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**Fact Sheet: COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT GIVING**

*What you do with every cent says something about your view of God and what He means to you. And what your values are in this age. And what you think your few years on earth should be spent for - John Piper*

**Does God need my money?**

No. “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it” (Psalm 24). Everything is God’s, which means that the money we have ultimately isn’t ours - we’re just stewards of it. What God really wants is us - for our hearts to love Him and not money, or anything else He has created. God desires (and is worthy of) our worship - and our generous use of the resources God has given us is an act of worship.

**How much should I give?**

A generous amount. The Bible doesn’t prescribe a set amount. Instead, the repeated principle in the Bible is cheerful, sacrificial generosity, that flows out of thankfulness, faith and love for God and others. “The absence of a specific mandate creates dependence on God because we must actively seek his will for our finances. We can’t identify a percentage and “set it and forget it.” Rather, giving is meant to be an ongoing, dynamic component of lives lived in worship of Jesus.” (Jamie Munson in ‘Money: God or Gift’). Thinking practically, 10% is a good starting point for your financial generosity - but it’s just a starting point! It’s a good idea to continue to review this each year, to consider opportunities to be even more generous. At different stages of life, you might be able to give less, or much more. This is just one area of life to continually bring before God in prayer.

**Can I trust church with my money?**

Our church seeks to be an excellent steward of God’s money, and adheres to strict processes to budget, receive and spend money wisely. All spending is overseen by the Parish Council, and in particular, a Finance Committee. An annual audit of all our expenses is conducted each year by an external firm of accountants. The budget is presented to our church at each Annual General Meeting. You are welcome to contact any member of Parish Council at any time with questions you have about the use of money at our church.

**How is the budget allocated at church?**

Our church is committed to making disciples of Jesus in Sydney, and to the ends of the earth. We support mission partners around the world, including Christians who are being persecuted for their faith. We have prioritised our budget to invest in gospel-proclamation, because we believe there is only one name by which people can be saved – Jesus! The majority of the remainder of our budget is staff salaries – enabling these people to have the time and energy to “prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Eph 4:12-13). Administrative costs round out our budget - to keep the lights on, provide air conditioning, etc.

**Why should I give to church?**

If you are a member of our church, you’re part of a family, and each family has financial needs. There are costs associated with church life (see above), and these are covered by God’s people - members of God’s family in our church. If you consider this to be your church family, please give generously to provide for its needs.

**Can I give to other organisations?**

Absolutely! You are welcome (and encouraged) to give to other organisations. The Bible makes it clear that one use of our money is to provide for those who are in need (2 Corinthians 8-9), and as people who have great material wealth, we have great opportunity to provide for those in need in Sydney, Australia and the world. However, as explained above, as a member of church, please make this family a priority for your giving.

**What does the Bible have to say about giving?**

A lot! Here are some of the things the Bible has to say about it. We’ve also included some resources below to help you to further explore what the Bible has to say about the use of the money God has entrusted us with.

* Giving is a way of honouring God (Proverbs 3:9, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7)
* Giving allows us the joy of being part of God’s mission (2 Corinthians 8)
* Giving keeps our heart with the one true God (Matthew 6:21)
* Giving provides for our family (the church) (1 Corinthians 16:1)
* Giving provides the labourer with his wages (Luke 10:7)
* Giving reveals our true master, our dependence on and service of Him (Matthew 6:24)
* Giving meets needs (2 Corinthians 8:13-15)
* Giving is an opportunity to reap bountifully (2 Corinthians 9:6)
* Giving shows that we get grace (2 Corinthians 8:9)
* Giving is a way of serving others (2 Corinthians 8:4)
* Giving is a gift (Romans 12:8)
* Giving is an opportunity to excel in godliness (2 Corinthians 8:7)
* Giving (and the stewardship of other gifts) will be the bases of some of Jesus’ judgement (Matthew 25:14-30)
* Giving allows us to be rich towards God (Luke 12:21)

**Recommended Resources**

Here are some books that we recommend to help you consider this topic further:

* Money: God or Gift, by Jamie Munson
* The Treasure Principle, by Randy Alcorn
* Neither Poverty Nor Riches, by Craig Blomberg
* Managing God’s Money, by Randy Alcorn
* Beyond Greed, by Brian Rosner