

“Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver” (1 Chronicles 29:3, NKJV)

- David is preparing money and resources for the temple that his son Solomon would build
- David gave up and above what he had already given
- King David regularly offered extravagant gifts unto the Lord

David understood that if he was going to give something to God, it needed to be something that cost him something or it wasn't a sacrifice at all – (2 Samuel 24:22, 24–25, NKJV)

“Then the leaders of the fathers' houses, leaders of the tribes of Israel, the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the officers over the king's work, offered willingly.”

(1 Chronicles 29:6, NKJV)

- The people responded to David's call, and they gave upwards of 400 M (Today currency)

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

(Matthew 6:21, NKJV)

- Jesus' teaching is quite clear
- What a person does with their money reveals what's on the inside of their heart

God is a giving, generous God, and wherever He is working in people's hearts, their hearts burn with a desire to give

Every person who desires to be like Him begins to flow in a spirit of generosity

“Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.” (Acts 2:44–45, NKJV)

When hearts come alive with the fresh fire of God, one manifestation of that divine fire is the desire to open up wallets and purses

- Stingy hearts are closed hearts
- Open hearts are generous
- This is what we see in the Early Church
- It's what God still expects today!

“And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.” (Acts 4:33–35, NKJV)

- When people began to be generous with God and each other, God became generous to them
- Signs and wonders erupted
- Generosity ignited a cycle of blessing and power

The Principle of The First (Tithe)

Romans 11:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For if the firstfruit *is* holy, the lump *is* also *holy*; and if the root *is* holy, so *are* the branches.

- The first portion has the power to redeem the rest
- The first portion carries the blessing

Exodus 23:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ The **first** of the **firstfruits** of your land you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God.

- The first of your first fruits
- It's not the tenth portion
- It's the first tenth portion, not the last
- The tithe comes to the house of the Lord
- A place of community, worship, protection, discipline, care, responsibility, partnership and so much more

Jeremiah 17:7–8 (NKJV)

⁷ “Blessed *is* the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. ⁸ For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit.

- Gods' plan is for you to be planted not roaming

Haggai 2:8 (NKJV)

⁸ ‘The silver *is* Mine, and the gold *is* Mine,’ says the LORD of hosts.

- The tithe establishes God’s sovereignty over our finances
- Jesus told the Pharisees they “*ought*” to tithe
– **Matthew 23:23**
- The same word used, “*must*” be born again – **John 3:1-21**

The tithe also resources God’s house – His primary expression of His kingdom

- The tithe invokes God’s provision and protection
- The enemy wants to keep the church malnourished
- If you live malnourished you become stagnant

Malachi 3:6-10 My Paraphrase

‘This is about Me and who I am, not just about what I want you to do. I am God and I never change, yet you have turned away from Me, My laws, My ordinances, My way of living. Return to Me and I will return to you.’

- The tithe is an eternal principle
- The tithe belongs to the Lord, not to us – Lordship
- We are simply returning what is His back to Him
- Activated before the law – **Genesis 4 – Cain and Able;**
Genesis 14:18-20 – Abraham and Melchizedek
- Throughout the Old Testament – **Leviticus 27:30-32**
- Required after the Law – **Matthew 23:23**
- It is separate from offerings

Common Questions About the Tithe

Do I Tithe on My Gross or Net?

Mark 12:14–17 (NKJV)

¹⁴ When they had come, they said to Him, “Teacher, we know that You are true, and care about no one; for You do not regard the person of men, but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? ¹⁵ Shall we pay, or shall we not pay?” But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, “Why do you test Me? Bring Me a denarius that I may see *it*.” ¹⁶ So they brought *it*. And He said to them, “Whose image and inscription *is* this?” They said to Him, “Caesar’s.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they marveled at Him.

- We all have to pay taxes to provide for the infrastructure and benefits we rely on in our country
- If you choose to tithe on the net you are saying you don’t benefit from anything your tax dollars are spent on

Here Jesus is saying even if you don’t like the tax laws, you should honor them unless they require you to violate God’s word

- Are you asking so you can give more or less?
- Where we start determines our first step in financial freedom

What If I Can't Afford to Tithe?

1 Kings 17

- God sends Elijah to a widow in Zarephath
- She and her son are about to eat their last meal
- She only has a little flour and oil left
- Elijah, who represents God's authority says, "*Make me a cake first.*"

1 Kings 17:15–16 (NKJV)

¹⁵ So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for *many* days. ¹⁶ The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah.

- We are all confronted by natural limitations
- Remember God created everything, He provides our needs and gives us our desires

When we find ourselves at a low point, the wisest thing we can do is place Him in a position of authority

- Put Him first in our finances

Hebrews 6:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ For God *is* not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

What Do I Consider My Increase?

Whenever you increase monetarily, the first tenth is God's

- Increase is increase
- The first tenth of your salary
- If you buy a house and profit through the sale
- The difference between the purchase and sale is an increase
- Investments, inheritances, capital increase, monetary gifts
- Every time you tithe off increase you ward off the spirit of mammon
- Do you trust the increase or God?
- Tithing is not paying a bill
- It's a decision of lordship

If you own a business

- Whatever you pay yourself is the increase
- You could assess the value on an annual basis and tithe off of that
- If you sell it, what is the value?
- Whatever the increase in value is your increase

Does Tithing Guarantee a Financial Breakthrough?

- No – You are still responsible for managing the other 90%
- Seeding – Saving – Spending

Realize All I Have Comes from God

James 1:17 (NLT)

¹⁷ Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens.* He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.*

- God gave you your life
- He gave you talents and aptitudes
- He gave you learning capabilities
- He has opened educational and vocational doors for you throughout your life

We need to realize *“I didn’t get here on my own. Everything I have has come my way from the loving hand of God.”*

- You are not a self-made man or woman
- We are invited by God to steward the gifts he has given us in a way that supports His purposes on the earth

Live Joyfully Within God’s Current Provision for My Life

Hebrews 13:5 (NLT)

⁵ Don’t love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, “I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.” *

- Its human nature to look for greener pastures
- To wish for better circumstances, more affluence, an easier life
- If only I had a better job, a nicer house, a newer car, I would be happy

Recent Gallup Poll ranked the USA 33rd in the world on a happiness scale

Seven of the top ten countries were in Latin America which generally rank low on the typical economic indicators we might associate with happiness

Philippians 4:11–13 (NIV)

¹¹ I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

- When I am fully reconciled to God financially I can joyfully accept God's current level of provision for my life
- Throughout life, that provision can go up or down
- It is our responsibility to be able to make adjustments and be content in both

There are implications as to whether or not you are living joyfully in God's current provision

When God increases someone else's provision do you covet it?

- Do you get angry and ask, "Why them and not me?"
- Do you get jealous of what others have?
- Are you able to rejoice with other's raises and promotions and truly mean it?

A second implication

- How are you managing debt?

By definition, debt comes from wanting more than God's current provision for your life and arranging other means to get it

You will only know true financial peace when you learn to live joyfully beneath God's provision in every season of life

Philippians 4:11-13 paraphrase: *"I make adjustments as needed and live beneath God's provision level – whatever it may be. I build some margin between my spending and God's provision, and that margin leads to contentment, which leads to peace."*

God wants something better for us

- Simplifying your life means diligently working to free yourself from whatever debt you carry
- Make a decision today, regardless of your season in life

If you are hearing a voice saying, *"you're in too deep you'll never get out"* – that voice is not from God

- You can get out
- Just commit to God's principles concerning money and you'll become debt-free in less time than you can imagine

Live with an Open Heart Toward Heaven, Eager to Respond to God Concerning My Resources

2 Corinthians 9:7–10 (NLT)

⁷ You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."* ⁸ And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. ⁹ As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever."*

¹⁰ For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity* in you.

- When you are living "Joyfully" within God's provision level you can give generously and cheerfully
- Christianity is not a static creed or a bunch of rules
- Obedience leads to liberty which leads to joy and generosity
- You are listening and responding to God
- If there's a person or a cause that needs resources, you can respond

God has called us to live Righteous, Prosperous, Generous lives

Psalm 35:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ Let them shout for joy and be glad, who favor my righteous cause; And let them say continually, “Let the LORD be magnified, who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.”

- Our prosperity and generosity should point others in the direction of the righteous cause of Christ
- He takes pleasure in our prosperity
- God’s purposes are so much more than just about you
- Who is my life touching?
- Generous Tip and Prayer – Aaron

“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.” – Winston Churchill

Isaiah 32:8 (NKJV)

⁸ But a generous man devises generous things, and by generosity he shall stand.

- Generosity is a lifestyle
- Always on the lookout for opportunities to give
- Start where you are today
- Be generous with what you have in your hand

We have been so grateful to the Lord for the facility we have been meeting in for the last nine years

- We are happy to say that we have now come to an agreement with Faith Reformed Church on the purchase price of the property
- They have accepted our offer of \$475,000 and working on obtaining financing for 80% of that

We are asking you to consider a two-year commitment to continue to fund the ministry of the Church, as well as a one-time miracle offering for the down payment of the loan

Over the past nine years, we have seen hundreds come to Christ and more than 400 people decided to follow the Lord in baptism

- Many of those continue to attend and serve in ministry here in the church
- Our current membership is about 250 with 200 attending services regularly

We have also donated more than 12% of our income to missionaries and organizations outside of our 4 walls

Because of you we have been able to preach the Gospel to tens of thousands around the world, fund disaster relief, feed the hungry, help young girls caught in sex trafficking, and help those considering abortion find alternative solutions

- We currently support 15 Missionaries and organizations globally, monthly
- Over the past nine years, we have given upwards of \$94,000 in local outreach and \$200,000 globally.