

Biblical Principles of Fundraising



The goal of Christian fundraising is to meet a genuine need in God's Kingdom by actively challenging donors to heartfelt and cheerful giving. The following Scriptural examples can remind us of how and why we raise funds for The Kingdom. Use these examples to encourage your team and promote a fundraising experience that is Scripture-centered.

One of the first examples of fundraising is seen with Moses. Exodus. 25, 35, 36

- * Moses asks the people to give as their hearts prompted them in Exodus 25 (offerings), 35 (materials), and 36 (skills).
- * We also see in these chapters examples of a strong volunteer spirit.

Another solid example is found in the life of David as he raises funds for the temple that Solomon will eventually build. You find this story in **I Chronicles 29:1-20**.

- * We see that David led by example.
- * David gave a sacrificial gift.
- * David boldly challenged others to contribute as well.
- * He saw that people could and should derive joy in giving.
- * David saw that in the future people would benefit from these gifts.

Nehemiah demonstrates the use of secular resources for God's purposes. Nehemiah 1,2

He prayed long and hard before he went to ask for help from Artaxerxes. And he got tremendous support from him. To be completely balanced, John says that he received no help from pagans. Neither of these examples express commands as to how to get funds; they simply tell how support was gathered in these situations.

Jesus, in Luke 8:1-3, received support from those to whom he ministered. When he sought the use of a donkey for his entrance into Jerusalem, he was not bashful. "The master has need of him" was the disciple's commanded response.

Jesus was not hesitant to challenge people about money. In **Matthew 19:16-30** you will find the story of the rich young ruler. The rich young ruler needed to be challenged about his love of money - and that's exactly what Jesus did.

Examples are also found in Paul's life. Usually we think of Paul raising his own funds for ministry through tent making, but in **II Corinthians 8 and 9** we see something different: Paul is raising funds for someone else. If you read these chapters, you will find several things to be true:

- * Paul was concerned with integrity and accountability.
- * Paul's had fundraising tactics.
- * He made an initial appeal in person (no phones back then).
- * He sent a letter making an appeal.
- * He sent someone to collect the pledge.
- * He made comparisons between the Corinthians and the sacrificial giving of others.
- * He encouraged others to honor their pledges.

Further examples of Paul's fundraising techniques are also found in **I Corinthians 16:1-4** and **Philippians 1 and 4:10-20**.

- * Paul had a businesslike plan.
- * He was unapologetic about devising a method to get people to make a contribution.
- * Paul shared the results of people's giving.
- * He profusely thanked his donors.
- * He showed deep concern for the spiritual benefits to others.
- * We also see that Paul challenged people to give liberally according to their ability in **I Timothy 6:17-19**.

Pure motives and the desire to give something of worth is found in 2 Samuel 24: 20-24. While David has sinned and is in need of atonement, his desire is for the giving to be valuable-to cost him something and to be his own. Matthew 6:21 can also be referenced.

- * David intended to make an offering that would serve as atonement.
- * David turned down the opportunity to get/give something for nothing.
- * The desire of David's heart was to delight in God.

Questions to consider regarding your fundraising ministry:

1. Is the need genuine?
2. Has the plan been covered with prayer?
3. Does the method stimulate heartfelt, generous, and cheerful giving?
4. Does it have accountability built in (honesty before men)?
5. Are the results reported and celebrated?
6. Do we express genuine thanks to both the donor and to God?
7. Are we seeking the donor's spiritual benefit?

In Summary:

"The goal of Christian fundraising is to meet a genuine need in God's kingdom by actively challenging donors to heartfelt, generous, cheerful giving."

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To champion worthwhile organizations to achieve greater mission impact
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