

7. **The deeper the level of my giving, the greater is the expression of my love (2 Corinthians 8:8).**

Levels of Giving

- *Obedience (giving of regular tithes and offerings)*
  - *Faith (giving what God clearly prompts, but I cannot see or figure out)*
  - *Sacrifice (giving out of my need—that which I actually need to live)*
- a. Am I currently practicing biblical giving by giving back to the Lord at least 10% of my income?
  - b. Have I practiced faith giving in the past six months?
  - c. When was the last time I gave sacrificially to the Lord's work or to meet the need of another believer?
  - d. Does my life illustrate each of these three levels of giving?
  - e. What does my giving reveal about the depth of my love for the Lord Jesus?

8. **I am to minister to the material needs of those who minister to my spiritual needs (Galatians 6:6).**

- a. Make a list of the people who have ministered to you spiritually in the past year.  
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- b. Am I aware of the personal and material needs of the people on my list? How could I become better informed of their needs?
- c. Am I consistently investing in the lives of those who minister to me?
- d. How could I apply this principle this week?

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# Living/Giving Principles

## Making It Personal

1. **Before I give any of my material possessions to God, He first wants me to give myself (2 Corinthians 8:5).**
  - a. Has there ever been a point in my life when I fully gave myself to God?
  - b. Have I completely surrendered my will, my desires, my needs, my goals, and my plans to God?
  - c. Is there any area of my life that I have not yielded to God? Relationships? Position? Reputation? Recognition? Finances? Future?
  - d. Do I sometimes find it easier to give my material possessions than to give myself or my time to minister to the needs of others?
2. **I must be willing to be made materially poor, if necessary, in order that I or others might be made spiritually rich (2 Corinthians 8:9).**
  - a. When was the last time I demonstrated this principle in my life?
  - b. Have I ever done so?
  - c. Would I be willing to apply this principle if no one else would ever know I had done it?
  - d. Have I ever applied this principle and later grumbled against God for not immediately meeting my perceived needs or desires?
  - e. What material sacrifices on my part might help to nurture my spiritual life?
  - f. What specific material sacrifices could I make that might help others to be made spiritually rich?

**3. God wants me to learn to give out of that which I have (2 Corinthians 8:12).**

- a. Make a list of all the material possessions that God has entrusted to you.
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- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- b. What other non-material resources has God given me that I might be able to invest in others or in His kingdom (e.g., time)?
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- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

c. Do I tend to expect God to meet my needs through the giving of others rather than through my own giving?

d. When I hear of a need, do I ask the Lord if He wants me to have a part in helping meet that need?

e. What do I have right now that God might want me to give?

**4. I need to transfer the ownership of everything I have to God (1 Chronicles 29:14).**

- a. Have I transferred the ownership of everything I have to God?
- b. Since the owner has the right to make the final decision, have I accepted God's right to give or to take away any of "my" material possessions, according to His will?
- c. Am I as quick to rejoice when I experience material loss as I am when God blesses me materially?
- d. Is there any material possession that I would be reluctant to part with at a moment's notice from the Lord?

**5. Giving must be according to the will of God.**

- *In order to know the will of God, I must have no will of my own.*
  - *The will of God is never contrary to the Word of God.*
  - *The Word of God is the will of God.*
- a. Have I studied what the Word of God has to say in relation to my giving?
- b. Do I prayerfully seek God's will in relation to my giving?
- c. Are there any principles of God's Word that I may be violating in my giving?
- d. Am I willing to obey any direction from God in relation to my giving?

**6. I need to learn to give today out of my abundance (or supply) to meet the needs of others, believing that tomorrow, if I have a need, God will use the abundance of others to meet my need.**

a. Make a list of any individuals or ministries that you are aware of who have specific material needs at this time.

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b. Are there any of those needs that God may want to meet out of the supply He has given to me?

c. Do I feel the need to maintain a "safety net" in case God doesn't provide for me?

d. Am I guilty of hoarding certain resources for fear that I may need them at some unforeseen time?

e. When God uses the abundance of others to meet my needs, do I gratefully receive the gift as a provision from God?