

Money

It is the single greatest factor in what we will or will not accomplish in life

- 500 verses on Prayer and Faith each – 2,000 on Money
- 16 of 38 Jesus' Parables about money and possessions

God Wants You Prosperous and Wealthy

Proverbs 11:10–11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices; And when the wicked perish, *there is* jubilation. ¹¹ By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

- Blessing “*Prosperity*” or “*Liberal Pool*”

Malachi 3:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” Says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you *such* blessing that *there will not be room* enough to *receive it*.

The curse of mammon will lose its control once we understand how mammon works and surrender our first fruits to the Lord

The Principle of The First

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**
- 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
- Her 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 in a monetary way, 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 are 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 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

God Rewards Good Stewardship

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

⁶But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

- God is a rewarder
- God *rewards* faithful living according to His principles

1 Corinthians 3:8 (NKJV)

⁸Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

The Bible is clear that we are not saved by good works, but we are in fact saved for good works

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV)

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

- We must distinguish between belief and behavior
- Our belief determines where we will spend eternity
- Our behavior determines how
- God is going to reward us for our behavior or our good works

God Wants to Bless Us with More

Genesis 12:2 (NKJV) Speaking to Abraham

² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

- God desired to bless Abraham so he could be a blessing to others
- The same is true for you and me today

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NKJV)

⁸ And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work.

- God wants to bless us so we are ready to do every good work!
- Having an abundance is only possible when we are good stewards of the blessings God has given us

We must never allow reward to be our primary motive to give

- Yet, we cannot ignore the fact that God wants to reward us

When we allow God to work in our hearts, our primary motivation becomes giving for the sheer joy of giving

- Helping for the sheer satisfaction of helping
- When we live this way, we are imitating our Father God

Paul was about to send a couple of helpers to the Corinthians Church to collect a special offering for the suffering Macedonian Church

2 Corinthians 9 – *My paraphrase*

- *He says: you said you wanted to give an offering*
- *I've been bragging about your generosity*
- *Don't embarrass yourselves, and me, follow through!*
- *Paul is commending them for their willingness to give, and takes the opportunity to teach on giving*

2 Corinthians 9:6–8 (NKJV) The Cheerful Giver

⁶But this *I say*: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷So let each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work.

- These people were already givers
- They were about to make a sacrificial offering
- Sow sparingly – reap sparingly
- Sow bountifully – reap bountifully

Luke 6:38 (NKJV)

³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

- Again, our only motivation is not reward
- The Spirit of God wants to free us from the fear of giving, showing us that God is a rewarder
- God wants us to give as we purpose in our hearts
- When we give “in secret” He rewards “openly”
– Matthew 6

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NKJV)

⁷ So let each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

- You are the only person who can decide your level of giving
- It’s between you and the Spirit of God

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

God is not looking for tithes, offerings and gifts that are given
“reluctantly or under compulsion”

- The blessed life is an overflow of cheerful giving
- There is a “Joy” in giving!

The only way to become a cheerful giver is for God to do a work in your heart

- We need a reconciliation with God and our finances

It comes down to the heart

- Remember: God is *able* to make *all grace* abound
- How often? – Always!

When we give cheerfully God is able to make all grace abound towards us, so we always have abundance so that we never have need

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

- There is a difference between *wants* and *needs*
- God doesn't promise to meet every passing whim or fancy
- Money is never our sufficiency, God is!
- There is a level beyond sufficiency – Abundance!
- We will be tested at this level

It's one thing to have just enough to meet your needs, but the real heart test comes when we get a little extra

- When I get a little extra, do I pay down debt or buy a new rifle or set of golf clubs?
- We are tested with *need* as we trust God for our sufficiency
- We are tested with *greed* when we move into the area of abundance
- When we pass this test, we can now move into the highest use of money, *seed*

How do you view money?

- Do you see it as something to meet your *need*?
- Do you see it as something to satisfy your *greed*?
- Or do you see it as God giving you *seed*?

I believe there is a “sweet spot” that God wants us all to live

Proverbs 30:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches— Feed me with the food allotted to me; ⁹ Lest I be full and deny *You*, and say, “Who *is* the LORD?” Or lest I be poor and steal, and profane the name of my God.

- Don't allow me to have need or to be tempted with greed, that's wisdom
- Can God meet your need without money?

1 Kings 17:6 (NKJV) God provides for Elijah

⁶ The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook.

- God didn't need money to provide, He just needed a couple of ravens
- They didn't just bring him bread, they brought him steak

He also brought him cake

1 Kings 19:5–6, 8 (NKJV)

⁵ Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, “Arise *and* eat.” ⁶ Then he looked, and there by his head *was* a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again.

⁸ So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

2 Corinthians 9:10–11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, ¹¹ while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

- There is a proper order
- God doesn't supply seed to the keeper

Tithes – Offerings – Extravagant Offerings

John 12:1–8 (NKJV)

12 Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. ² There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. ³ Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. ⁴ But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, who would betray Him, said, ⁵ "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" ⁶ This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. ⁷ But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. ⁸ For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

- What a graphic contrast in two hearts towards giving
 - The heart of Mary
 - The heart of Judas
- An equivalent of an entire years' worth of wages
- Imagine taking your gross annual income, buying a bottle of perfume and then emptying it on someone's feet
- It is all gone – you will never get it back!
- Why did Mary do this?
- Why did it bother Judas so much?
- Hint: it's not about the money

Remember Generosity is not about the amount but the heart

Luke 21:1–3 (NKJV)

21 And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, ² and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. ³ So He said, “Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all;

- A generous heart stems from a grateful heart
- Every gift has a purpose
- Don’t underestimate the difference you can make

Mary was able to anoint Jesus’ body for burial

Mark 14:8 (NKJV)

⁸ She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial.

- When we give obediently and extravagantly at the prompting of the Holy Spirit, we have no idea the real significance of the gift
- God knows
- God has a purpose for every gift and he will reward

Matthew 26:13 (NKJV)

¹³ Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.”