

PRAYER STUDY #85
GIVING

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye measure, it shall be measured to you again.
Luke 6:38

But this I say, He who soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he who soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver.
2nd Corinthians 9:6-7

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt mediate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein; for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.
Joshua 1:8

But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.
Matthew 6:33

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.
3rd John 2

The Prosperity Gospel

I personally take offense at the "Prosperity" Gospel that is always looking for more money for Rolex watches and the most expensive houses and cars. Money can be useful to spread the Gospel message, and we know many godly men and women who are wealthy. We cannot imagine, however, Jesus wearing a Rolex. We do believe in our day that the Lord will cause the wealth of the wicked to be given to the just (Proverbs 13:22) **for Kingdom purposes**, and we know that the Lord does desire us to prosper (but does that mean materially and financially if we are not using these things to further the Kingdom) as our soul prospers. So the current study is not a way to bank roll our bank account, but only to get God's people to see the importance of giving.

And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honor, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life, but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king, wisdom and knowledge are granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like.

2nd Chronicles 1:11-12

They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; none of them can by any means redeem his brother nor give to God a ransom for him.

Psalms 49:6-7

Let no man seek his own, but another man's wealth.

1st Corinthians 10:24

Four Types of Giving

1. **Tithe:** The tithe was first mentioned in scripture in Genesis 14:19 when Abram gave King Melchizedek, king of Salem, a tenth of his goods. It is a tenth of one's total income. 100% actually belongs to the Lord, but He allows us to keep 90%. When we don't tithe, I believe that the God often gets His 10% in other ways.

All the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree is the Lord's, it is holy unto the Lord.

Leviticus 27:30

But the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer as an heave offering unto the Lord, I have given to the Levites to inherit: therefore I have said unto them, among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance.

Numbers 18:24

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, How have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Malachi 3:8

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in mine house, and test me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it. Malachi 3:10

2. **Offering:** This is giving beyond the tithe. It is seed faith giving and thank offering giving.

And He looked up, and saw the rich man casting their gifts into the treasury. And He saw also a certain poor widow casting in there two mites. And He said, "Of a truth I say unto you that this poor widow has cast in more than they all, for all these have, of their abundance, cast in unto the offering of God, but she, of her penury, hath cast in all the living that she had."

Luke 21:1-4

3. **First Fruits:** The first fruits offering was the first of any increase. *Honor the Lord with thy substance and with the first fruits of all thine increase so shall thy barns be filled with plenty and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. Proverbs 3:9-10*

4. **Alms:** Giving alms is when you give to the poor. This is best done secretly, not letting the right hand know what the left hand is doing.

He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD, and that which he hath given will He pay him again.

Proverbs 19:17

He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack, but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.

Proverbs 28:27

Take heed that you do not your alms before men, to be seen by them; otherwise, you have no reward of your Father, who is in heaven. Therefore, when you do your alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have

glory from men. Verily, I say unto you, they have their reward. But when you do alms, let not your left hand know what your right hand does.

Matthew 6:1-4

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, a devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, who gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always. He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day, an angel of God coming in to him and saying unto him, Cornelius, and when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

Acts 10:1-4

As a ministry, we get many requests for money from people. We want to be in God's will, and we have to use wisdom. My personal belief is that we are scripturally responsible to help those who are active in the ministry and consider this their church. I also believe the Lord honors helping the poor.(I do not consider people who have cars and houses and cell phones, etc., as the poor! Maybe poor money managers, but not poor.) I also believe that those who are active here but are not trying to work, unless physically unable, are not eligible for our support. We cannot enable people to stay dependent on hand outs.

As a ministry, we have very rarely solicited funds and have never taken up an offering in over 30 years, except in retreat situations. I do not find fault with ministries who do take up money, but the Lord has directed us at least till now to operate by faith. We try, in a general way, to tithe what money that does come in to other ministries or to a benevolence fund. Our leaders do not receive financial compensation, and we do not pay our weekly speakers and worship leaders. We believe people should freely give because of what Christ has given to them. I do believe the workman is worthy of his hire, and I am not talking about people whose sole income is ministry, and I do believe we will one day have full time paid staff who will receive greater than average salaries and benefits.