

31 QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT YOUR GIVING

Asking questions and then listening to the Lord is an essential part of discerning God's will.

The following questions from Randy Alcorn¹ are the sort of questions every man, woman, or family should ask to discern God's will for what He's entrusted to them.

1. Time and again in Your Word, Lord, You make a direct connection between experiencing grace and expressing grace through giving. Grace is your lightning, and giving is our thunder in response. So here's my question: Has the degree of my giving suggested that I have recognized and embraced the full extent of Your grace in my life? Or does it suggest I need to recognize and respond to Your grace in deeper and more heartfelt ways? **(2 Corinthians 8:7, 9; 9:15; Romans 8:32)**
2. Father, could it be that You have raised me up—with the financial assets You've entrusted to me—for just such a time as this? Is it more than a coincidence that You have entrusted me with such resources just at that point in history when an unparalleled number of people have such great needs and there are unprecedented means and opportunities to help them? **(Esther 4:14; Acts 17:26; Ephesians 2:10)**
3. Is my life revolving around You? Since money and things have mass, and mass exerts gravity, and gravity holds us in orbit, what can I give away that will bring me greater freedom? **(Luke 16:13; Psalm 42:1-2; Matthew 5:6)**
4. Have I been acting as if I own the store and You work for me, rather than recognizing that You own it and I work for You? **(Leviticus 25:23; Deuteronomy 10:14; 1 Chronicles 29:11-12)**
5. Where in my community - or in the whole world - do You want me to go, to see and participate in meeting physical and spiritual needs through Christ-centered ministries? **(Jeremiah 22:16; Proverbs 28:27; Romans 10:13-15)**
6. Why have You entrusted me with greater financial blessings than I once had? I guess I've assumed You've done it to raise my standard of living. But now, I'm asking "Is it instead to raise my standard of giving?" **(2 Corinthians 9:11; 2 Corinthians 8:14; Acts 11:29)**
7. Have I over accumulated? Have I allowed unwise spending and accumulating debit to inhibit my giving to You? **(Proverbs 3:9-10; Proverbs 22:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2)**

¹Alcorn, Randy. "The Treasure Principle," 99-120.

8. I've wondered why You haven't blessed me more financially. Could it be that I've been spending money myself first, rather than giving You the firstfruits of what You've provided? **(Haggai 1:4-11; Malachi 3:8-11; Luke 6:38)**
9. Is it ever irresponsible for me to give to You now - no matter what my situation - rather than wait until later? **(Mark 12:43-44; 2 Corinthians 8:1-4; Galatians 6:9-10)**
10. Would it honor You if I determined a basic level of income and assets sufficient to live on, then simply gave away whatever You provide beyond that? **(Ecclesiastes 5:10-12; Hosea 13:6; Philippians 4:11-13)**
11. Will the assets, accounts, and holdings I've stored up on earth be wasted if You return in my lifetime? **(2 Peter 3:10-13; Ecclesiastes 5:15; 1 Corinthians 9:24-25)**
12. Doesn't the fact that You've entrusted Your money to me, not others, indicate that You want me - during my lifetime - to invest in eternity, rather than passing along that responsibility to my children? **(Proverbs 20:21; Proverbs 13:11; 17:26 and 1 Corinthians 4:2)**
13. How can I be sure that the assets You've entrusted to me will serve You after I die? If my children are adults and independent, should I just give away now what I can and, when I die, leave most of what remains to my church or missions or ministries that are close to Your heart? **(Matthew 25:34-35; 1 Peter 1:3-4; Colossians 3:23-24)**
14. What's the eternal downside in giving as much as I can give to You now? What's the eternal downside of minimizing my giving or delaying giving until later? Is there a real danger in giving too much too soon? Or is the true danger in giving too little too late? **(Luke 16:10-12; Luke 19:17; Mark 10:29-30; 2 Corinthians 5:9-11)**
15. You've prompted me to give now. If I delay that giving - for whatever reason - is it possible I may die before I get a chance to give it later? Or, might the money disappear before I get around to giving it? **(Psalm 39:4-7; Ecclesiastes 5:13-14, 8:8)**
16. By postponing giving, will my heart become hardened to Your promptings to give? **(1 Timothy 6:17-19; Matthew 6:21; Hebrews 3:15)**
17. Since I have no choice but to leave money behind when I die, is it really "giving" to designate through my will the distribution of my estate? Will I rob myself the joy and reward and rob You of my trust by holding on, until death, to significant assets I could have joyfully given to You while still alive? **(Philippians 4:17; Hebrews 9:27; Ephesians 6:8)**
18. Why are my eyes so often focused on temporary, earthly investments with such pitifully small returns? Who could match Your promise of 10,000 percent (a hundredfold return)? **(Matthew 19:27-29; Hebrews 6:10; 2 Corinthians 4:18)**
19. Help me see clearly when it comes to where I give Your money. Am I giving to causes You truly value most? Opera? Art museums? The Humane Society? As good as those things may be, are they as close to Your heart as evangelism, discipleship, church planting, or helping the poor, the disabled, the imprisoned, and

the unborn and their mothers? **(Philippians 1:9–10; 1 Timothy 5:3–5; Proverbs 14:7)**

20. Since I make twice as much money as most people do [globally], might giving away half of what I have be a reasonable Christ-honoring option for me? **(Luke 19:8–10; Matthew 19:21; Luke 14:33)**
21. If I'm not putting everything on the table and asking You what You want me to do with it, am I really Your disciple? **(Psalm 24:1; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Psalm 50:12; Haggai 2:8)**
22. Why do I hang on to my possessions with a white-knuckle grip? Am I trying to prove something? Is it about pride? Power? Prestige? Selfishness? Insecurity? Fear? Without realizing it, am I making money my God-substitute? **(Psalm 63:1; Colossians 3:4–6; Psalm 34:8)**
23. Am I living to hear others say of me "He's a great success!" - or to have You say to me, "Well done, My good and faithful servant"? **(Luke 12:15; 2 Corinthians 8:7; Acts 10:1–4)**
24. Is my fear of health-related catastrophes and old age causing me to hold back my giving? When it comes right down to it, am I hanging on to excess as a backup plan in case You fail me? **(Matthew 6:34; Proverbs 3:5–6; Philippians 4:6, 19)**
25. Are my material assets competing for lordship in my life with You? **(1 Timothy 6:7–11; Ezekiel 28:4–5; Revelation 3:17–18)**
26. What specifically am I hanging on to that You want me to give away? **(Proverbs 22:9; Acts 20:35; 2 Corinthians 8:13–15)**
27. How can I better communicate and pray with my spouse and children so we can walk together down this exhilarating road of giving? **(Proverbs 19:14; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Ephesians 5:22, 25)**
28. What am I doing - and what should I be doing - to train my children to regular, joyful and generous givers? **(Proverbs 22:6; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 16:2)**
29. Have I been missing out on blessing and joy by not exercising the gift of giving? **(Romans 12:5–8; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Galatians 6:9)**
30. If I am a giver, who have I been teaching and mentoring in giving? Are you calling some to be examples who show others how to give and stir them to raise the bar of giving? **(2 Corinthians 8:1–2; 9:2–3; 1 Chronicles 29:1–14; Hebrews 10:24)**
31. Five minutes after I die, what will I wish I had given away while I still had the chance? **(Matthew 16:27; Proverbs 19:17; Matthew 10:42)**