



October Stewardship Devotional Guide

Week 1 (October 1-7)



HARDY STREET
BAPTIST CHURCH

FINISH STRONG

What if we all made financial obedience a priority in this final quarter of the year? What missions & ministries could be realized? What testimonies of God's faithfulness would we learn? God is moving in powerful ways in and through Hardy Street Baptist Church and we want to honor Him by sacrificially giving!

We challenge everyone to step up and tithe throughout the months of October through December & participate in the 2017 Thanksgiving Love Offering! Stop by any information center and pick up a "Finish Strong" brochure to learn more about this challenge. For now... we ask you to follow these steps:



PRAY

Simply begin by asking God what He would have you to give, both throughout October - December and as a special Thanks Offering!



GIVE

Trust God with your finances and give as He leads you! We are asking you to consider both a "One Day's Wage" offering and the practice of tithing during the month of December.



CELEBRATE

With a grateful heart, celebrate how God blesses your commitment to honor Him financially and all the ways that God has provided for you! Beginning in November, we will ask our members to share their giving stories on hardysbc.net/givingstory

We have prepared this devotional guide to encourage you to think Biblically about stewardship and to encourage you to follow Jesus financially! Together...let's FINISH STRONG! This first week is a list of 8 "living/Giving" principles from Life Action Ministries.

Sowing for a Harvest,

Dr. Scott Hanberry, Pastor

October 1

Living/Giving Principle #1

GIVING MYSELF FIRST!

PRINCIPLE: Before I give any of my material possessions to God, He first wants me to give myself.

*They even did more than we had hoped,
for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us,
just as God wanted them to do.*

2 Corinthians 8:5

REFLECTIONS FOR TODAY:

Has there ever been a point in my life when I fully gave myself to God?

Have I completely surrendered my will, my desires, my needs, my goals,
and my plans to God?

Is there any area of my life that I have not yielded to God? Relationships?
Position? Reputation? Recognition? Finances? Future?

Do I sometimes find it easier to give my material possessions than to give
myself or my time to minister to the needs of others?

October 2

Living/Giving Principle #2

SPIRITUAL WEALTH IS MOST IMPORTANT

PRINCIPLE: I must be willing to be made materially poor, if necessary, in order that I or others might be made spiritually rich.

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.
2 Corinthians 8:9

REFLECTION FOR TODAY:

When was the last time I demonstrated this principle in my life?

Have I ever done so?

Would I be willing to apply this principle if no one else would ever know I had done it?

Have I ever applied this principle and later grumbled against God for not immediately meeting my perceived needs or desires?

What material sacrifices on my part might help to nurture my spiritual life?

What specific material sacrifices could I make that might help others to be made spiritually rich?

October 3

Living/Giving Principle #3

GOD IS A GIVING GOD...

PRINCIPLE: God wants me to learn to give out of that which I have.

*Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly.
And give according to what you have, not what you don't have.*
2 Corinthians 8:12

REFLECTION FOR TODAY:

Make a list of all the material possessions that God has entrusted to you.

What other non-material resources has God given me that I might be able to invest in others or in His kingdom (e.g., time)?

Do I tend to expect God to meet my needs through the giving of others rather than through my own giving?

When I hear of a need, do I ask the Lord if He wants me to have a part in helping meet that need?

What do I have right now that God might want me to give?

October 4

Living/Giving Principle #4

PRINCIPLE: I need to transfer the ownership of everything I have to God.

But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us!

1 Chronicles 29:14

REFLECTION FOR TODAY:

Have I transferred the ownership of everything I have to God?

Since the owner has the right to make the final decision, have I accepted God's right to give or to take away any of "my" material possessions, according to His will?

Am I as quick to rejoice when I experience material loss as I am when God blesses me materially?

Is there any material possession that I would be reluctant to part with at a moment's notice from the Lord?

October 5

Living/Giving Principle #5

PRINCIPLE: Giving must be according to the will of God.

In order to know the will of God, I must have no will of my own.
The will of God is never contrary to the Word of God.
The Word of God is the will of God.

REFLECTION FOR TODAY:

Have I studied what the Word of God has to say in relation to my giving?

Do I prayerfully seek God's will in relation to my giving?

Are there any principles of God's Word that I may be violating in my giving?

Am I willing to obey any direction from God in relation to my giving?



NOVEMBER 26TH

ONE DAY'S WAGE TO SAY "THANKS"

On Sunday, November 26, we will come together for a time of celebrating gratitude and offering thanks! Our desire is to honor the Lord with a worthy, one-day offering that says to God, "THANK YOU" for Your faithful provision!" We are encouraging every member to consider giving at least one day's wage! (Total annual income / 365)

October 6

Living/Giving Principle #6

PRINCIPLE: I need to learn to give today out of my abundance (or supply) to meet the needs of others, believing that tomorrow, if I have a need, God will use the abundance of others to meet my need.

REFLECTION FOR TODAY:

Make a list of any individuals or ministries that you are aware of who have specific material needs at this time.

Are there any of those needs that God may want to meet out of the supply He has given to me?

Do I feel the need to maintain a “safety net” in case God doesn’t provide for me?

Am I guilty of hoarding certain resources for fear that I may need them at some unforeseen time?

When God uses the abundance of others to meet my needs, do I gratefully receive the gift as a provision from God?

October 7

Living/Giving Principle #7

PRINCIPLE: The deeper the level of my giving, the greater is the expression of my love.

I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches.

2 Corinthians 8:8

Levels of Giving

Obedience (giving of regular tithes and offerings)

Faith (giving what God clearly prompts, but I cannot see or figure out)

Sacrifice (giving out of my need—that which I actually need to live)

REFLECTION FOR TODAY:

Am I currently practicing biblical giving by giving back to the Lord at least 10% of my income? If not, why not?

Have I practiced faith giving in the past six months?

When was the last time I gave sacrificially to the Lord's work or to meet the need of another believer?

Does my life illustrate each of these three levels of giving?

What does my giving reveal about the depth of my love for the Lord Jesus?

October 8

Living/Giving Principle #8

PRINCIPLE: I am to minister to the material & spiritual needs of those who minister to my spiritual needs.

The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him.

Galatians 6:6

REFLECTION FOR TODAY:

Make a list of the people who have ministered to you spiritually in the past year.

Am I aware of the personal and material needs of the people on my list?

Am I praying for them?

How could I become better informed of their needs?

Am I consistently investing in the lives of those who minister to me?

PROVE ME...A 90 Day Challenge

"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! - Malachi 3:10 (NLT)

We want to encourage you to start tithing and experience God blessing your life as you commit to healthy financial stewardship. How? We're asking you to commit to take 10% of your total income for the months of October, November, & December and give it to God through the church.

Who? Tithing is God's plan for every follower of Christ. However, The "Prove Me" Campaign is for individuals that have not been tithing in at least the last six months. Tithing is 10% of your income, not just regular or spontaneous giving in the church offering.

Why? The only thing in the Bible that God says to test Him on is tithing. At Hardy Street we believe in tithing so strongly that we want to give you the opportunity to take God at His Word. God promises to take care of your financial needs when you trust Him by giving obediently!

