

Autumn



For a rich young man, meeting Jesus meant a call to deeper discipleship; sadly the price was too great (*Luke 18:18-30*). Autumn is a season of change. Life does not stand still; neither do or does our dealings with money. We must make decisions, some can be hard.

So what needs to change for me around money: my attitudes, feelings, decisions? Does my giving reflect all that God gives to me and calls me to be?

Now as you excel in everything... so we want you to excel also in this grace of giving.

2 Cor 8:7

A prayer for ourselves and our church:

Loving Father, you have made us your people, richly provided us with good gifts and called us to live for you; may gratitude be in our hearts may generosity be in our hands may justice and righteousness guide our feet and may the life of your kingdom and the joy of heaven be found among us. Amen.

Giving

Giving is a natural part of belonging to our local church. Generous giving means our church can pay the bills, grow our ministry and make a difference in our community.

Giving is also a natural part of being a Christian. Generous giving expresses our worship, our gratitude and obedience to God.

So please think, pray and act, as together we each review our giving to the work of God in and through our church. This may mean that we:

- Increase our giving to meet our church's needs, resource our ministry and reflect God's generosity to us
- Join the planned giving scheme, asking for weekly envelopes, a standing order or a direct debit form
- Gift Aid our giving, if we pay tax
- Ask for information on leaving a gift in our Will to the work of our church

You will be enriched in every way so that we can be generous - for this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

2 Cor 9:11-12

Seasons OF GIVING

Winter



Spring



Summer



Autumn



Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Winter



Jesus told a parable about a rich man whose barns were full but whose heart was cold (Luke 12:13-21). As he made his plans he had little thought for either God or the people around him who needed his grain. The Bible teaches that God is the owner and giver of all we have and calls us to share what is entrusted to us.

So, what might make it hard for me to give? What holds me back? Why am I sometimes hesitant, reluctant, even fearful about giving generously?

“ **The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap generously.** ”

2 Cor 9:6

Heavenly Father, thank you for all that you have entrusted to me: my wealth, work and leisure, my home and possessions, my loved ones and friends. Where I have sown sparingly of all you have given, please forgive me. Give me grace to sow generously, knowing that my gifts make a difference and honour you as the giver of all things. Amen.

Spring



When Jesus came to his home Zacchaeus experienced a spring-time of the heart. His new life embraced generosity and financial integrity (Luke 19:1-10). The bible invites us to give with joy, with gratitude, with love.

So, what moves my heart to give generously? Have I connected my faith in Jesus with my money: generous giving and faithful living? Is it time to think again about what I give?

“ **Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.** ”

2 Cor 9:7

Heavenly Father,
I am invited to think about my giving to the life and ministry of my church.
Give me wisdom to know how to give, and joy in my giving.
Open my heart and my hands to give freely and generously,
grateful for all you have given to me.
Amen.

Summer



A widow came to worship and she gave generously from what she had (Luke 21:1-4). Such generosity speaks of the heart and challenges us to give in proportion to what God has given to us.

So what does good giving look like? What does it mean for me to share abundantly, to give generously, to give from the heart, to give well?

“ **And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.** ”

2 Cor 9:8

Heavenly Father,
help me to grow in the grace of giving as I learn to recognise and to trust your goodness and provision for me. Confident in your care, help me to give carefully, intentionally and abundantly from what I have to the needs and the opportunities around me and my church.
Amen.