

Local Church Budget



“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” Jonah 2:9 (NIV)

You may have heard the old adage “money equals power”. People who have money are perceived as powerful people, and poor people are considered weak and powerless. Yet Jesus had a powerful message and influence despite being poor and essentially homeless.

If it's true that money is power, then, like power, it can be used for good or for evil. When we are faithful in our giving, we are empowering the church to do its appointed work. When we are not, the opposite is true.

A witty person once said, “There are three kinds of givers—the flint, the sponge and the honeycomb. To get anything out of the flint, you must hammer it, and then you only get chips and sparks. To get anything out of the sponge, you must squeeze it, and the more you squeeze, the more you will get. But the honeycomb just overflows with its own sweetness. Some are closefisted and struggle to give, others

may give if put under pressure, and the more they are pressed, the more they will give. But some delight in giving, they give of their own accord and without any persuasion or pressure. The Bible describes these as ‘cheerful givers’”.

Let's ask God to make us cheerful givers today. Money is powerful, but it can have great impact if used for good. May we be like the honeycomb, giving not because of pressure or persuasion, but out of an overflowing of good stuff!

Appeal

Today we have the opportunity to contribute to the local budget of our church.

Prayer

Dear God, take our offering this morning and use it for Your glory. Help us to become faithful and cheerful in the way that we give. Amen.

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