

SPRING PRAYER GUIDE

Giving to the Lord

April 28–May 3, 2025



CHRIST
CHURCH



Introduction

For our six days of prayer, we will be using this prayer guide. It begins on Monday, April 28 and finishes on Saturday, May 3. Our theme is “Giving to the Lord.” In 2 Corinthians 8, Paul relates the story of the time when the churches of Macedonia gave relief to the saints of Corinth. He wrote, “They gave themselves first to the Lord, and then by the will of God to us [the believers of Corinth].” We who are in Christ are to do the same. As we progress through the week, we will ask God for hearts to give, first to him, and then to others.

At first thought, one might wonder what the Word teaches about giving. To help us learn and to keep to the theme of giving, we will focus on questions and biblical answers about giving and then prayer points for each day.

Here are the questions we will ask:

- *How should we prepare our hearts in order to give?*
- *Why do we give?*
- *What are we to give?*
- *Who do we give to?*
- *When do we give?*
- *How much should we give?*
- *How are we to give?*

We will finish our week of prayer by praying for specific needs of our church as they relate to giving. On Saturday, we will close the week by highlighting a biblical example of generous giving.

Please join us for this time of prayer.

For Parents

This week is an intergenerational time of prayer, and so all ages—from the youngest child to the oldest saint—are included. We invite children to join in praying for our church’s giving. Each day will include a short sample prayer for your child. Please encourage your child to pray this week.



MONDAY, APRIL 28

Prepare Our Hearts

In 1 Kings 20:1–4, the king of Aram gathered his army to come against Ahab, king of Israel. The king of Aram demanded that King Ahab give up all his possessions and surrender them. King Ahab did just that and responded, “Just as you say, my lord the king. I and all I have are yours.”

Other biblical examples of people who gave all:

- Abraham offered his only son to the Lord.
- Isaiah saw the vision of the Holy God and heard him ask, “Whom shall I send?” He responded, “Here am I. Send me.”
- Mary, sister of Lazarus, poured out all her expensive perfume and anointed Jesus’ feet.
- Christ in the garden before his crucifixion, said with an attitude of absolute submission, “not what I will, but what you will.”

Their willingness to give over all to the Lord is on display, not keeping anything for themselves. Our words and attitudes are to be the same as we lay down all to our loving Lord and King. He has given great gifts to us, and we are to give all back to him.

- Praise God for he is the giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17–18).
- Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift, our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 9:15)!
- Enrich us to be generous on every occasion and in every way (2 Cor. 9:11).
- May we honor him with all that we have (Prov. 3:9–10).
- May we follow Christ’s example and tell our Father, “not my will, but yours be done,” in every area of our lives (Luke 22:42).
- Guide us to lay up our treasures in heaven, and remind us that where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also (Matt. 6:20–21).

Children’s Prayer

Praise God: God gives me good gifts.

Ask God: Help me give generously to others.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

Christ Gave Himself for Us

In Matthew 10:18, Jesus spoke the truth in love when he said, “Freely you have received, freely give.” We received the kingdom freely; no payment from us was required for our salvation. In the same way, we are to freely give, expecting nothing in return.

In this verse, Jesus declared that we are to give, therefore we give. This is the first of several reasons for giving that we will pray about today.

We give because he is a giving God.

- We praise him for all he gives to us: life, strength, peace, his Son, and his Holy Spirit (Ps. 29:11, John 3:16, John 14:27, 1 Thess. 4:8, 1 Tim. 6:13).
- May we give him glory as we give.

We give because Christ gave himself for us.

- We thank him that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers (1 John 3:16).
- He gave himself for our sins to deliver us (Gal. 1:4).
- Ask God for help to follow Christ’s example of giving for he gave freely of himself, and he tells us to freely give (Matt. 10:8).

We give because giving pleases God.

- Ask for his work in us so that we share what we have for these sacrifices are pleasing to God (Heb. 13:15–16).
- As we give, let us give cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:7).

We give because it is an act of faith.

- Give us wisdom so that we might show our faith by our works (in our acts of giving) so that our faith is accompanied by action (James 2:17–18).

Children’s Prayer

Praise God: God is a giving God.

Ask God: Help us please God by our giving.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

We Give Out of What We Have

In Acts 17, we learn that our Father does not have any needs. He is not a man and does not need anything from us—not our help, finances, or time. Though he needs nothing, he calls us to humble ourselves, to realize our constant need and dependence on him, and to give following the widow's example. Jesus watched as the widow gave her small amount of money as an offering at the temple. He remarked to his disciples that many gave more, but it was out of their abundance. This widow gave out of her poverty, which was all she had to live on.

- We praise God for he made the world, and everything in it, for he is Lord of heaven and earth. We adore him that he is not served by human hands, and does not need anything from us. We thank him that he gives to all mankind life, and breath, and everything (Acts 7:25).
- We thank God for his directions to us that although he needs nothing from us, he calls us to give out of what we have, following the example of the widow's offering to the Lord (Matt. 12:41–44).

Today, we will look at what to give, who to give to, and when to give. We will then respond with prayer.

We are to give all to him: our thoughts, words, actions, spiritual gifts, finances, time, and our lives—body, soul, and spirit.

- Let us entrust our souls to God (1 Pet. 4:19).
- Teach us what it means to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God (Rom. 12:1).

As we give of our finances and time, we are giving to the Lord first, then to others.

- We thank God that as we give, we are giving to Christ, then to others (2 Cor. 8:5).
- Help us to give and not hold back (Prov. 21:26).
- Jesus taught, “*when* you give,” not *if* you give (Matt. 6:3). He taught that giving is to be a regular part of our lives.
- Help us to give of our time and finances regularly and consistently (1 Cor. 16:2).

Children's Prayer

Praise God: He is a God who doesn't need anything.

Ask God: Teach us to give to others.

THURSDAY, MAY 1

Lead Us in Our Giving

Today, we will finish looking at God's teaching on giving as we look at how much we are to give, and how we are to give.

In 2 Kings 12, King Jehoash desired the temple to be repaired. Money would be required to make the needed repairs, so a collection of funds from the people of Judah began. King Jehoash spoke of "the money that a man's heart prompts him to bring into the house of the Lord."

For us, we are to ask God for his wisdom as we consider the amount we are to bring into the house of the Lord.

- Ask God for his wisdom, so that we give as we are able, according to the blessing he has given us (Deut. 16:17).
- Ask that he would lead us in his will for our giving amount in order to give in proportion to what we have (2 Cor. 8:11).

How are we to give, or in other words, what is our heart attitude to be when we give?

- Give freely and cheerfully. May each of us give as we have decided in our hearts, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor. 9:7).
- Give generously. Cause us to contribute generously of our time, talents, and finances (Rom. 12:8).
- Give from a heart free from the love of money. We confess it is easy for us to love money. Work in us as we give to be free of this idol, and instead, be content with what we have (Heb. 13:5).
- Give quietly. Bring us to place where our giving is done quietly (Matt. 6:4).

Children's Prayer

Praise God: He is wise.

Ask God: Help us give with a generous attitude.

FRIDAY, MAY 2

We Pray for Our Church

We are called to serve, so we give of our time, talents, and giftings in order to serve others. We are called to support our church monetarily, so we give of our finances.

Pray specifically for our congregation to increase in serving others and in our giving of our finances.

- Our congregation will respond to the Lord's call "with a growing sense of generosity by contributing our time, talents, gifting, and finances to support the ministries he has established at Christ Church."¹
- We would desire not to be served, but to serve.
- God would provide the finances to meet our weekly budget.
- God would provide the finances to pay down our debt.
- We ask for wisdom for the church's financial team: treasurer, financial administrator, and financial assistant.
- God would lead our congregation in our giving that we may sow generously in order to meet our church's financial needs.

Children's Prayer

Praise God: He hears our prayers.

Ask God: For his leading as we pray.

¹ Treasurer's Report, *Cultivating Gospel Transformation*, 26.

SATURDAY, MAY 3

An Example of Generous Giving

Dave Butts wrote, “Extraordinary generosity comes from the realization that everything we have comes from our great, powerful, and majestic God. . . . It is this understanding of God as the Owner of all things that forms the basis for extraordinary giving . . . not just of our finances, but also our time and our talents.”²

An example of generous giving is found in 1 Chronicles 29. After David gave to the building of the temple, he asked, “Who then will offer willingly, consecrating himself today to the Lord?” The people responded by generously giving from their treasures. David and “the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart, they had offered freely to the Lord.” David then prayed:

10 “Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. 11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. 12 Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. 13 And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

14 “But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. 15 For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. 16 O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. 17 I know, my God, that you test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you. 18 O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep forever such purposes and thoughts in the hearts of your people, and direct their hearts toward you.”

O, Lord, keep your purposes and thoughts in our hearts, and direct our hearts toward you. We ask you to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think. May our giving of time, talents, and finances not only supply the needs of our church, but also bring about overflowing thanksgiving to you. To you be glory in our church!

Children’s Prayer

Praise God: That he is head above all.

Ask God: To help us give freely and joyfully from what we have.