

# Marriage



## MARRIAGE PART 29 - FINANCE PT 2

One of the most frequently asked questions is how much are we to give followed closely by who determines how much we are to give? This, like all the things we have already discussed boils down to a matter of the heart, just as we saw in the last resource, with the woman who gave all she had to live on, when she gave her last two coins.

Many will look to a rule or a principle to determine the amount they give, as opposed to their relationship with Jesus Christ. We are to do ALL things out of and from our relationship with Jesus by faith as the new covenant instructs. Anything done without faith is sin, and giving is no different. Applying the principles or rules of giving will not bring you into the life of the act of giving, on the contrary it is the life produced by living in and from faith that will produce the true act of giving, free of guilt, obligation and fear.

The one who is giving from their relationship with Jesus by faith will find these attitudes present in their very being. This attitude...

1. Considers giving an absolute blessing, privilege and honour
2. Says 'we get to give' as opposed to have to or ought to
3. Gives from the 'all' posture, not the percentage posture
4. Is always first to give and bless others
5. Looks for opportunities to give and bless others
6. Gives beyond what's required or asked for
7. Has generosity as a state of its being
8. Never fails to give
9. Is generous in every area of life, not just in the area of finances
10. Puts others needs ahead of one's own

The one who is giving out of the principle or the rule will find these attitudes present in their very being. This attitude...

1. Considers giving a hardship and a necessary evil
2. Considers giving something we 'should do' or we 'ought to do', because the book says so
3. Is focused on the amount or the percentage - 10%
4. Is very rarely first to give and waits to be blessed
5. Is consumed in self and self interests
6. Gives the minimum and even looks to give less if it can
7. Is mean spirited at its core of being
8. Isn't even looking for opportunities to give

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9. Is mean in every area of life, unless there is some gain to be gotten for itself
10. Always puts self and self-interest first.

God desires us to be in life and not just in a form of obedience which creates a hardness of heart. He doesn't desire obedience for obedience's sake. He desires life and from life comes the expression of life (our obedience) through our actions. This is where keeping His commandments and instructions in all aspects of life, no matter what this looks like, becomes an absolute blessing, joy and honour.

It is from this posture of heart to which we are to give our finances from. The obedience of the giving of our finances through our relationship with Jesus is to be motivated from love and activated through faith.

None of it is to be seen as something that we have to do or ought to do, or something we do begrudgingly. In fact the absolute opposite is the case. We can't wait to participate in what the Father asks when He asks all of the time and at any time. It's what we are created for.

Just to be clear, I am not saying that you should stop giving or that you don't have to give if you don't yet know what it is to live from this posture of giving within your relationship with Christ. In fact, I would suggest you start giving a tenth of what He has blessed you with now.

What I am saying is that this is the ultimate position to discover through your relationship with Jesus and I strongly urge you to search out this dimension in Him, with all you have, until the Spirit brings you into this dimension through the revelation of His Word in you.

Remember God's intent is always to bring us into life and life abundant within us from being in Him. It is not that we would just be found doing things for Him.

So how much are we to give?

We are to give 'ALL' from the life of Christ which is being formed in us through our relationship with our Messiah.

## QUESTIONS

1. Why is it essential we give from the position of life and not from the position of I should, or I ought to?
2. Which attitude from above do you relate to more and why in the area of giving?
3. Why can being obedient to a rule or a principle harden the heart?

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4. Why is the act of giving not a sign you actually have this spirit of generosity operating within you?
5. Why is this position of giving from life the ultimate position to enter into and live from?

Watch the accompanying You Tube videos here: [https://youtu.be/7TiH\\_ttsa9c](https://youtu.be/7TiH_ttsa9c)