



Believe: Assessment



As you venture into the sensitive topic of money with your church body, the staff at Generosity by LifeWay wants you to know that we are doing everything we can to prepare you to be a confident communicator and leader. In order to do that, we know that to lead well, self-reflection is a must. We have created some thoughtful questions and exercises to get you thinking about the connection between what you believe and what language you will chose to use as you lead. What you say is a direct indicator of what you believe, so by looking at your language surrounding a subject, you can start to uncover where your heart lies on the topic.

Take the time to push yourself to uncover both personal obstacles to be defeated and opportunities for growth in your belief about generosity. Your personal investment in this process can reap big rewards as you later convey your convictions to your church body.

“But what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart.” (Matt. 15:18a, CSB).

1. What are some benefits of possessing a strong belief or conviction?

Take a few minutes to think about a time when you acted and your belief in the decision or direction was not as strong as you would have liked. Describe the situation here.

How did this situation make you feel?

What pains or successes did you experience?

If you had to do it over again, what would you do differently?

Notes

2. In what ways are you more confident in what you believe the Bible teaches about money and generosity?

In what ways are you less confident in what you believe the Bible teaches about money and generosity?

What are some practical steps you could implement today to help you become more confident in what you believe about all Scripture that is related to money and generosity?

3. Our words are great indicators of what is in our heart. The following phrases are samples of language related to money that are often heard from pastors. Read over each one and decide which ones most reflect your current money language when speaking from the platform, in staff meetings, or leadership meetings.

In the blank before each phrase, write in a "T" if it is a phrase you have thought about, but not said out loud. Write in an "S" if you have said out loud that phrase or something very similar. Write in a "N/A" if the phrase does not apply to you.

If you have some personal phrases that didn't make this list, jot them down here, whether cringe-worthy or on-point (in your opinion, of course). As you grow in your discipleship of this topic, you can come back here and revisit those phrases and tweek them if necessary.

- ___ "The Lord commands us to give Him our first fruits."
- ___ "If everyone tithed, we would have more money than we could use."
- ___ "If you come to church and partake in our ministries but aren't regularly tithing, you are not contributing to the vision of the church."
- ___ "Without your gift, our ministry cannot survive."
- ___ "Our God provides for all of our needs."
- ___ "What we own is not our own, it is simply a gift from God we are entrusted with."
- ___ "The Lord gives more to us than we could ever deserve. He outdoes Himself in His generosity."
- ___ "When we give, the Lord promises that we ourselves will be replenished."
- ___ "Giving has an impact far surpassing anything we can see. Its reward is eternal."
- ___ "Please consider financing our church."
- ___ "We need X amount of money in order to complete our project."
- ___ "As we close the year (or head into summer) we are behind and need all of us to participate in a catch-up offering, please."
- ___ "By contributing to this cause, you are advancing the kingdom of God and the mission and vision of our church."
- ___ "When we give what is ours, we not only change the world around us, but we ourselves are changed."
- ___ "I tend to think or say little about money."

Record other popular thoughts or phrases regarding money that are common to you, but not in the list above.

4. Given your selections, what might you be intentionally or unintentionally communicating about God, church, and money?

If you stay on this path, what kind of generous disciple might you grow? Circle one.

1. A disciple giving out of a heart shackled to shame.
2. A disciple giving out of obligation.
3. A disciple who gives because the church is in need.
4. A disciple who gives out of the joy of giving.
5. A disciple who gives to grab hold of the promises of God.
6. A disciple who views their money as a tool given to them by God to transform the world.

5. Moving Toward Confidence

Write down a Bible verse related to generosity that does not refer to tithing. What principle does it teach?

List the names of three people in the Bible who can be celebrated as giving heroes.

List three biblical promises related to generosity.

6. How would you describe the money culture in your church?

- Overflowing with an abundance of people and resources.
- We live and die by the Sunday offering.
- We're stuck on the side of the road.

7. How would you describe the money competency of your staff and leaders?

- We have wise investors and great money managers.
- We limp along better than most I guess.
- I'm nervous

8. Generosity Dream for People

Seek to articulate in no more than three sentences the dream financial life you see for the people who attend your church. (You will be able to create a plan to achieve this in the future.)

9. Generosity Dream for Your Church

Seek to articulate in no more than three sentences the dream financial scenario you see for your church's future. (You will be able to create a plan to achieve this in the future.)

Keep in mind that the goal is not to finish first, but to give serious consideration in order to become the best generosity leader possible. Take the time to review, pray, and unpack your responses to help you better prepare to grow as a leader