

Development Phase Selected: Beginning

You selected the statement, "I am giving more and giving more regularly."

This is the beginning point for disciples who have made a commitment to Jesus Christ. It is evident that the Holy Spirit is at work in your life encouraging you to share out of the abundance God has provided for you.

You might feel good about this new pattern of giving, and you should! You have begun to join with other disciples who are realizing that part of our calling is to care for those less fortunate. The church is the vehicle God has chosen to use to engage the world and provide for those unable to provide for themselves.

The admonition is clear, even from the ancient practices reflected in the Old Testament, that God expects us to live on less than we have available to us so that others might be blessed and their needs met.

For example, in Leviticus 19:10 we read this guidance: "Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God."

What's Next?

You have already taken a big step in developing a life of generosity. Biblically and historically, the minimum standard of giving is the tithe. This is defined as 10% of your income.

Most disciples find it's a big jump to move from a pattern of regular giving to the practice of a tithe. We suggest that this be done in small steps. For example, this year you might have contributed 2% of your income to your congregation. Consider moving that to 3% for next year, then continuing this process until you reach the tithe.

As a general rule, most Americans tend to live with little to no financial margin. They have no savings and often carry significant debt beyond that of mortgages and car payments.

You may find it helpful to participate in a class focused on handling financial resources in a biblical manner.

Suggested Resources

If you like to read and study for personal development, we suggest the following resources:

Enough, by Adam Hamilton

Financial Peace University, by Dave Ramsey

Foundations, by Phil Maynard