

Giving Suggestions

"I want to start giving more, but I just don't think I can. How can I start giving more regularly?"

Have you ever said this to yourself? Many of us have. How can we start moving forward when we sense God's leadership and guidance? We want to offer a few introductory guiding thoughts here.

1. Pray and Read

It all starts with getting in touch with Jesus and what He says about our hearts, giving, and money. Matthew 6:19-34 is a good place to start. As you pray and read, ask God to show you the fears and hangups you have. One at a time, turn those over to Jesus, and ask Him to replace that fear or hangup with something else. How do you feel now? How is He asking you to move forward?

2. Budget

Budgeting is key to the process of managing God's money well. A lot of questions can arise: are all of our expenses aligned with what He wants for us now? Practically, what about paying off the debt I have? What if I am living on a loan? What about...?

These are not easy questions. Can we suggest the following?

- For budgeting: Sign up for our Ethnos money management seminar, or enroll in <http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu>.
- With tough questions: take a look at the following resource- <http://www.epm.org/resources/category/money-and-giving/?order=name>

3. Plan

It's easier to give when we plan head. For example, hearing someone talking about giving every week at Ethnos, and thinking to yourself "oh yea, I need to give," will not take you very far. However, if you plan it out, you'll be much more successful. What if you told yourself today that you will give:

- a. Starting in 30 days (to get some budget items in order first)
- b. After every paycheck comes in, as your first "bill"
- c. At a certain percentage

You'll probably be way more "successful" in following through!

4. Technology: Try Auto-Bill Pay or www.ethnos.us

Lastly, we want to suggest utilizing technology to help you in your giving. Technology is one of those things that can either help or harm us- we see this in much of our world today. But if it can help... then why not give it a try?

For example, why not utilize your bank's "auto-bill" or "auto-withdraw" system? Chances are you will probably be able to actually give at a consistency that you really want to. Let's face it: for some of us, it can be hard for us be consistent with coming to Sunday Gatherings, to remember to bring a checkbook or write one beforehand, to let our giving go first before the other bills and expenses tempt us to reconsider.

Talk to your bank directly (or go to their website) about this option- we recommend it! You'll need the following information: 1) Our Church Address, 2) Our Bank Account #, 3) Our Routing #. You can email question@ethnos.us and get this information right away. And of course you can always give online at www.ethnos.us via Credit Card or Pay Pal.

"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." 2

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Corinthians 9:6-8