



INVEST

in the Church

**What do we
believe about
giving?**

HOPE CHURCH

Ownership

Everything in all the world belongs to God.

As God's people, we recognize that even our very lives are His, and that therefore He has rightful claim to all of the abundant provision that we enjoy each day.

1 Chronicles 29:11—"Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours."

Job 41:11—"Who has first given to me, that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is mine."

Psalms 24:1—"The earth is the LORD'S and the fulness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers."

Stewardship

Everything we have has been entrusted to us.

We do not own what we have, so, as His stewards, we wisely and faithfully invest a significant portion of His resources in His ministry and mission at Hope Church, and through Hope around the world.

1 Chronicles 29:14,15—"For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. O LORD our God, all this abundance...comes from your hand and is all your own."

2 Corinthians 9:7-8—"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work."

2 Corinthians 9:11—"You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which...will produce thanksgiving to God."

1 Peter 4:10-11—"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace...in order that in everything God may be glorified."

Membership

Each of us is a part of something bigger!

As Jesus' disciples comprising Hope Church, we're each called to become engaged members of Hope as we offer a unique, dynamic expression of the Body of Christ in our Mason+ community.

Romans 12:4-5—"For as in one body we have many members...so we...are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."

1 Corinthians 12:18—"God arranged the members in the body...as He chose...Now, you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."

Ephesians 4:11-12, 16—"And He (God) gave (leaders) to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...when each part is working properly, the body grows so that it builds itself up in love."

Worship

All financial matters are spiritual matters first.

Knowing the immeasurable worth of God and the potential enticement of earthly riches, we give willingly from the heart; internal devotion compels us, not external obligation.

Matthew 6:21,24—"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. No one can serve two masters...You cannot serve God and money."

2 Corinthians 8:5—"...but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us."

Faith

Generous investment requires a step of faith.

In giving large portions we communicate to ourselves, our Hope family, and to God that we are more than content with His present provision and more than confident in His future provision.

2 Corinthians 8:2—“...for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.”

2 Corinthians 9:6—“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

Sacrifice

Generous investment is often costly.

Giving lavishly is a reflection of King Jesus' self-offering on the Cross and our growing satisfaction in God. We willingly give up immediate delights in order to participate in fulfilling God's ultimate desires.

Luke 21:4—“For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

2 Corinthians 8:3—“For they gave according to their means...and beyond their means, of their own accord.”

2 Corinthians 8:9—“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 by his poverty might become rich.”

Joy

Generous investment is the best life ever!

Far from being an extraction that diminishes us, cheerfully investing God's resources is one of life's greatest joys. We're amazed how God gives us the privilege of participating in His work in His world.

1 Chronicles 29:9,17—“Then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the Lord...I (King David) have seen your people...offering freely and joyously to you.”

2 Corinthians 8:4—“...begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints.”

2 Corinthians 9:7—“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

1 Timothy 6:17-19—“...charge them (the rich) not to be proud, not to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share...so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.”

So what's NEXT?

MAKE A PLAN. Affirming generous giving as Biblical and wise is a start, but there's more! We tend to be faithful with that which we become intentional. So deliberately...

- **ask** God to give you discernment and to lead you in the specifics,
- **invite** trusted friends to share their journey into generous giving—both their challenges and their joys,
- **commit** to invest a percentage of your income in and through your local Church (between 1-10%),
- **assess** each year how your giving might grow progressively,
- and then **delight** in glorifying God and contributing to the lasting joy of all people.

1 Corinthians 16:2—“On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up...”

2 Corinthians 9:5—“...arrange in advance for the gift you've promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not an exaction.”