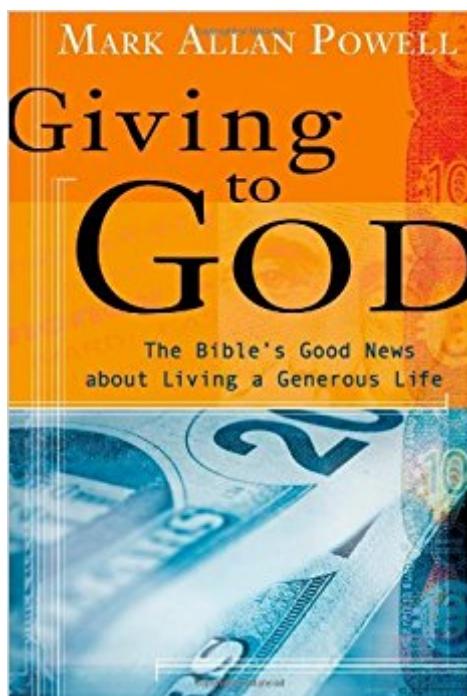


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# Giving To God: The Bible's Good News About Living A Generous Life



## Synopsis

We all know that everything we have is a gift from God. But sometimes it's hard to know just how to give back to God. How much is enough? What does the Bible really say? What should giving look like in our everyday lives? Filled with good news for followers of Jesus, Mark Allan Powell's *Giving to God* shows Christians the way to a better life and a better relationship with their money and with God. Powell presents stewardship as an act of worship, an expression of faith, and a discipline for spiritual growth. Faithful use of our time, talents, and money starts with a deep, satisfying relationship with the God to whom we belong. We can then learn, says Powell, to give gladly and generously out of our heartfelt connection with God. Informative, concise, and eminently practical (including discussion questions), *Giving to God* gives us resources for best using the treasures, material and otherwise, that God has given us.

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## Customer Reviews

Trinity Seminary Review "[Giving to God] is a fresh, holistic, well-rooted treatise on giving. . . A valuable, thought-provoking gift to give first-year members or to any people seriously yearning to practice their faith, or wanting their hearts to catch up with their good intentions." Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society "Powell has produced a fine specimen of what may be the rarest species in the genus *theologica litteratura*: an accessible and engaging text from a top-flight scholar, addressing a critical issue in the life of churches and individual believers." Presbyterians Today "Powell stresses that faithfulness to God in our time, treasures and talents is good news, not just drudgery or obligation. Exploring *Giving to God* will prove to be good stewardship of a reader's time." Prism "The author carefully demonstrates that the gospel of stewardship is not

tantamount to a divine investment or insurance policy. Citing 2 Corinthians 9:6,11, Powell notes, "Such rewards need not be tangible . . . those who give of their earthly treasure experience the spiritual reward of hearts increasingly drawn into the wondrous love of God." The meat of the text is sound teaching about this very dynamic."Douglas John Hall à " McGill University "This is a wonderfully readable book on a subject that ought to have priority in the thinking of not only Christians but all human beings on our much-threatened planet. Mark Powell's prose is full of fascinating anecdotes and allusions, making it immediately accessible to the reader. But it is also based on a biblically and theologically informed wisdom that speaks to the most pressing challenges of church and society in our time."Clayton L. Smith à " United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, Kansas City "Mark Allan Powell offers one of the most readable books on comprehensive stewardship ministry for local churches that I have ever read. . . Unlike many popular "money management" books, *Giving to God* contains authentic, personal, and candid commentary that fits today's local church."

We all know that everything we have is a gift from God. But sometimes it's hard to know just how to give "back" to God. How much is enough? What does the Bible really say? What should giving look like in our everyday lives? Filled with good news for followers of Jesus, Mark Allan Powell's "Giving to God" shows Christians the way to a better life and a better relationship with their money -- and with God. Powell presents stewardship as an act of worship, an expression of faith, and a discipline for spiritual growth. Faithful use of our time, talents, and money starts with a deep, satisfying relationship with the God to whom we belong. We can then learn, says Powell, to give gladly and generously out of our heartfelt connection with God. Informative, concise, and eminently practical (including discussion questions), "Giving to God" gives us resources for best using the treasures, material and otherwise, that God has given us.

My congregation studied this book. Mr. Powell is good at inviting theological reflection and insight into the meaning of giving, and an engaging writer. This is undermined by the chapter in which he encourages people to figure their "share" of a congregational budget, partly based on his mental algebra of what a responsible share would be. Most congregations I know do not budget as they would if generosity was the norm, because many attenders are not proportional givers. And many congregations would go out of business if generous givers who embrace generosity, and/or the tithe as a marker of generosity, adopted Mr. Powell's approach, and cut back their gifts of 7, 9, 12% of their income by adopting his fair share of the whole concept of doing one's part, and then perhaps

more, not generosity. Many people use comparative justification to fail to discover generosity, and so hold us all back from helping our country to flourish through intelligent creative giving. The "share" is a poor heuristic anchor for generosity, which is why the parable of the talents doesn't endorse it.

This is an excellent book that gives the Good News of Christian Stewardship. There are ideas of other persons at the end of the chapter. There are also questions in the book and as a group that can be discussed on their views of Christian Stewardship. The learning on Christian Stewardship will take you to a higher learning of what is expected in the walk of Christian Stewardship.. Thank you

I've never read a stewardship book that was very exciting reading, and this one is no exception. For those seeking guidance in personal stewardship, however, and surely for church leaders seeking a congregational study book to stimulate giving, this book offers sound, non-legalistic, and simple to comprehend advice. I wouldn't recommend this book (nor any other) as the absolute definitive answer on all stewardship questions. Yet its ideas are fresh and will stimulate the reader's own thoughts and commitments to giving to God.

This book does an excellent job of exploring the foundation of giving in the modern church. It shows that there are strong biblical and historical roots to the sacrificial nature of giving, emphasizing the need to give of the first fruits of our harvest. It shows that there are strong biblical and historical roots for giving to those in need. It emphasizes the benefit to the one who gives as well as to the one who receives.

A thought provoking book that gives us better insight on how to give so the recipient feels good and not just the giver.

Mark Allen Powell uses personal vignettes along side the biblical witness to open up the matter of generosity. Where does it come from? What are our own expectations, hopes, and how does our own generosity reveal God at work in us and in this world.

Giving to God by Mark Allen Powell is an easy read on the subject of stewardship. It is written from a Lutheran perspective, but is Biblical based with scriptures to support the authors point of view. He

presents some interesting concepts, some old some new, and thought provoking. The author's writing style is easy to read and the layout of the information is well organized. This is a must read for anyone interested in stewardship regardless of denomination.

I really enjoyed reading this book. The very unique but biblical position that the author takes on giving is totally refreshing. So many books just want to press on with tithing or guilt trip stewardship, but this refreshing look at the whole concept made me want to give even more - not just money but time. We all need to consider that everything we have is a gift from God and how we use all of these gifts (not just 10%) is important.

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