

IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPING SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

Test Case—“How do I decide when to give to organizations that solicit my support?”

(1 Thessalonians 5:21-22)

I. Recording

A. Write the above question with the one-word topic: **GIVING**

B. List some initial **QUESTIONS**

1. What biblical principles apply to my **MONEY** and its **USES**?
2. What principles apply to an organization’s **SOLICITATION**?

II. Testing

A. Biblical principles governing my relationship to **MONEY**

1. Tithing—**GIVING** to my **LOCAL CHURCH** (1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:7)
 - a. I must give **REGULARLY** and **PURPOSEFULLY**
 - b. I must give **JOYFULLY** and **GENEROUSLY**
2. Stewardship—It is **GOD’S** money, not **MINE** (Ps. 50:10-12)
 - a. I am **ACCOUNTABLE** for its use (Matt. 25:14-29)
 - b. I must not be **CONTROLLED** by it (Luke 16:13; 1 Tim. 6:7-10)
3. Glorification—The goal of its use is the **GLORY** of **GOD** (1 Cor. 10:31)
 - a. Includes what is used to **HELP OTHERS** (Phil. 4:14-19)
 - b. Includes what is used for personal **NEEDS** or **PLEASURE** (1 Tim. 6:17)
4. Sowing and Reaping (2 Cor. 9:6, 10)
 1. **STINGINESS** begets **LITTLE**
 2. **GENEROSITY** begets **MUCH**
5. Summary principle: “I am responsible to take whatever steps necessary to see that the **LORD’S** money is distributed properly by **ME** and used for **HIS GLORY**”

- B. Biblical principles governing the SOLICITOR'S obligations
 - 1. Legitimacy (2 Cor. 8:16-21)
 - a. With whom is the solicitor ASSOCIATED?
 - b. To whom is the solicitor ACCOUNTABLE?
 - c. By whom is the solicitor ENDORSED?
 - d. For what will the money be USED?
 - e. What is the solicitor's relationship to the CHURCH?
 - 2. Accountability
 - a. What PERCENTAGE of donation actually funds the project?
 - b. By what method will the solicitor VERIFY the money's use?
 - 3. Support Base (3 John 7-8)
 - a. Is this a specifically CHRISTIAN work?
 - b. Who BENEFITS by the donation?
 - c. Who PROVIDES the donations?
 - 4. Summary principle: "The solicitor is responsible to provide a pre-planned method for assuring givers that ALL DONATIONS will be used appropriately for a LEGITIMATE purpose"

III. Substituting (Irrelevant to this question)

IV. Implementing

- A. You will not be ABLE to give to ALL legitimate causes
 - 1. Does God DEMAND that I help this cause?
 - 2. If not, do I have a particular DESIRE to help this cause?
 - 3. Might God have brought this cause to my attention because He wants to PROVIDE through ME? (James 2:15-16)
- B. Decide HOW MUCH to give
- C. Decide HOW and WHEN to give