

## **Christian Giving 101**

**I Corinthians 16:1-9** <sup>1</sup>Now about the collection for the saints, you are to do as I directed the churches of Galatia: <sup>2</sup>On the first day of every week, each of you should set aside a portion of his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will be needed. <sup>3</sup>Then, on my arrival, I will send letters with those you recommend to carry your gift to Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>And if it is advisable for me to go also, they can travel with me. <sup>5</sup>After I go through Macedonia, however, I will come to you; for I will be going through Macedonia. <sup>6</sup>Perhaps I will stay with you awhile, or even spend the winter, so that you can help me on my journey, wherever I go. <sup>7</sup>For I do not want to see you now only in passing; I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. <sup>8</sup>But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, <sup>9</sup>because a great door for effective work has opened to me, even though many oppose me. (BSB)

**Intro:** Here are some definitions that need to be given before we get into today's passage.

**Tithe:** A set percentage given to God without direction of how it is spent. This term was unique to Jews who worshipped at the Temple or synagogue.

**Offering:** A specific gift given to God but directed toward a specific need or purpose.

I. Here are the details of this passage.

A. This passage describes an offering given to **aid** in the famine that was taking place at this time in history.

**Acts 11:27-30** <sup>27</sup>In those days some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. <sup>28</sup>One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted through the Spirit that a great famine would sweep across the whole world. (This happened under Claudius.) <sup>29</sup>So the disciples, each according to his ability, decided to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. <sup>30</sup>This they did, sending their gifts to the elders with Barnabas and Saul. (BSB)

B. The collection during this famine was generous and **freely** given.

**II Corinthians 8:1-15** <sup>1</sup>Now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the churches of Macedonia. <sup>2</sup>In the terrible ordeal they suffered, their abundant joy and deep poverty overflowed into rich generosity. <sup>3</sup>For I testify that they gave according to their ability and even beyond it. Of their own accord, <sup>4</sup>they earnestly pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. <sup>5</sup>And not only did they do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us, because it was the will of God. <sup>6</sup>So we urged Titus to help complete your act of grace, just as he had started it. <sup>7</sup>But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness, and in the love we inspired in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. <sup>8</sup>I am not making a demand, but I am testing the sincerity of your love in comparison to the earnestness of others. <sup>9</sup>For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became

poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich. <sup>10</sup>And this is my opinion about what is helpful for you in this matter: Last year you were the first not only to give, but even to have such a desire. <sup>11</sup>Now finish the work, so that you may complete it just as eagerly as you began, according to your means. <sup>12</sup>For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have. <sup>13</sup>It is not our intention that others may be relieved while you are burdened, but that there may be equality. <sup>14</sup>At the present time, your surplus will meet their need, so that in turn their surplus will meet your need. Then there will be equality. <sup>15</sup>As it is written: "He who gathered much had no excess, and he who gathered little had no shortfall." (BSB)

**II. How can we apply these truths to our current situation?**

**A.** Your giving is a **private** matter between you and God.

**Matthew 6:1-4** <sup>1</sup>"Be careful not to perform your righteous acts before men to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup>So when you give to the needy, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. Truly I tell you, they already have their full reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. (BSB)

**B.** Seek His **guidance** on what He wants you to do in regards to tithing and giving offerings.

**C.** God is the one who is **receiving** the gift and He cares about our heart condition not the amount.

**D.** A member of a church should be a **regular** giver to the expenses of their local church. This is the best way to give an undirected tithe to God.