

TITHING & GENEROSITY

There is an old Hebrew tradition of setting aside 10% of all income and harvest and it being collected for use of the priests, poor and famine times. In more recent times this tradition has been repurposed and called *tithing* where individuals set aside 10% of a pay cheque and give it to their local church. At Hillside we tend to put our focus on generosity because we acknowledge that all of our resources are God's and should be used for his kingdom.

We believe that tithing is an excellent Christian tradition and practice that we encourage all Christians to participate in. However, under-girding any practice of tithing should be an honest longing to be generous with the resources we have. For some that might mean shaving off 5% and giving it to Hillside, for others it might mean putting 20% in the hands of a family who needs it and still for others it might mean supporting projects that further God's kingdom locally or elsewhere.

We aim to be a people who are full of generosity and that are constantly looking for opportunities to give. By making generosity a practice, we seek ways to improve and increase our capacity for giving.

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Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.

-Jesus

No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

-Jesus

Churches and individuals rarely actually discuss or hold the community accountable for responsible, kingdom-driven decisions regarding finances. Such discussions would lead to the reduction of hoarding and consumerism, change how we view and attain security, enable various ministries and relieve the plight of the poor. Economic decisions are not easy, but the church should not only lead the way but demonstrate by its use of money the reality of its gospel.

-Klyne Snodgrass, *Stories with Intent*

Every time you spend money you're casting a vote to the kind of world you want.

-Anne Lappe

Earn as much as you can. Save as much as you can. Invest as much as you can. Give as much as you can.

-John Wesley

You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

-Deuteronomy 8:17-18

I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give [like the widow] more than we can spare.

-C.S. Lewis



You can find this and many other resources that clarify who we are and how we choose to be at:

www.hillsidelondon.com

