



# Tzedakah

**Giving That Transforms You and the World**

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**Legacy Blueprint: Building a Better You**  
**Lord Jesus Christ Community Baptist Church**  
**Wednesday and Friday**



# Definition of Tzedakah

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The meaning of Tzedakah is justice and righteousness. Charities are voluntary contributions while Tzedakah is a religious duty. Tzedakah is a Hebrew term meaning righteousness, justice and fairness translated as charity.



# Scriptures

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- Deuteronomy 16:20
- Mishlei 10:2

# The Rambam's Ladder of Tzedakah

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- Giving begrudgingly, happily, anonymously.
- Helping someone become self-sufficient
- Tzedakah builds independence, dignity, and future legacy.
- Charity: optional, emotional-based and generous.
- Tzedakah: required and value-based



# Charity vs. Tzedakah

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- Tzedakah saves from death
- Tzedakah isn't about feeling good
- Tzedakah about being good.
- Tzedakah trains generosity muscles
- Tzedakah breaks ego and fear of scarcity.
- Tzedakah aligns money with purpose.



# Call to Action

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- Regular giving
- Large occasional gifts
- Teaching children to give
- Time, skills, mentorship = tzedakah
- Commit to a percentage
- Set up automatic giving
- Choose one cause to support long-term

# Discussion Questions

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1. What breaks your heart?
2. What injustices bother you?
3. Where do your skills meet someone else's need?
4. When you hear the word tzedakah, what comes to mind first?
5. Do you think giving is easier with money, time, or skills? Why?
6. Why do you think Judaism frames tzedakah as an obligation rather than a choice?
7. Do you think intention matters more than the amount given?
8. How does the idea of justice change the way we view giving?
9. What holds people back most from giving?
10. Is there a difference between giving publicly vs. privately?
11. What kind of giver do you want to be remembered as?
12. How does consistent small giving shape a person over time?
13. What legacy messages about money are we passing to the next generation?
14. How can someone give meaningfully if they don't have much money?
15. What systems make giving sustainable?
16. Is it possible to give for the wrong reasons and still do good?
17. How do we balance caring for ourselves with responsibility to others?
18. How would the world look different if everyone treated giving as justice, not charity?
19. What is one small change you could make this week related to tzedakah?