**Introduction :**

Thank you for taking the time to read through this Bible study based on our Faith Mission Partners information night. It is also possible to watch the whole video recording on our “ways to give” page online. Our goal is to talk about something that often feels a bit uncomfortable but is so important—generosity and finances in the church. We’ll dive into how money plays a role in our lives as Jesus followers, why we believe in tithing, and what that looks like in our church. We’ll also share some practical information about how you can get involved.

**Church Finances:**

Our church is a frikirke, which means we do not receive state funding, nor do we rely on support from our global church. While occasionally we may receive grants, the majority of the funds that sustain the church come from the generous giving of people within our community.

**Money and Faith:**

Money can be a sensitive topic for many, as it’s often tied to personal values. Jesus spoke about money more than any other topic, and it's an important part of our lives, as it represents the time and effort spent earning it. Jesus teaches that our heart follows where our treasure is (Matthew 6:21), and we can’t serve both God and money (Matthew 6:24).

**Matthew 6:21 (NIV):**
*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

**Matthew 6:24 (NIV):**
*"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."*

Jesus warns that our love for money can lead us into temptation, and ultimately, it's about where our hearts are focused. Money isn’t evil, but the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil (1 Timothy 6:10). The Bible calls us to be good stewards of what God has given us.

**1 Timothy 6:10 (NIV):**
*"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."*

**Biblical Teaching on Tithing and Generosity:**

Tithing, which is the practice of giving 10% of our income to the church, has been established long before the law in the Bible and is confirmed by Jesus in Matthew 23:23. It’s not about generosity but about obedience, as it is the financial mechanism God put in place for the church to function.

**Matthew 23:23 (NIV):**
*"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former."*

Anything given beyond the tithe is considered generosity. This could include becoming a **Faith Mission Partner (FMP)**, someone who is called to give above and beyond the tithe for the work of the kingdom.

**Financial Stewardship:**

Everything belongs to God, and we are merely stewards of what He has entrusted to us (Deuteronomy 8:18). Money should be viewed as a tool for God's work rather than something to trust or idolize.

**Deuteronomy 8:18 (NIV):**
*"But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today."*

We are called to honor God with our finances, and when we forget that all wealth comes from Him, we risk becoming prideful and self-reliant.

**Tax Rebates and Giving Opportunities:**

In Denmark, individuals who give over a certain amount (19,000kr annually) can sign a giving contract with the church and receive tax rebates. Additionally, **Faith Mission Partners (FMP)** are those who feel called to contribute financially to support the church’s mission. To be part of this group, a minimum commitment of 10,000kr per year, above and beyond tithing, is required.

**Guidance on Giving:**

It’s important to be intentional with our giving. The Bible encourages cheerful, voluntary giving rather than reluctant or compulsive giving (2 Corinthians 9:7). Here are some questions to help guide decisions on how to give:

1. **Obedience Question:** Have you returned your tithe to your local church?
2. **Leadership Question:** Do the leaders of the organization demonstrate competence and character?
3. **Difference Question:** Will your giving make an eternal difference?
4. **Involvement Question:** Can you contribute more than just money, like time or talent?
5. **Relationship Question:** Has God connected you to this church and its mission?
6. **God Question:** What is God telling you about your giving?

**2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV):**
*"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."*

**Conclusion:**

We hope these thoughts will be a help for you as you reflect on what God is calling you to do. Remember, the goal is to be intentional with our finances and to seek God’s guidance in how we steward the resources He has entrusted to us. Whether it’s through tithing, giving above and beyond, or simply asking how you can contribute, we believe that generosity is part of our calling as a community. If you feel led to commit to being a Financial Mission Partner or have questions about giving, you can email finance@hillsong.dk or sign up through the church center app. Thank you!