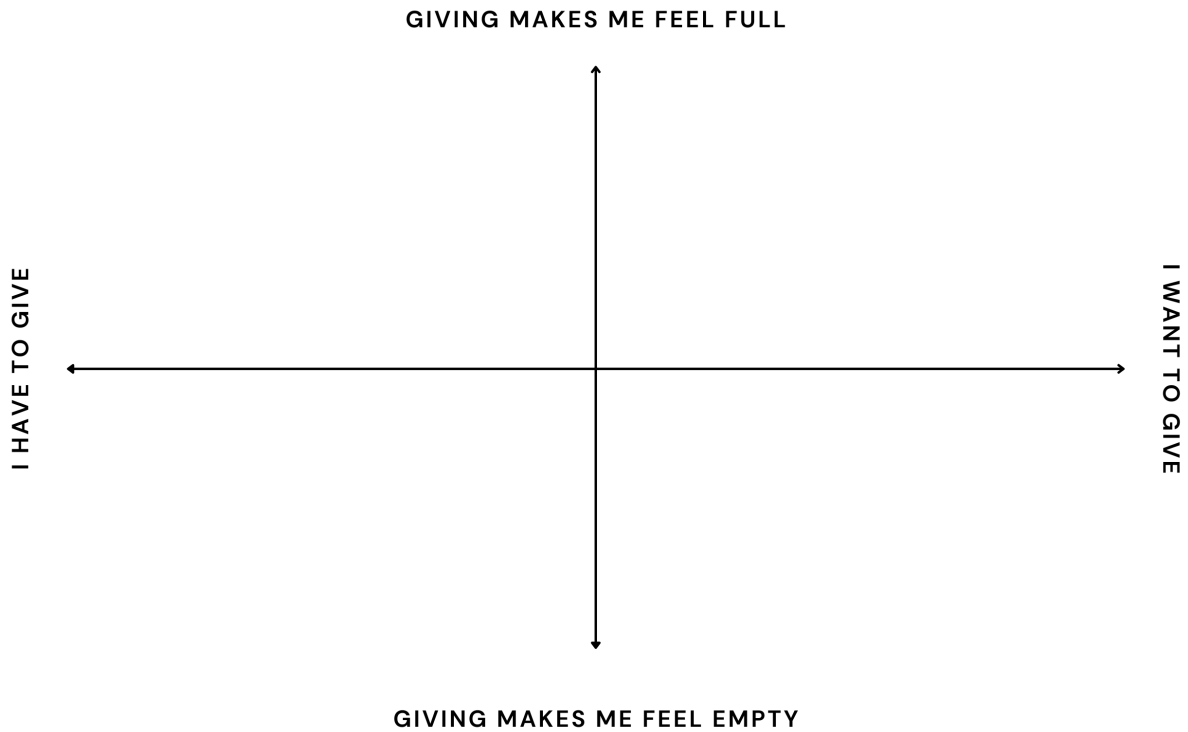


Joy In Giving To The Church

Deut 14:22-29, Mal 3:6-12, 2 Cor 9:7

February 9, 2022

1. Do you think churches talk about money too much or too little? How do those conversations make you feel?
2. Read Deuteronomy 14:22-29. Imagine you're an Israelite farmer growing grains like wheat or barley, or fruits like grapes, figs, or olives. What would be involved for you to collect and bring a tithe to the Temple each year?
3. Instead of collecting taxes or tributes, God asks the Israelites to celebrate with the best of their harvest, enjoying what He's given them as a community, and leaving the abundance behind to continue blessing others. Why do you think each group (Levites, foreigners, widows, and fatherless) would rely on the tithe? What groups today might be in similar need of our giving?
4. Read Malachi 3:6-12. We're often told not to test God (see Deuteronomy 6:16, Psalm 95:8-11, and Matthew 4:7), but in Malachi, God actually invites us to test Him by being faithful with our tithing. What makes these tests different? How does God respond in each situation?



5. Read 2 Corinthians 9:7. Take 3 minutes to plot how you feel before giving (x-axis: 'I have to give' to 'I want to give') and after giving (y-axis: 'fulfilled' to 'empty'). Think about how you feel with different kinds of giving (church, charities, personal causes, etc.), then share your results with your group.
6. If tithing is an area of health for you, would you share how you've seen God's faithfulness and provision? If not, would you be open about that and share where you might need help (budgeting, practical needs, etc.) or prayer from the group?