

The

TREASURES

PRINCIPLES

Part 4

The first example of giving to God.

Later she gave birth to his brother and named him Abel. When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord. Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn

Genesis 4:2-5

The first example of giving to God.

lambs from his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his gift, but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.

Genesis 4:2-5

Abel's offering seems to say, "God, I trust you enough to give you the first and best before I know what I will have left." Cain's offering seems to lack that explicit expression of trust.

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Cain gives > God doesn't accept > Cain becomes resentful > God warns him about sin > Cain kills Abel.

Did you Lack Anything?

Don't take any money with you, nor a traveler's bag, nor an extra pair of sandals. And don't stop to greet anyone on the road. "Whenever you enter someone's home, first say, 'May God's peace be on this house.' If those who live there are peaceful, the blessing will stand; if they are not, the blessing will return to you.

Luke 10:4-7

Did you Lack Anything?

Don't move around from home to home. Stay in one place, eating and drinking what they provide. Don't hesitate to accept hospitality, because those who work deserve their pay.

Luke 10:4-7

They were to go dependent on God and dependent on the hospitality God would provide through people or those they were ministering to. They would learn to **trust** God to provide through others.

Then Jesus asked them, “When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?” “Nothing,” they answered.

Luke 22:35-36a

Provision is not the same as possession

Luke 10: Don't take anything > nothing > God provides

Learn dependence

Provision is not the same as possession

Luke 10: Don't take anything > nothing > God provides

Learn dependence

Luke 22: Take what you need —> resources —> use them

Learn responsibility

Paul's Resume for Learning

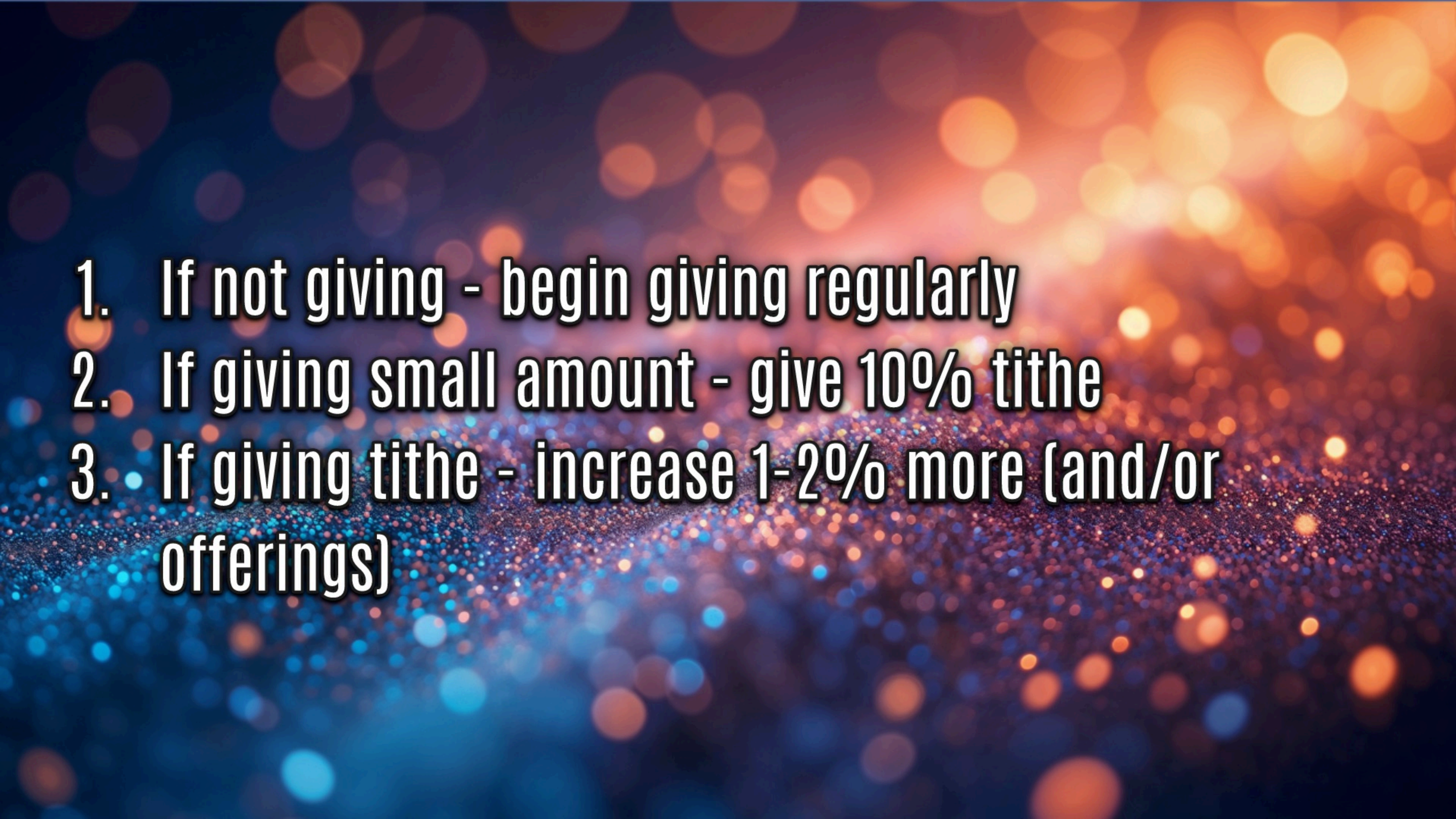
Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to get along happily whether I have much or little. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of contentment in every situation, whether it be a full stomach or hunger, plenty or want;

Philippians 4:11-14

Paul's Resume for Learning

for I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power. But even so, you have done right in helping me in my present difficulty.

Philippians 4:11-14

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1. If not giving - begin giving regularly
 2. If giving small amount - give 10% tithe
 3. If giving tithe - increase 1-2% more (and/or offerings)

⁷ O God, I beg two favors from you; let me have them before I die. ⁸ First, help me never to tell a lie. Second, give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs. ⁹ For if I grow rich, I may deny you and say, “Who is the Lord?” And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God’s holy name.

Proverbs 30:7-9

1) Cain's offering raises the question: Do we truly trust God with what we have? The disciples had to learn to trust God to provide as they went. What am I trusting God to provide, and what am I tempted to hold onto "just in case"?

2) Read Luke 10:4–7 & 22:35–36, the disciples experienced both having nothing and having resources. Jesus wanted them to learn that their confidence was ultimately in God, not what they carried. When God provides, do I recognise it as His provision, or simply as something I've secured for myself?

3) Paul learned to be content "whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want" (Philippians 4:12). Contentment isn't having enough; it's knowing Christ is enough. Can I be content with what I have today because my confidence is in Christ, not in having more?

4) If I really trusted God to provide, what would change about the way I give, spend, and live?

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS