



## Why Not Engage in Joyful Generosity?

August 12, 2018

### Seven Reasons People Might Not Give Back to God

1. WHY NOT? I Forget to Give
2. WHY NOT? I Can't Afford to Give
3. WHY NOT? It's Mine
4. WHY NOT? I Am Afraid God Won't Take Care of Me
5. WHY NOT? I Was Not Raised That Way
6. WHY NOT? It Is Too Big A Sacrifice
7. WHY NOT? My Giving Does Not Really Make a Difference

#### **WHY NOT?** I Forget to Give

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

*<sup>1</sup> Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. <sup>2</sup> On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.*

**WHY NOT...** Make a decision to set aside something on a regular basis that is designated to bless people through the Church?

#### **WHY NOT?** I Can't Afford to Give

Proverbs 11:24-25

*<sup>24</sup> One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. <sup>25</sup> A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

**WHY NOT...** Try giving regularly and faithfully and see if God blesses you in many different ways?

**WHY NOT?** It's Mine

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

*<sup>6</sup> Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

**WHY NOT...** Try to recognize that all you have is a gift from God and ask God to help you see "Stuff" the way He does?

**WHY NOT?** I Am Afraid God Won't Take Care of Me

2 Corinthians 8:8-12

*<sup>8</sup> I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. <sup>9</sup> For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*

*<sup>10</sup> And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. <sup>11</sup> Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. <sup>12</sup> For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.*

**WHY NOT...** Take a step of faith and see if God's rich grace and surprising provision are truly all you need?

**WHY NOT?** I Was Not Raised That Way

Matthew 6:19-21 & 24

<sup>19</sup> "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>24</sup> "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

**WHY NOT...** Create a new lifestyle to show the next generation that serving Jesus is better than being mastered by money?

**WHY NOT?** It Is Too Big A Sacrifice

1 John 3:16-18

<sup>16</sup> This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? <sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

**WHY NOT...** Take a first step of sacrifice and learn to take more and bigger steps as you grow in faith?

**WHY NOT?** My Giving Does Not Really Make a Difference

Malachi 3:8-10

<sup>8</sup> "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' "In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup> You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. <sup>10</sup> Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

**WHY NOT...** See giving as a journey of faith that honors God and blesses the Church, no matter how much you are able to give?