

MONEY MATTERS

Many people believe that their financial situations will not allow them to give more of their income to the Lord's work. People need help to see beyond their financial circumstances to discover that the God of the Bible longs to be active and real in their lives today. The chart below identifies a number of biblical characters in various financial situations. May these role models be a source of encouragement for you and the people you are able to influence for the Lord.

Financial Situation	God's Desire is to...	Examples	Action Steps to Take
Difficult or impossible circumstances	Encourage you.	A single mother's example <i>1 Kings 17:7-16</i>	Trust God and do not fear.
	Stretch your meager resources.		Make giving to God your first priority (even before your family!), no matter how meager your resources.
	Help you give first to Him so you can experience His help.		
Single person	Lead you and meet your needs.	Jacob's promise	Entrust your needs to God.
	Help you honestly face your future and financial situation.	<i>Genesis 28:16-22</i>	Begin to give 10% of your income to God.
In debt or busy trying to make ends meet	Stop your money from disappearing.	Haggai's challenge	Consider your ways.
	Help you make ends meet.	<i>Haggai 1:2-11</i>	Give to God as your first and foremost financial priority, even ahead of your family needs.
	Help you make better financial decisions to get out of the financial rat race you're in.		Serve the Lord and do not neglect the Lord's house.
Giving to God from the leftovers	Bless you in ways you have not been experiencing.	Malachi's test	Begin to be honest with God about your finances.

	<p>Make you more productive.</p> <p>Stop Satan from devouring your financial resources and possessions.</p>	<p><i>Malachi 1:13-14; 3:7-11</i></p>	<p>Quit stealing the tithe (10%) from God. Give from the best you have—a full 10% plus additional offerings.</p>
<p>Would like to be more generous</p>	<p>Help you be more grateful.</p> <p>Make your giving a delight—not just a duty or drudgery.</p> <p>Help you give far more money than you ever dreamed possible.</p> <p>Provide for you.</p>	<p>Paul’s plan</p> <p><i>1 Corinthians 16:2</i></p>	<p>Each Sunday, look at the last seven days to see how the Lord provided (income, bargains, extra money, hospitality, help, etc.)</p> <p>Give offerings of at least 10% for each provision.</p>
<p>Own a valuable item that is no longer needed</p>	<p>Make you an encouragement, help, and example to others.</p> <p>Help you de-accumulate so you can better serve God and others.</p>	<p>Barnabas’ example</p> <p><i>Acts 4:32-5:11</i></p>	<p>Share or give this item to someone who has a genuine need.</p> <p>Or sell the item and give some or all of the proceeds to the Lord’s work.</p>
<p>More money and/or assets than needed</p>	<p>Have others joyfully follow your generosity.</p> <p>Allow you to help see special projects surge ahead.</p>	<p>David’s challenge</p> <p><i>1 Chronicles 29:1-22</i></p>	<p>Help underwrite a special project.</p> <p>Give your gift and challenge others to give generously.</p>
<p>Christian leader or worker</p>	<p>Energize you.</p> <p>Prosper the ministry.</p> <p>Cause others to joyfully follow your example.</p>	<p>Nehemiah’s covenant</p> <p><i>Nehemiah 9:38; 10:31-39</i></p>	<p>Honor the Lord’s Day.</p> <p>Work on eliminating debt.</p> <p>Support the Lord’s work with your tithes and offerings.</p>

