

1. Reframing Giving in the New Testament

a. What did they give?

- 1) Acts on Giving
 - i. Birth of the Church (Pentecost)
 - ii. Community of Believers (Acts 2:44-45)
 1. United and Generosity “one heart and mind”
 2. Support of the Poor (Act 6:1-7)
 3. Sacrifice and Generosity

b. How did they give?

- 1) Letters to the Churches on Giving
 - i. No explicit command to tithe but encourages generosity and support for the church and its leaders.
 - ii. Focus shifts from a fixed percentage to a broader principle of giving according to one's means and willingness (2 Corinthians 9:6-7).
 - iii. Voluntary and Cheerful Giving
 - iv. Support for Ministry
 - v. Support for the Poor
 - vi. There is a systematic approach to giving--proportionate to one's income--ensuring giving is planned and sustained.
 - vii. Mutual support in the community of believers and the welfare of others. Reflecting the grace and love of God in Jesus Christ.

Video References

Selected snippets from the following media:

Jesus of Nazareth. Directed by Franco Zeffirelli. 1977.

The Passion of the Christ. Directed by Mel Gibson. 2004.