

# August 31

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## LOCAL CHURCH BUDGET

**Release the power.** People who have money are perceived as powerful people, and poor people are considered weak and powerless. We guess it will always be so in this world. Yet Jesus was powerful, despite being poor in this world's goods. It is just another one of the Bible's apparent contradictions.

Since money is power, it is a tool either for good or for evil. When we are faithful in our giving, we are empowering the church to do its appointed work. When we are not, the opposite is true.

A witty person once said, "There are three kinds of givers—the flint, the sponge, and the honeycomb. To get anything out of the flint, you must hammer it, and then you only get chips and sparks. To get anything out of the sponge, you must squeeze it, and the more you squeeze, the more you will get. But the honeycomb just overflows with its own sweetness. Some people are stingy and hard; they give nothing away if they can help it. Others are good-natured; they yield to pressure, and the more they are pressed, the more they will give. A few delight in giving without being asked at all; and of these the Bible says, 'The Lord loveth a cheerful giver.'"

"What's in your wallet?" says a commercial. Whether in a wallet or a purse, or even under the mattress or in a bank account, money is power. It can help the gospel to go speedily. It can reach a hungry, lonely heart with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.