

Both Barnabas and Ananias (and his wife) **sold land**.

Both gave a large sum of money to the early church leaders.

Barnabas gave the **entire sale price** of the land to the apostles.

Ananias claimed to give the **entire sale price** to the apostles, but he lied and kept some for himself.

Barnabas became an apostle!

Ananias became dead!

(**Thought:** Ananias offered the money as the whole amount of the sale. He must have given a large percentage of the property value; otherwise, everyone would have known he was lying. Think about it. If you sold your house for \$100,000 and gave the church \$10,000 as the full sale price...**no one would believe you!** They might believe you if you gave \$80K or \$90K. Ananias appears to have been very generous.)

Holy Spirit-led giving is exactly what the description implies. In the early church, the Spirit led everyone who had properties to sell them and give all the proceeds to the apostles. God used this generosity to provide for the poor among the group.

Spirit-led giving takes commitment. You must be in prayer and asking God for guidance. You must remain in prayer and hear His voice. You must obey God's leading.

Tithing is easy. Do the math and give the

mandated amount.

Free-will giving is easy. Give anything you want or nothing at all.

But hearing the voice of God and obeying Him...that is uncomfortable and takes faith! You need faith to believe that God does not intend to do you financial harm, but that His plans are perfect, and that He wants to use you.

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### **Spirit-led Giving: Conclusion**

The real problem for most Christians with the concept of Spirit-led giving is the examples the Bible provides.

100% of the Scriptures that show people giving as led by God reflect...

### ***Extravagant Generosity!***

The Widow's mite: she gave **100%** of everything!

Zacchaeus: he gave **50%** of everything, **and** repaid four times to anyone he robbed!

The Macedonians: **begged** to give, even though they were in **deep poverty** and **great affliction!**

And the list goes on!

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# Three Types of Biblical Giving

By: Robert Dallmann

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"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." (Luke 6:38)

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### **Try to Out Give God**

It is impossible to out-give God! He has already given us His Son Jesus! Although the thought of outdoing God when it comes to giving is not the main point of this message, it is crucial.

As we examine the various Biblical types of giving, we must keep in mind that whatever we give has been first given to us by God. The best we can do is return to him that which is already His!

Yet the Scripture is clear if we give in a way that honors and pleases God, He will pour out

## THREE TYPES OF BIBLICAL GIVING

blessings upon us.

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Law-led Giving:

As Directed by the Law of Moses

*“And, behold, I have given the children of Levi **all the tenth** in Israel for an inheritance, **for their service** which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.” (Numbers 18:21)*

*“I fast twice in the week, I give **tithes of all that I possess.**” (Luke 18:12)*

Two initial observations from these passages are:

- One of the purposes of the laws regarding tithes was **payment for the ministry** rendered by the Levites.
- Many people say that tithes were only expected from farmers and were from their livestock or produce. Yet the passage in Luke tells us that the Pharisees (at least this one) tithed from **all he possessed**.

Why is it critical to understand these points?

We need to realize that God has not changed; therefore, if the reasons for giving tithes still exist, then the need for generosity still exists.

*“For I am the LORD, I **change not**; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.” (Malachi 3:6)*

God does not change. His ministers still need provision for life. Thus, God’s people still need to be charitable.

Then the question is, “Should Christians follow the pattern of the Law of Moses?”

Is this the best method of giving for New Covenant believers?

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### Free-will Giving:

#### Give Whatever You Feel Like

*“You may present a bull or a lamb that has a part too long or too short for a **freewill offering**, but for a vow offering it cannot be accepted.” (Leviticus 22:23)*

*“Every man according **as he purposeth** in his heart, so let him give; **not grudgingly, or of necessity**: for God loveth a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)*

In the Old Covenant, the free-will offering was **above and beyond** the required tithes. The free-will offering could be less than the quality of the offerings mandated by the law.

2 Corinthians 9:7 is the primary passage from the New Testament that can be used to advocate a **free-will** giving model. However, is this honestly what this verse is saying? The verse immediately preceding this verse says:

*“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall **reap also sparingly**; and he which soweth bountifully shall **reap also bountifully.**” (2 Corinthians 9:6)*

In context, the passage says, “If you give a little,

you will be blessed a little. If you give much, you will be blessed much. So give cheerfully as you intend in your heart.”

If your heart desires minimal blessings, give little. If you want abundant blessings, give much.

Earlier in this chapter, Paul says that he is going to send brothers ahead of his visit...to make sure that their generous gift is ready upon his arrival!

The question is, “Should Christians follow a pattern of free-will giving?”

Is this the best method of giving for New Covenant believers?

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Holy Spirit-led Giving:

Give as the Spirit of God Directs

*“And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, (37) **Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles’ feet.**” (Acts 4:36-37)*

*“But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to **lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?**...(5) And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.” (Acts 5:3, 5)*

The Scriptures above are excellent examples of how Spirit-led giving **does** and **does not** appear.