“Why Bother Giving?”
Romans 8:32
The Big Picture of “Life After” Becoming A Christian

God’s purpose is to shape Jesus’ character in us. “My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you” (Galatians 4:19).

His sovereign provision in our lives does just that! “And we know that all things work together for good to those who know God, who are called according to His purpose...He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son” (Romans 8:28-29)
Our God is a Giving God!

God gave:
* when we didn’t deserve it
* at GREAT COST to Himself (Isaiah 53:10)
* not the minimum, but sacrificially
  “He who did not spare His own Son”
  (Romans 8:32)

Jesus is “the Word made flesh” (John 1:14).
Domains of Giving
And Being Generous

In your devotional life with the Lord – the more you receive, the more you GIVE!
“I am the Vine, you are the branches” (John 15:5)

When you sow generously, you reap generously! (Galatians 6:7)

Relationships – grace, mercy, forgiveness, your testimony of salvation

Personal and church finances
Does Your Manner of Giving *Mimic* God’s Manner of Giving?

Approaches to Kingdom giving

* Don’t give at all
* Leftovers – when all else is covered
* Bargain giving
* In proportion to others (“I’ll do my part”)
* Tithing – 10% of all your increase
* Sacrificial giving
Don’t Give / Not Generous At All

* God blesses so you can bless others

“(God) who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God”

(2 Corinthians 1:3-5)

Psalm 51:10,13 – “Create in me a clean heart... Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways...”
You are presenting defiled food upon My altar. But you say, ‘How have we defiled You?’ In that you say, ‘The table of the LORD is to be despised.’ “But when you present the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you present the lame and sick, is it not evil? Why not offer it to your governor? Would he be pleased with you? Or would he receive you kindly?” says the LORD of hosts.”

(Malachi 1:7-8)
“Bargain” Giving

“God, I’ll give money to make up for some area of disobedience in my life.”

* To maintain my loved one’s health...

* To continue some secret sin

Problem: He knows us too well – Psalm 139
He knows our thoughts from afar
Works will not justify us (Romans 3:20).
Giving From Surplus / Abundance

“The Widow’s Mite” Luke 21

_Widow’s mite example_

“For they all out of their surplus put into the offering; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live on” (Luke 21:4)

_Problem_ = inaccurate measure – comparing self to others giving

God’s example = Psalm 50:10 – “cattle on 1,000 hills”

Haggai 2:8 – “gold and silver are Mine”

Instead, God sent His only Son – John 3:16
In Contrast To Wedging Him In, Why Not Make Him First?

“Honor the LORD from your wealth, and from the first of all your produce” (Proverbs 3:9-10).

“Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33).
God Loves A **Cheerful** Giver!

“Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed” (2 Corinthians 9:7-8)
Takeaways from 2 Corinthians 9

Be purposeful, not flippant, in your giving vs. 7
“NOT GRUDGINGLY OR UNDER COMPULSION”

God loves a cheerful giver (hilarios) vs. 7

God makes His grace abound so you “have an abundance for every good deed” vs. 8
Malachi 3:10 – “Bring the whole tithe”

Your step of faith and obedience triggers His divine involvement in your financial management! Go ahead and test Him!

But it MUST be a faith commitment because:

“Without faith, it is impossible to please Him!” (Hebrews 11:6).