

# Episcopal Diocese of West Texas

## A website made for Giving

With an answer to many of your questions about tithing .

[www.generousgiving.com](http://www.generousgiving.com)



### What is Generous Giving?

Generous Giving is a 501(c)3 nonprofit educational organization whose mission is to motivate followers of Jesus Christ toward greater biblical generosity. It was launched in 2000 by The Maclellan Foundation, a recognized leader in Christian grant-making for 50 years. We envision the hearts and minds of God's people transformed for revolutionary generosity.

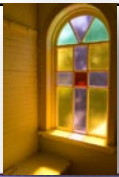
Generous Giving is privately funded. We do not solicit donations, allow solicitation at our events, or award grants.

### Why was Generous Giving started?

We know that giving is more than an obligation for followers of Christ; it is an exciting opportunity to lay up treasure that will last for all eternity. The Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35b). Yet statistics show that U.S. Christians give proportionately less than we did during the Great Depression 2.6 percent of our incomes as opposed to 3.3 percent in 1933. Today, like no other time in history, God has positioned his people with unprecedented wealth and opportunity to glorify the risen Christ by mirroring his generosity. Generous Giving is stirring a renewed, Spirit-led commitment to generosity among Christians. We seek to encourage givers of all income levels to experience the joy of giving and embrace a lifestyle of generosity, according to God's word and Christ's example.

### Aren't Christians already generous?

Surprisingly, no. While Christians traditionally are regarded as the most "generous" people on earth, statistics show that while the actual amount of money given to charities each year continues to increase steadily, our acquisition of wealth since the Second World War has far outpaced our giving. The result is that we as Americans (and evangelical Christians!) are giving a smaller and smaller share of our incomes to the cause of Christ each year. Currently we who have been given eyes to see our sin and a Savior to escape the judgment are giving a meager 2.5 percent of our incomes to the work of the Great Commission (compared with an average 2.1 percent annual giving by Americans of all stripes). This is below what it was during the worst years of the Great Depression (3.3 percent) and well below the bare minimum that our Lord requires of His people in the Old Testament (10 percent). Yet right now, like no other time in history, God has positioned His people with unprecedented wealth and unparalleled opportunity to glorify the risen Christ through generous giving. As a people rejoicing in our salvation, Christ invites us to give far beyond the tithe as an expression of our obedience, gratitude and faith (Matthew 23:23; Mark 12:41-44; Luke 3:11).



# Episcopal Diocese of West Texas

## Tithing

The following questions about tithing are answered in *Generous Giving's Frequently Asked Questions on Wealth, Giving & Tithing*. Visit [www.generousgiving.org](http://www.generousgiving.org) and click on FAQ in the left menu bar.

1. What is the tithe?
2. Is the tithe the standard of Christian giving for us today, or was it just the standard for Old Testament Israel?
3. Didn't Jesus affirm that Christians should tithe?
4. Did Jesus really say that faithful tithing wasn't good enough?
5. How much was the tithe in the Old Testament?
6. Does the Bible teach a tithe on income or on net worth?
7. Will God really "throw open the floodgates of heaven" if I start to tithe?
8. I live off welfare money and/or Social Security checks. Should I tithe from this money?
9. Can a portion of my tithe go to other Christian ministries?
10. Can my kids' Christian school tuition count toward my tithe?