WHY GIVE?

1. To provide for the WORSHIP OF GOD.

   Numbers 18:21 "I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the tent of meeting." (NIV)

   1 Timothy 5:17-18 "17 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. 18 For Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." (NIV)

2. To help THE POOR.

   Proverb 28:27 "Those who give to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to them receive many curses." (NIV)

   Acts 10:3-4 "3 One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!" 4 Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God." (NIV)

3. To support CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES and MISSIONS.

   Philippians 4:14-19 "14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. 15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; 16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. 17 Not that I desire your gifts; what I desires is that more be credited to your account. 18 I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. 19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus." (NIV)

4. Because a portion of my income BELONGS TO THE LORD.

Leviticus 27:30 "One tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord and must be set apart to Him as holy." (NLT)

5. It teaches me to make sure God is FIRST PLACE in my life.

Deuteronomy 14:22-23 "[23] Bring this tithe to eat before the Lord your God at the place he shall choose as his sanctuary; this applies to your tithes of grain, new wine, olive oil, and the firstborn of your flocks and herds. **The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives**." (LB)

6. It DRAWS ME CLOSER to God.

Matthew 6:19-21 "[19] "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. [20] Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. [21] Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be." (NLT)

7. It protects me from the IDOL OF MATERIALISM.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 "[17] Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. [18] Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and **to be generous and willing to share**. [19] In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life." (NIV)

8. Because God will BLESS ME.

Proverbs 3:9-10 "[9] Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. [10] Then He will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine." (NLT)

9. It brings GLORY to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11-15 "**11** Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. **12** So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God. **13** As a result of your ministry, **they will give glory to God**. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. **14** And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. **15** Thank God for this gift[b] too wonderful for words!" (NLT)

10. Because GOD is a GIVING GOD.

a) The EARTH.

Genesis 1:27-31 "27 So God created human beings in His own image. In the image of God He created them; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground." 29 Then God said, "Look! **I have given** you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the trees for your food. 30 And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds of the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—everything that has life. And that is what happened. 31 And God looked over all He has made, and He saw that it was very good!" (NLT)

b) His WORD

2 Timothy 3:16-17 "16 All Scripture is **God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (NIV)

c) His GRACE.

Ephesians 2:8 "God saved you by **His grace** when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is **a gift from God**." (NIV)

d) The HOLY SPIRIT.

John 14:16-17 "16 And I will ask the Father and **He will give you** another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is **the Holy Spirit**, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive Him, because it isn't looking for Him and doesn't recognize Him. But you know Him, because He lives with you now and later will be in you." (NIV)

e) ETERNAL LIFE

1 John 5:11-12 "11 And this is what God has testified: **He has given us eternal life**, and this life is in His Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life." (NLT)

f) His SON.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that **HE GAVE** His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (NIV)

BOTTOM LINE

Psalm 116:12 "How can I repay the Lord for all His goodness to me?" (The Mes)

Romans 12:1 "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, **to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship." (NIV)

Psalm 96:7-8 "7 O nations of the world, recognize the Lord; recognize that the Lord is glorious and strong. 8 Give to the Lord **the glory** He deserves! Bring your offering and come into His courts." (NLT)