

# Excuses Christians Use For Not Giving

By Ray DeLea

## #1. They don't trust the leadership

Believers in this category often voice that they are "worn out" by minister's persistent "begathons." If God truly provides for all of their needs, and this is what He has called them to – why are they constantly begging for financial assistance. The end result is believers distrust their leadership and subsequently their ability to manage Kingdom finances.

To this excuse I would ask, who are you trusting – God or man? As the Scriptures show us time and time again – people are fallible. If you are being taught, don't use someone's misuse for your excuse not to give. People gave in the Old Covenant out of obedience to the Word. We should not give because it "feels good." If God has called you to play a particular part in a ministry, you should be supporting it. God will see your part and bless it if you are faithful to where He has called you. Galatians 6:6 says, "Let him who receives instruction in the Word [of God] share all good things with his teacher [contributing to his support]."

## #2. Their gift isn't appreciated

Believers in this category only given when you send them a thank you card.

For those people in this category I would make the following comments.

Should a pastor be asking God for a thank you card? If a person is too busy worrying about how much they are unappreciated, then it could be that they are trying to hog some of God's glory. Isaiah 42:8 says, "I am the Lord that is my name and I will not give my glory to another." If you want your gift to be recognized you are probably giving for the wrong reasons. The Word says to do your giving in secret and not make a spectacle of yourself. It is the world's way to want recognition for their giving. This is the premise behind all of the entertainment industries awards. This is not biblical and it is not God's way. If God has instructed you to give, you honor Him by doing what He has instructed you to do. The scripture says it is MORE blessed to give than to receive. If you feel unappreciated, perhaps you need to be an example like it says in 1 Timothy 4:12.

## #3. They will give when they are asked to give

Well we know this isn't true! In 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians Paul chastised people because they refused to give. When it comes down to it, giving is a heart issue. Either you have had an encounter with the Lord or you haven't. I have found when you have a genuine encounter with the Lord, that changed heart desires to give. If everyone had such a heart attitude, pastors would have to tell people to stop giving because of the overflow. It would be Exodus 36:5 all over again. Greed and corruption within the leadership and flock and lack of genuine biblical teaching on the subject have poisoned peoples hearts. Hebrews 13:16 says, "Do not forget *or* neglect to do kindness *and* good, to be generous *and* distribute *and* contribute to the needy [of the church as embodiment and proof of fellowship], for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

## #4. They don't believe

If people don't present themselves as a living sacrifice to the Lord, they will rarely, if ever, give. If someone has been properly taught and doesn't give, I would question their salvation. Romans 10:17 says, "So faith comes by hearing [what is told], and what is heard comes by the preaching [of the message that came from the lips] of Christ (the Messiah Himself)." People can be religious in spirit but not have encountered that John 3 born again experience. When that happens, people change. Consider Zacchaeus encounter with Jesus. Perhaps, like Zacchaeus, you need to overcome fear. Philippians 4:6 says, "Don't be pulled in different directions or worried about a thing. Be saturated in prayer throughout each day, offering your faith-filled requests before God with overflowing gratitude. Tell him every detail of your life." Overcome unbelief by believing in God's love like the Bible declares in John 4:16.

## #5. They are having difficult times, poor or in debt

Challenges come to everyone; but, they are not a reason to not give. If you won't give when you have the capacity to, you won't give out of your poverty. Just recall the story of the widow in Mark 12 who gave out of her utter poverty. Jesus did not disapprove of this. The widow in the Old Testament fed the prophet out of all that she had left. Just because you might be in debt is no reason to not give. If you happen to be a poor steward of your finances, give and Holy Spirit will help you be a better steward. You will never have enough for yourself if you don't acknowledge God's portion.

## #6. No role model to inspire them

Well, this is yet another self-deflection reason. People are not as inspired as we might think. If folks were really inspired they wouldn't let 20% of the congregation do 80% of the necessary work. In addition, consider that a large percentage of the perceived role models in sports, entertainment, and ministry end up failures leaving their followers despondent and hopeless. The biblical role model should emulate Titus 2:7-8 – "Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us," and Psalm 1:1-2 – "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night."

## #7. Don't know how or why they should give

This is another selfless reason that often gets back to improper teaching on tithes and offerings. There was a difference between Cain's and Able's offering. It all got back to the giver's heart. If you are part of the Kingdom of God, you should be doing something to support the Kingdom. If Holy Spirit puts it on your heart to do something – DO IT. Whether it's finances, material goods, or labor. Whatever He instructs you to do – DO IT. The Bible says the following about why you should give.

- To please God – Hebrews 13:16
- To be obedient to God – Deuteronomy 15:11
- To be a blessing to others – Proverbs 11:25
- To imitate Jesus – 1 Corinthians 11:1
- To discipline oneself – Proverbs 21:26

## #8. They don't know how to manage their money

Understand that when you commit to a life of giving you will have to make changes in the way you handle your giving versus when you gave nothing. You will have to step out in faith. In Leviticus, God had a prescription for approaching Him. You had to bring an offering. Wow, what if people had that same requirement today? 1<sup>st</sup> century Christians participated in a commune-type living arrangement. Do you recall what happened to Ananias & Sapphira when they failed to keep their vow? Malachi 3:8 teaches us about robbing God. If you are not going to rob God, you must learn to manage your finances. The Bible sums it up this way in Ecclesiastes 5:10 – "Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth

is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless."

## #9. Don't know how tithes & offerings are being spent

In view of the widespread financial corruption within churches today, it is no wonder that people want to know where their money is going. Tithes are not being used as the Scriptures prescribe and are consequently lumped into offerings when it comes to use of said funds. The church should NOT be a business but sadly it has become one with many of its associated evils. People want to "put the screws" to their church but fail to hold their local, state, and federal governments to the same standard. There should be transparency in the church. That said, if Holy Spirit instructs you to give, and what to give, you still need to just DO IT. Matthew 6:1-4 instructs us to give in secret then our heavenly Father will reward us. It doesn't require us to know where our giving is going. And the bottom line is everything that has been given to us belongs to the Lord. When we turn our lives over to the Lord, all that we have is now under His control. It should be reassuring that God is always looking out for what is best for us. He would only instruct us what and how to give such that it fits into His plan for our lives.

