

*His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'*

Matthew 25:21

### Should I use Electronic Funds Transfer?

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) is the easiest, most cost-effective giving option for both you and the church. With EFT, you can reinforce your commitment to give your tithes and offerings to God first, before anything else. One easy step each year guarantees that the church will receive your gifts on a regular basis, even if you are out of town or you forget one week. If you choose this option, you must return an estimate of giving card each year authorizing the electronic funds transfer. Complete the EFT information and attach a voided check for the account you will use. For more info contact the Director of Finance, Karla Jackson at 334-793-4440 or [karla@covenantdothan.org](mailto:karla@covenantdothan.org).

### To whom much has been given...

*"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked"*

-Luke 12:48

### Put your faith in God...

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you."*

Jeremiah 29: 11-12



## 2011 Guide to Giving



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## 2011 Guide to Giving

Our challenge as Christ followers is to find ways to grow deeper in our faith. One way to do this is to offer our financial blessings to God through our tithes and offerings. Through these gifts, we invest in God's vision and purpose and create an opportunity for God to work through us. Our gifts to God each week are an act of worship, and our offerings are vitally necessary to change lives and transform communities.

### Why is giving so important?

The Bible has much to say about wisdom and finances, with 2,300 verses that tell us to be generous of our resources. Jesus taught generosity and sacrifice. He demanded that His followers not serve wealth, but God, and in the parable of the talents, he taught that God will hold us each accountable for what we do with all our earthly possessions.

### What is expected of me?

The Bible teaches us to give a tithe or the first ten percent of what we earn to God and the church's work. For some, giving one tenth is a very difficult goal. For others, it is the starting point, and their giving far exceeds ten percent. The important thing is that you start somewhere, that your giving be in proportion to your income, that your giving reflects an appropriate offering to God given your means, and that your offerings express both your desire to serve the Lord and your investment in God's work.

Begin by determining what percentage of your income you are giving to God. If you are not yet tithing, consider taking a step toward tithing this year. For example, if you now give 3% of your income, consider increasing your gift to 4%, and add 1% per year until you reach the tithing goal.

### Why do I need to return an estimate of giving card?

There are two reasons why it is important that every member of the covenant family return an estimate-of-giving card. First, the process of prayerfully asking God to guide your decision and then making a commitment to serve the Lord with your financial gifts is an act of worship, and expression of gratitude and praise to God. Second, on a more practical note, your commitment allows our church to budget and better plan for our ministries, key objectives, and mission outreach programs.

## Everything we have belongs to God

*"A tithe (tenth) of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees belongs to the Lord, it is holy to the Lord."*

*-Leviticus 27:3*

### What if financial hardship prohibits me from making a commitment this year?

Don't let your inability to give at this time keep you from worship. Remember that God honors your faithfulness and that your acceptance at Covenant is not based upon your capacity to give. We ask that everyone return an estimate-of-giving card even if it is a limited financial commitment at this time. You can always increase or decrease your commitment if your situation changes by calling the Director of Finance, Karla Jackson 334-793-4440. Also, be sure to let our pastoral staff know of your situation so that they can pray for you and support you during any difficulty.

### Why do I need to turn in a new commitment card each year?

Financial situations change from year to year, and if we are growing in our faith, our annual commitment should likewise reflect that growth. Each year, our church budget is based upon the growing commitments of our congregation.