



Investing in the Work of God via The Well Community Church

Finding a place to serve is as simple as seeing a need, knowing basically how God has made you, and jumping in. Not only will you find great joy in serving, you will find deep relational connection. In this process you will find your gifts.

Let's investigate where you can get started.

1. Read Romans 12.1-8 (If desired, read 1 Corinthians Chapters 12-13)
Take notes here, what jumps out of these passages?

2. How did God create you? What three things do you know a lot about? What two things do you love? What one thing do you do well? How might God use these in/through the church?

3. Where do you see need in the body of The Well? What areas appeal to you? Where could you investigate serving for a month or two?

Sunday Morning Ministry Teams (Family Ministry, Welcome Team, AV, Band, etc.)?
<http://www.thewellsilverspring.org/serve>

Communities: Get connected or interested in leadership?
Contact: james@thewellsilverspring.org

God's View of Money:

We give generously, because Christ has sacrificed and given all of Himself to us. We give to show off His grace and goodness, not to show off ourselves. We give to praise Him for our forgiveness, not to justify ourselves.

1 Chron. 29:11-12 Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for **everything in heaven and earth is yours**. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. [12] Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.

Proverbs 16:9 In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.

Proverbs 21:20 In the house of the **wise are stores of choice food and oil**, but a foolish man devours all he has.

Proverbs 22:7 The rich rule over the poor, and **the borrower is servant** ("slave") **to the lender**.

Eccles. 11:2 Give portions to seven, yes to eight, for you do not know what disaster may come upon the land.

Philip. 4:11-13 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. [12] I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. [13] I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

1 Tim. 6:6 But **godliness with contentment is great gain**.

2 Cor. 9:6-9 Remember this: Whoever **sows sparingly will also reap sparingly**, and whoever **sows generously will also reap generously**. [7] Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. [8] And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. [9] As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

-What Principles for "your" money emerge in these verses?

-What are some pervasive barriers to the joy of generosity? Which ones most apply to your heart/situation?

-What are some key reasons and motivations to be generous with the money you have?

The Old Testament sets a pattern of giving in percentages. God's people were called to support His work by giving percentages of their initial wages, ongoing harvests, special one-time gifts, animal sacrifices, leaving of grain in the fields for the poor, refusing work on the Sabbath, all in reaction to the goodness of God, knitting their hearts to Him while supporting the work of God in the Temple and among the poor (depending on how one counts it, 10%-30% or more). **The New Testament** confirms that for a person who has received life in Christ and is led by the Spirit, he or she should give all things to God, deciding and planning how to give generously of their money in that pursuit.

If you plan to give in order to win the favor of God or people, please keep your money. Rather, we must give from the joy of who God is, and the favor He has already given us in Christ (sacrificing His precious Son for us). Give as an expression of your love and trust in Him and a desire to see His kingdom expand into the world. Pray that He would continue to mold your motives in accordance with these things. Everything is His. We simply have the choice to enjoy being a part of His work, and experiencing the joy of having our hearts tied to Him, rather than the fading material things of this world which will never satisfy.

Practically, followers of Christ have considered giving 10% of their income to the work of God as a starting point, training their hearts and growing in their trust of God as He increases their joy in obedience. Start by simply giving something, anything, the smallest percentage, and watch how He works. He is and will be way too gracious to us.

My Plan for Giving:

(Use this sheet to create a plan for giving on the next sheet. Prepare to have your heart transformed and joy increased. Do after completing "God's View of Money")

1. Do you currently have a plan for giving?

2. What percentage of your income/possessions do you currently give?

3. Read 2 Corinthians 9.6-15, where Paul requests that the Church in Corinth prepare their gift for the work of God in the surrounding churches, who have already given generously. (If you have time, read Chapters 8-9, some rich stuff!)
 - a. What motivation does Paul share for giving? (9:10-15; cf. 8:8-9, 8:1-5)

 - b. What process does Paul explain (9:6-7)

4. Create a Plan for Generous, Joyful, Responsive Giving from the Gospel! Pray as you plan. Giving is motivated by the gracious work of God to save us, not by an attempt to please Him/others by giving money. We must be motivated by grace, to show Him off, not to justify ourselves or show ourselves off. (If you are married, do at least this section together.)
 - a. To whom will you give? (The church/Poor/Missionaries etc.)

 - b. When will you give?

 - c. What Percent will you start with, and how will you divide it between those to whom you are giving?

 - d. "Make up your mind" to do so, and go for it!

How to Give to God's work via The Well:

- Online on the church website: "Give", thewellsilverspring.org
- Sunday Worship: Write checks to "The Well" or give cash in the giving box on the back table
- Mail: Mail checks, made out to "The Well" to The Well PO Box 3323 Silver Spring, MD 20918

Money Resources:

- Financial Peace www.daveramsey.com
- Crown Financial Ministries <http://www.crown.org/>
- Money, Possessions and Eternity* By, Randy Alcorn
- Your Money Counts* By, Howard Dayton