

SERVICE & GIVING

Matthew 6:19-21 & Luke 16:1-9

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What is your honest understanding of and feelings about tithing? What about volunteer work? How do they relate to your faith and discipleship?
- How does the focus of your thoughts relate to your faith and your relationship with God?
- Do you think money is money good or bad for relationships? Does it make a difference if it's a family relationship, a friendship, or God?

Service and giving are common words in the church Christian's vocabulary, but they aren't always regarded in a positive light. To many they are simply necessities like stewardship and giving, or Biblical commands that can be uncomfortable to discuss. But there's a lot more to service and giving than that and it's included in the list of spiritual disciplines because it's a practice that can aid our spiritual growth and our relationship with God.

Reflection

- Based on Jeff Munroe's comments in segment 2, should 10% be the floor or ceiling for you? Is it a good goal to reach for or is it a goal you can easily, comfortably surpass?
- Evaluate your generosity in other areas of your life beyond money: Are there areas you could celebrate your already generous spirit? Where you could cultivate a more generous spirit?
- Why does helping others (monetarily or otherwise) reflect your commitment to discipleship?
- Consider Jeff's closing question for yourself: "Do I go through life squeezing, grasping, holding; or do I have an open hand?" Not just with money, but with all things: Our time, our talent, the way – all of our possessions. Do we share those things freely?

Related Passages

- **Mark 12:38-44**
- **Genesis 14:17-24**
- **Matthew 25:14-30**
- **1 Peter 4: 9-11**

Conclusion

Prayerfully consider your relationship to money, possessions, time, and your talent. Consider making it a practice to periodically evaluate your motives behind where and why you make the choices you do. Seek God's insights and ask him to uncover for you anything that might be hindering your spiritual growth.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/service-giving>

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