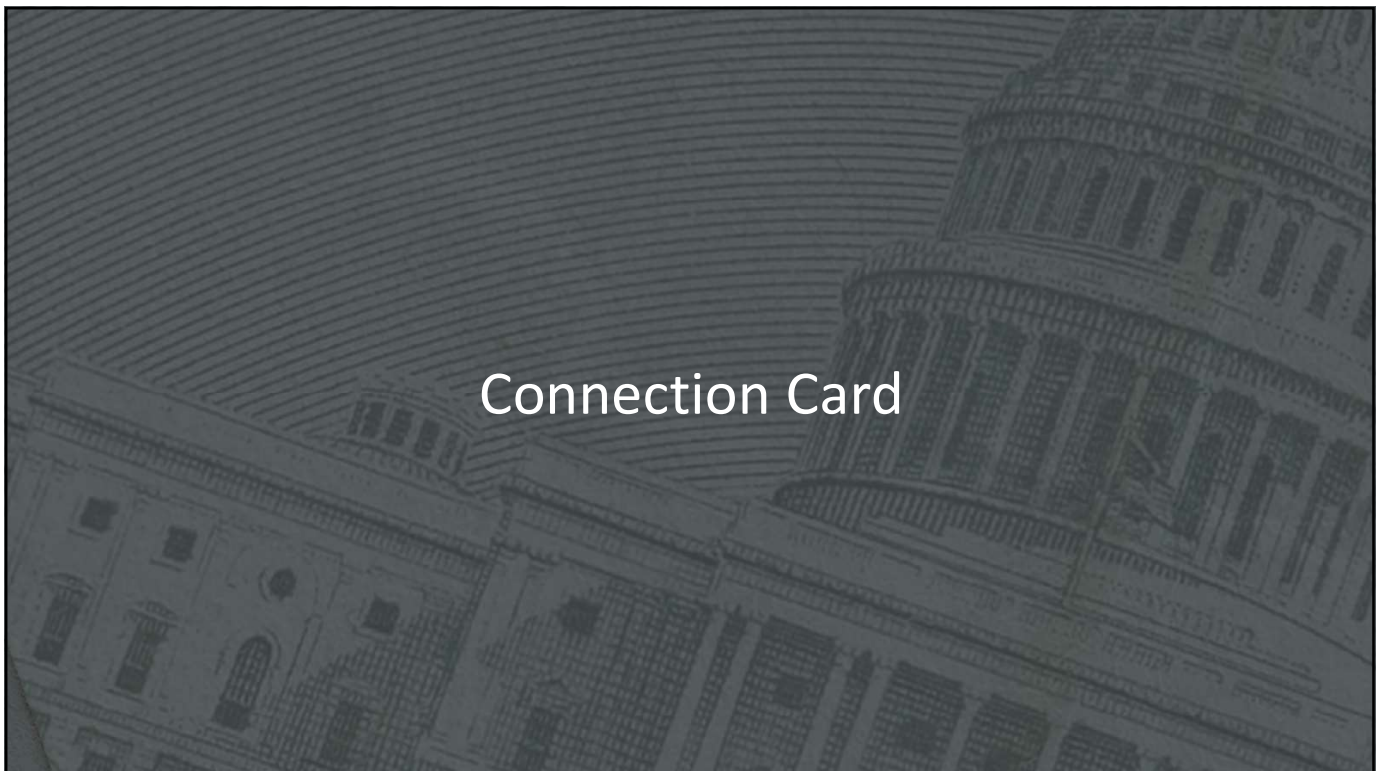
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10

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge Him...

Honor the Lord with your wealth
and with the first fruits of all your produce;
then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will be bursting with wine.
Proverbs 3:5-6, 9-10

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WHY?

(Jesus) "No one can serve two masters,
for either he will hate the one and love the other, or
he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.
You cannot serve God and money."

Matthew 6:24

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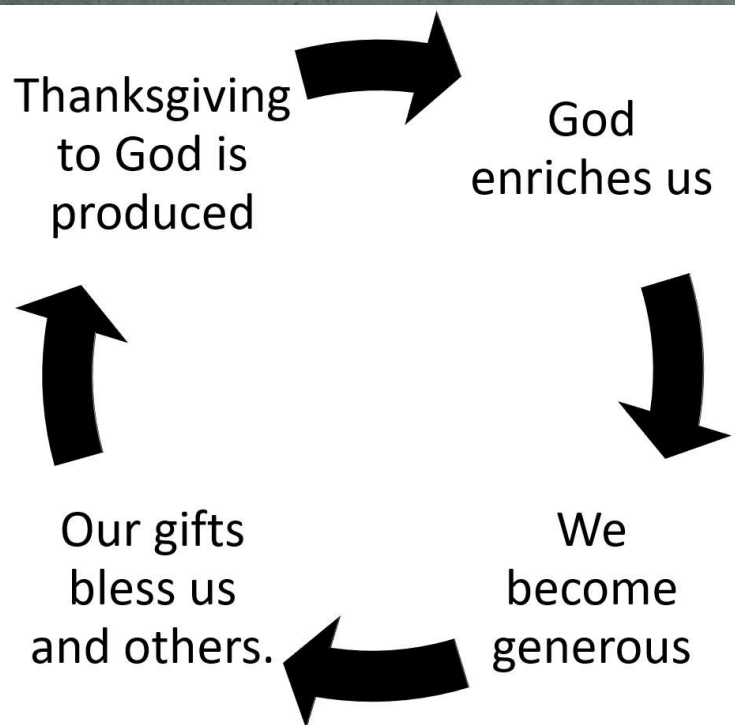
HOW GIVING WORKS

“You will be enriched in every way
to be generous in every way,
which through us
will produce thanksgiving to God.”

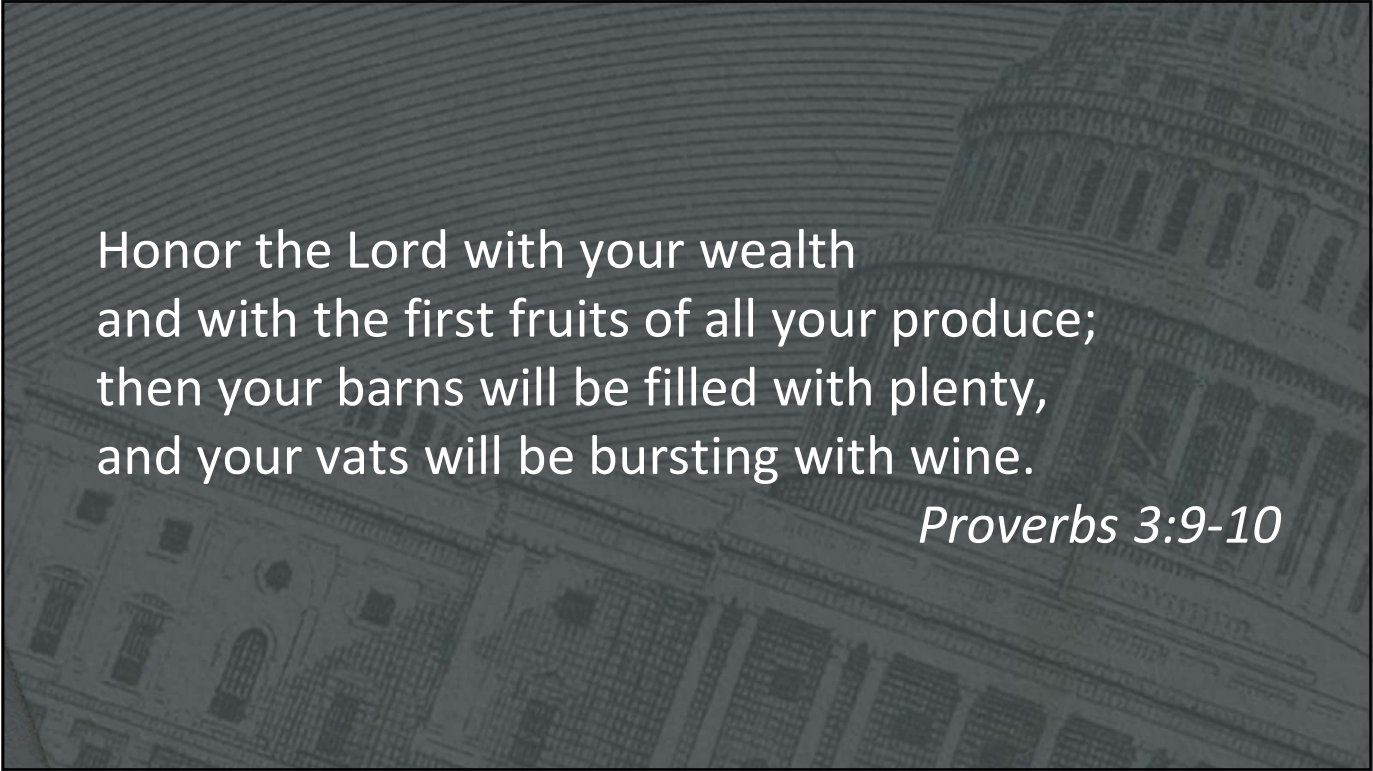
1 Corinthians 9:11

13

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14



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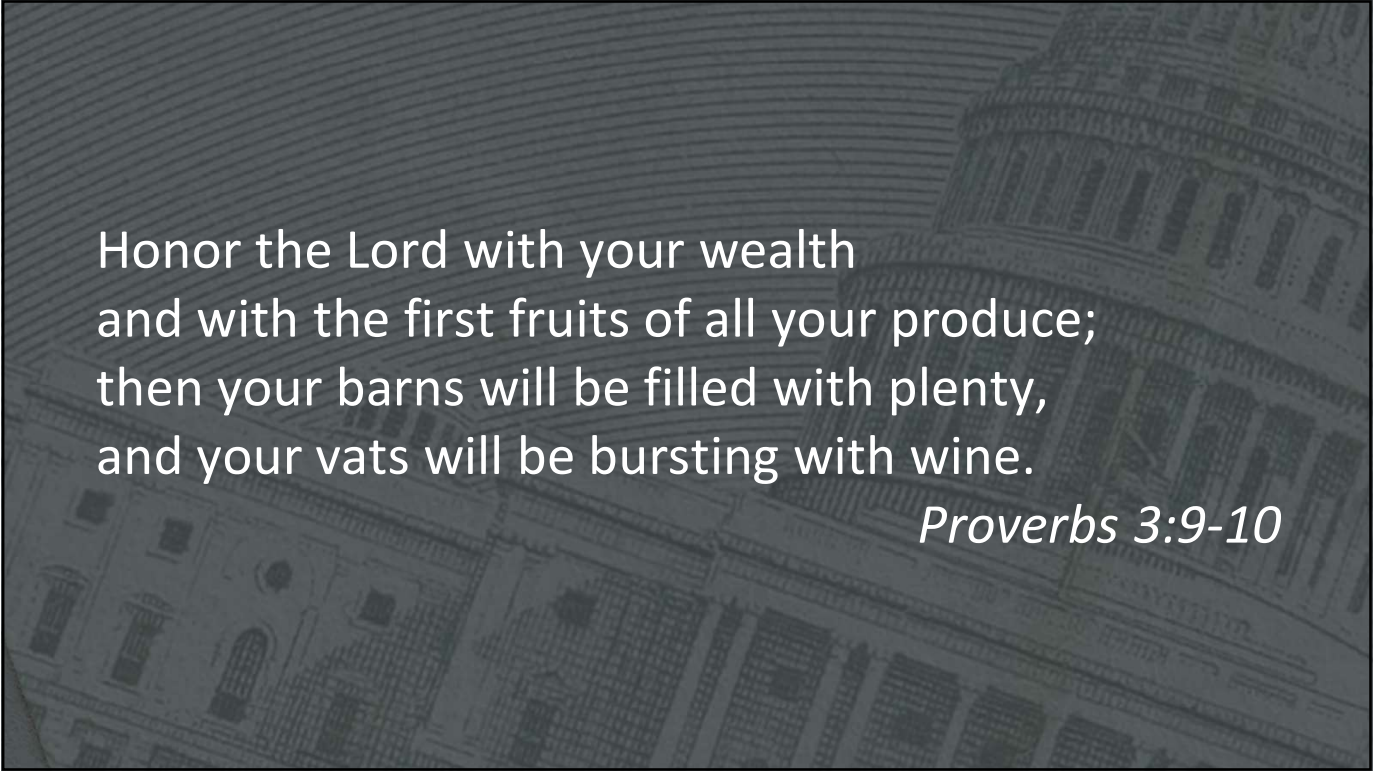
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I want to honor the Lord by:

- Study the Scriptures.
- Praying as an ongoing part of my lifestyle.
- Worship corporately
- Pursuing fellowship
- Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ
- Giving to the church

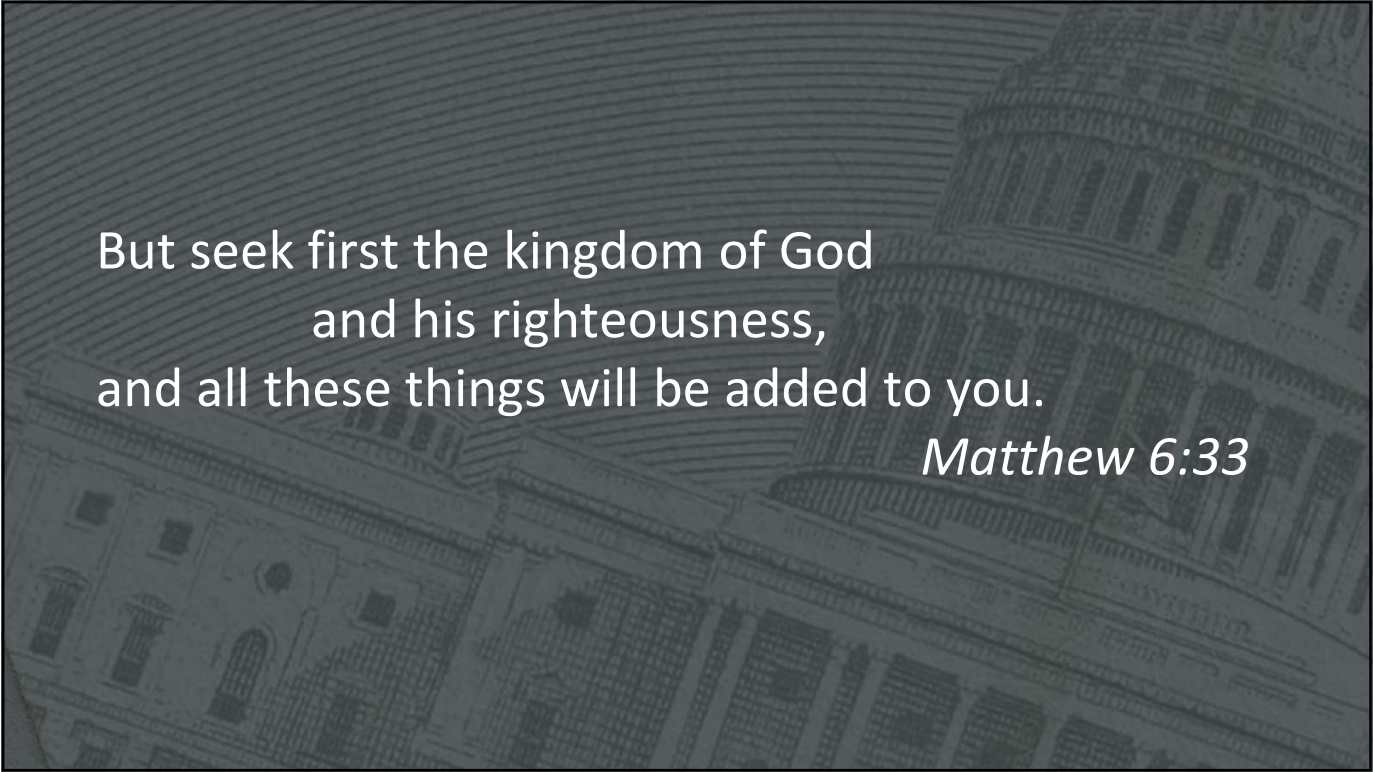
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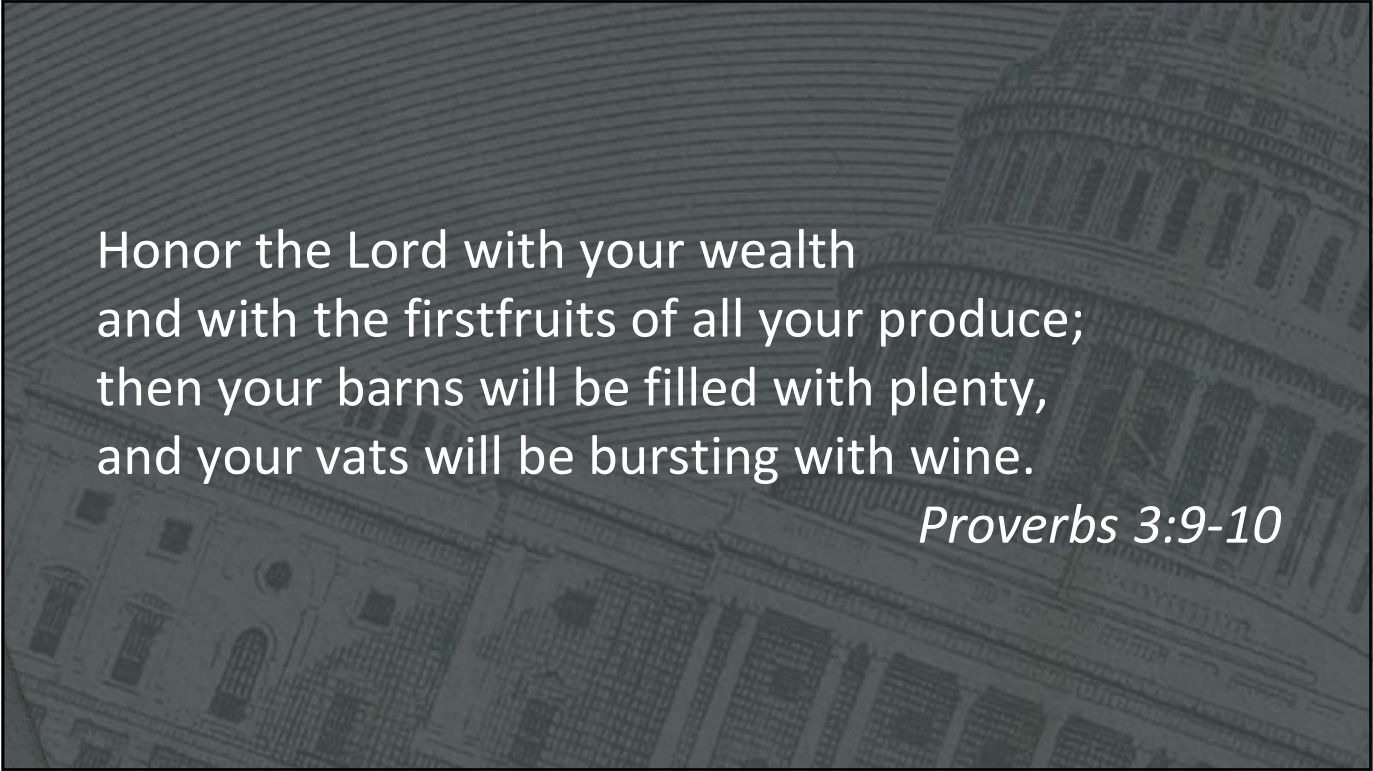
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But seek first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness,
and all these things will be added to you.

Matthew 6:33

18



Honor the Lord with your wealth
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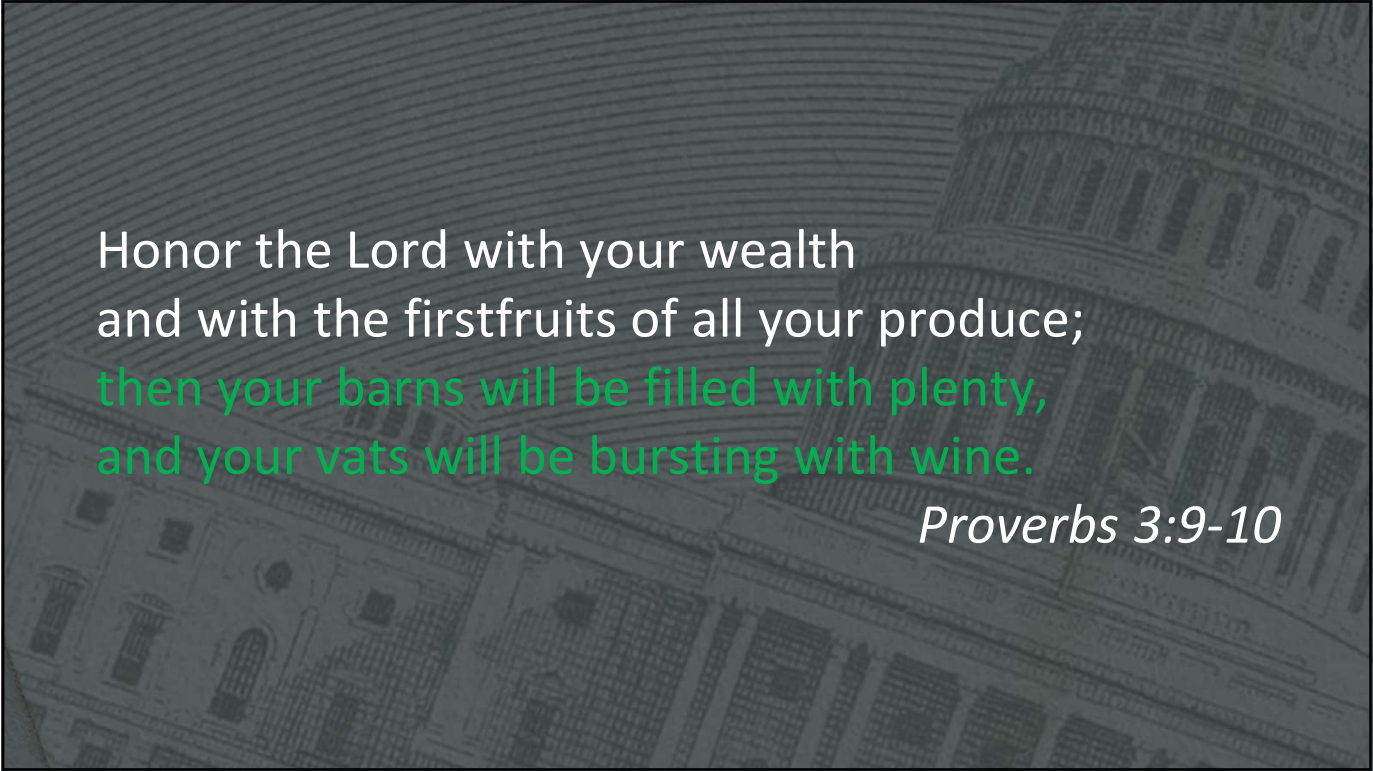
Proverbs 3:9-10

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EVERYONE IS NOT THE SAME

- 6) Surpassing Generosity
- 5) Generous Giving
- 4) Giving Beyond Obedience (10%+)
- 3) Obedient Giving (tithe or 10%)
- 2) Inadequate Giving
- 1) Giving Little or Nothing

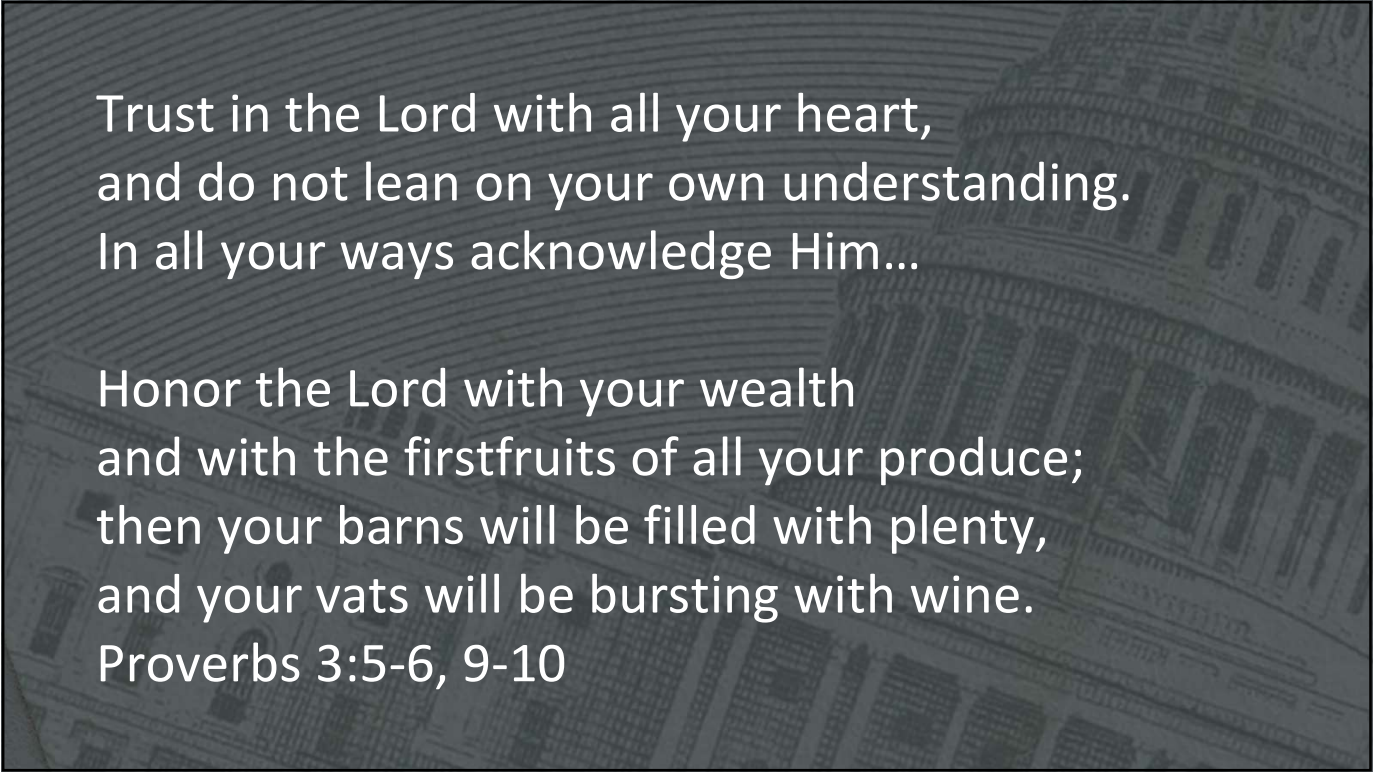
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SIX LEVELS OF GIVING

Giving is an act of faith and an act of worship. Giving is parting with the seen, while trusting in the Unseen. Two components make up this definition of giving: 1) parting with material wealth, and 2) trusting in the unseen God. With this in mind, ask yourself, "Which of the following six giving levels apply to my giving?" Starting at the bottom of the arrow, work your way up through the levels to see how you would evaluate your personal giving.

Paul spoke of the Macedonians: "Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability...And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. (2 Corinthians 8:3, 5) "They gave... beyond their means"? It is impossible to give beyond my own means, because is only possible if I am a conduit of God's ability. When I get in harmony with God, I become a conduit for His grace and blessing. God is a generous God giving amazing wealth. A stingy Christian is an ungodly Christian, because of God is generous.



6. SURPASSING GENEROSITY

This is giving out of **God's bounty and God's supply**, rather than the riches that we steward. At this level, people see themselves as conduits of **God's riches** having "sufficiency in **all things** and in **all times**" (2 Corinthians 9:6-15, particularly v 8, 10-11), while **all** their needs are met. This, also, is Spirit-led and God-enabled giving. Giving is a grace-gift of the Spirit, and includes the gift of giving (Romans 12:8). Grace is the engine behind generosity giving (level 5, 2 Corinthians 8:1), but surpassing generosity (level 6) is beyond being gracious and generous with what I have to steward, in that it is beyond grace and beyond generosity. This level is "surpassing grace" into the miraculous (2 Corinthians 9:14). A miracle of supply has begun.

5. GENEROUS GIVING

This is "ready to share." This generosity is a command to the rich. The rich! - That is us, the top 9% of the income earners in the world earn +\$10,000/year. In starker contrast, you are in the top 1% of the world's income earners if you earn more than \$30,000/year. What does "sowing bountifully" and "ready to share" (2 Corinthians 9:6; 1 Timothy 6:18) look like for this group? Gracious giving has arrived. This group understands that all they have is God's and that we are simply stewards of what God has given to us. This group may bump the perimeter of feasibility and prudence—but they are led by the Spirit, rather than by guilt, pressure, or whim. A breakthrough has arrived for this group in that they know that all they have belongs to God.

4. GIVING BEYOND OBEDIENCE – OFFERINGS BEYOND A TITHE

I suspect that Barnabas is an example when in Acts 4:36 he sold a field and distributed the income through the apostles. This is better, but unlike Barnabus, this group can actually be ungenerous in spirit, even if these individuals give more proportionately than does almost everyone else. If we are asking, "How much do I have to give?" rather than "How much can I give?" then we are not truly generous. Generosity is still waiting to happen for this people.

3. OBEDIENT GIVING – THE TITHE OR 10%

This is far beyond what most Christians give; but, even at this level, this group does not seriously consider giving more than 10% to God's church. Tithing is good and obedient, but an encounter with grace-filled giving is still waiting to happen. The tithe is an Old Testament concept and does not specifically teach tithing for Christians (35 times in the OT, 8 times in the NT); but rather, teaches proportionate and generous giving - setting aside a sum of money in keeping with your income. Like many OT principles, the NT expands the legal requirement for obedience (example: Exod 20:13 cf Matt 5:20-22). Like the 10 Commandments are the starting point of obedience, the tithe is training wheels for generosity.

2. INADEQUATE GIVING

God asks for at least 10% of our income. Giving less than a tithe, less than 10% of our income to God's work in the church is inadequate. At this level, giving is sporadic and from what is left after the bills are paid, if paid at all. This group may put a \$5 or \$10 bill in the offering box, but these individuals have no ongoing plan, no consistent giving pattern, but a tendency toward stinginess, coupled with a desperate need for a transfusion of grace on the higher side of obedience.

1. GIVING LITTLE OR NOTHING

To this group, giving is not a particular concern. These individuals have little regard for God or for the Bible as it pertains to the financial support of God's church. Such people may have no self-imposed spending controls, are controlled by desire and credit ceilings, or do not give due to unforgiven past hurts, or to a conviction such as atheism in the realm of finances.