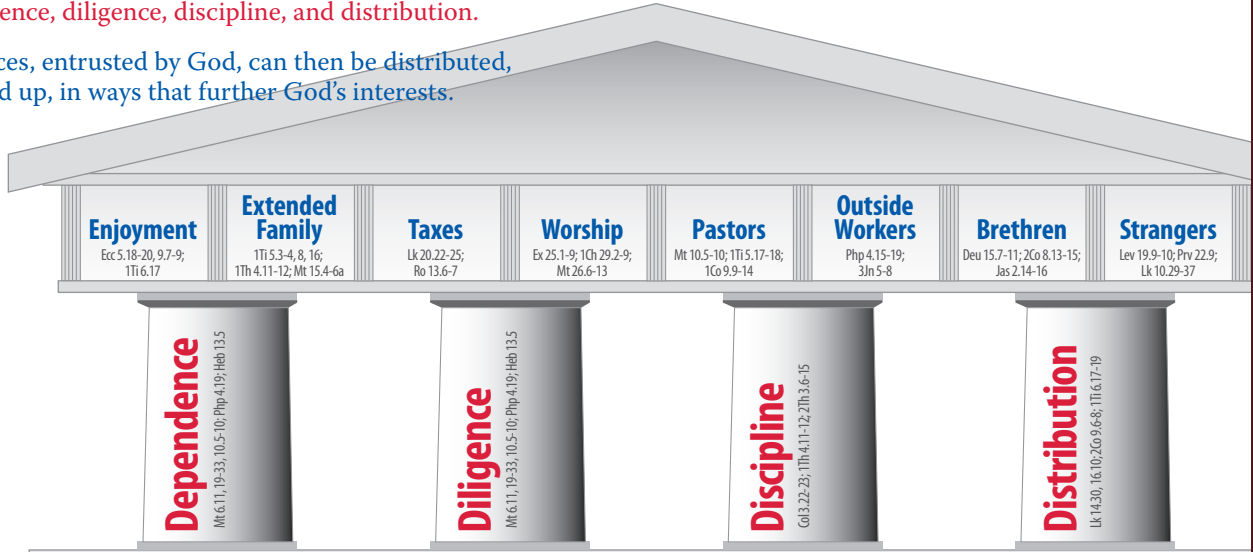


The Bible's teaching regarding financial responsibility rests upon a proper understanding of and commitment to the call of God.

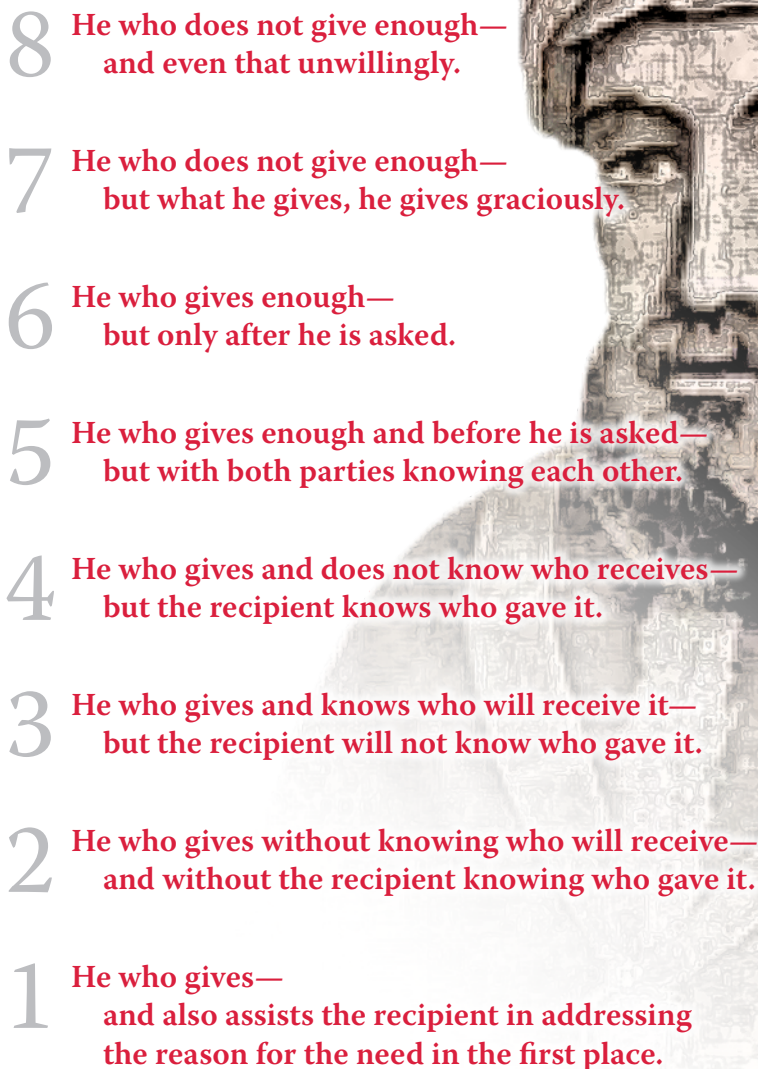
Upon this foundation rest the four pillars of dependence, diligence, discipline, and distribution.

Resources, entrusted by God, can then be distributed, i.e., used up, in ways that further God's interests.



The call of God into a Bible-based community of believers

The Jewish philosopher Maimonides identified eight levels of giving:

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- 8 He who does not give enough—
and even that unwillingly.
 - 7 He who does not give enough—
but what he gives, he gives graciously.
 - 6 He who gives enough—
but only after he is asked.
 - 5 He who gives enough and before he is asked—
but with both parties knowing each other.
 - 4 He who gives and does not know who receives—
but the recipient knows who gave it.
 - 3 He who gives and knows who will receive it—
but the recipient will not know who gave it.
 - 2 He who gives without knowing who will receive—
and without the recipient knowing who gave it.
 - 1 He who gives—
and also assists the recipient in addressing
the reason for the need in the first place.

Adapted from Moses Maimonides, Mishneh Torah, Laws of Charity, 10.7-14