

## Why You Can't Afford NOT to Give

**I can't afford to give!** That is the number one reason the majority of people don't give or give sparingly. They might give something but not what they know they should give or what they truly want to give. Here at OUR CHURCH we never shy from asking people to give. One reason why is we truly believe in the mission that God has given us. We want to change our world for good! The more money you generously give us the more ability we have to do missions and ministry.

Another reason why we encourage people to be generous is that God promises those that give will receive His blessings! In one passage where He admonishes people who were not giving to give God says, "Test me in this and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have enough room for it!" So, we like to say you cannot afford NOT to give.

**"If I can't afford to give how can I give?"** We get that in these economic times and with growing families it is often not easy to give. This is especially true if giving has not been an established norm for you. So, let me share with you some simple easy steps towards moving to become a giver.

First, evaluate where your money is going. Frankly most Americans waste more money than they know. For instance did you know that we average spending more than 5% of our incomes on fast food? The sad reality is that we give more money to McDonalds or Starbucks than we do to Jesus. So look at your spending.

Then one practical way to start giving is to make your contribution right after you get paid. That way you are making giving to God's work THE priority in your life. Most Christians wait until they spend their money before they think about giving and is it any wonder they can't afford to give?

**Finally just give!** Start somewhere. Start today. Give what you can when you can. In fact Paul once told a church to give, "according to what one has, not according to what one does not have." The point is to give something and to work towards increasing giving to where you know God wants you to be. If you start now before you know it you will be where you want to be.

**Why not start right now?** As our ushers come forward there is no better time than now to start on the path to gaining God's favor and blessing AND helping us reach our world for Christ. So please give today.