

# THE GIFT OF GIVING

The second part of the “gift of giving” is about biblical principles God laid down in the Bible for the Body of Christ to prosper. There is a huge misunderstanding, misinterpreting and misconception about Kingdom Wealth and Kingdom Finances. It is highly recommended to first read and study Part 1 before moving on to this part, as the first part lays down the foundation of “**giving**”. A good understanding of this will illuminate the principles in the second part.

When the enemy has darkened our understanding, it is easy to get confused between Old Testament and New Testament scriptures on this topic.

*Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart **Ephesians 4:18***

The only reason for this is to keep you in captivity because he is the father of lies, he is a thief, a murderer from the beginning and the father of all lies.

*“You belong to your father the devil, and you want to carry out the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and has never stood for truth since there is no truth in him. Whenever he tells a lie he speaks of character, because he is a liar and the father of lies.” John 8:44 ISV.*

I am pleading with you, be teachable as you read this. Do not let previous ideas keep you from seeing the truth. I am praying that the Holy Spirit will open your heart to these truths – the truth will set you free and it will change your life forever.

Amen!



*“Let there be Light” – Gen 1:3*

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# THE GIVE OF GIVING

## PART 2: BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

### PRINCIPLES OF FIRST

The most important Law God laid down, I think, is the principle of “**FIRST**”. God has laid down profound principles and laws for us, not only to help us to give but also to walk in divine wealth.

God says; “**I am King and I am FIRST**”. If He is not First, then we can be likened to a fish out of water - it will self-destruct. Nobody killed the fish, it died because it was taken out of the medium it was created to live in, in this case the water. Likewise, when you do not put God first, you will self destruct and die. God cannot be blamed for this - you decided to remove yourself from the medium you were designed for - created for!

**This is a law, a principle like the law of gravity.** Gravity was created for our benefit, but when the law of gravity is violated, the very same law that was created to keep us alive is responsible for many deaths. God wants us to put Him first in everything that we do - PUT Me First - I am your KING!

Prov 3:6 In everything you do, **put God first**, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success. Living Bible (TLB)

The reason Adam & Eve did not realise that they were naked was because they were so God conscious that they did not even think about themselves. That is what God asks here - know and acknowledge and recognize Him as your King - Honour Him with your wealth and everything your own, give all the first to Him - the first of your crops, livestock, income - I am your King - I want only the best!



Prov 3:5 Trust in and rely confidently on the Lord with all your heart And do not rely on your own insight or understanding. 6 In all your ways **know and acknowledge and recognize Him**, And He will make your paths straight and smooth [removing obstacles that block your way]. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord [with reverent awe and obedience] and turn [entirely] away from evil. 8 It will be health to your body [your marrow, your nerves, your sinews, your muscles--all your inner parts] And refreshment (physical well-being) to your bones. 9 Honor the Lord with **your wealth** And with the **firstfruits of all your crops (income)**; 10 Then your barns will be **abundantly filled And your vats will overflow** with new wine. **AMP**

Prov 3:5 Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for **God's voice in everything you do**, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all. Run to God! Run from evil! Your body will glow with health, your very bones will vibrate with life! **Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best.** Your **barns will burst**, your wine vats will brim over. **MSG**

Pro 3:6 In all thy ways **acknowledge him**, and he shall direct thy paths. 7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. 8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. 9 Honour the **LORD with thy substance**, and with the **firstfruits of all thine increase**: 10 So shall thy **barns be filled** with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. **KJV**

It was this very same King who gave His First Born Son - a sacrifice without blemish (as required in the Old Testament) for, when we were still enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, and saved by his life (Rom 5:10 ).

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.



By this sacrifice - we are also sanctified by this offering!

Rom 8:28-29 And we know [with great confidence] that God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan] for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan *and* purpose.<sup>29</sup> For those whom He foreknew [and loved and chose beforehand], He also predestined to be **conformed to the image of His Son** [and ultimately share in His **complete sanctification**], so that He would be the **firstborn** [the most beloved and honored] among many believers. AMP

That is why the Lord can, without any reasoning, demand from us - seek first the kingdom of God! With a promise - those who are willing to obey the King's command - all other things **shall be added to your life**.

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

And IF you entered the Kingdom by a true born-again experience, you have been raised also with Jesus Christ from the dead into a new life, then it is not possible to walk after the flesh anymore. Our mind is not anymore on earthly, the temporal things, but know our mind and focus is on the King, the heavenly things!

Col 3:1-2 Therefore **if** you have been **raised with Christ** [to a new life, sharing in His resurrection from the dead], keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your **mind and keep focused habitually on the things above** [the heavenly things], not on things that are on the earth [which have only temporal value].

Without a doubt - Jesus Himself confirmed this in His own word (in red) that you shall love the Lord thy God with everything you owned - with your whole heart, soul, and mind. We cannot afford to lose our focus and walk according to the flesh on earthly things, but we become so God and heavenly focused that nothing else matters. (*Rom 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.*)



Mat 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Putting God first, mean it is not possible to share the Lord with anybody else!

Mat 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Just as God requires us that He is first in our lives, God also gives this very same principle of "**first**" to us and requires that whatever we receive, He wants the first of all. **Why?** It is God's desire and He has pleasure in the prosperity of his servants. Remember, the wealth of the King is measured in the wealth of His servants - This is profound!

Psa 35:27 Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath **pleasure in the prosperity of his servant**.

God do not need anything from us. Everything belongs to Him. The principles that He is laying down is to help us to prosper. How can this be? God knows mankind's heart and God is using the unrighteous mammon to teach us righteousness. In our spirit, we are created to be just as generous as the King because we are created according to the image and likeness of our Father. He is a giver and He wants to establish the same attitude in our heart. God said in the New Testament that it is much better to give than to receive!

Act 20:35b remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more **blessed to give than to receive**

The firstfruits offering found its fulfillment in Jesus.

1Co 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the **firstfruits** of them that slept.



**Jesus' resurrection has paved the way for our resurrection. Significantly, if Jesus was killed at Passover, then His resurrection on the third day would have fallen on Nissan 16—the Feast of Firstfruits.**

Firstfruits are mentioned in several ways in the New Testament:

Romans 8:23 states "And not only the creation but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the spirit..." As in other passages, Paul is using "first fruits" as a metaphor for the **first appearance of a promised blessing**. Here, it is the Holy Spirit, the "helper" who Jesus promised in John 14:26. The very first followers of Jesus were also the very first to experience the blessing of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit - they received the "first fruits" of the Holy Spirit's work in the lives of believers.

In Romans 11:13-16, Paul makes a confusing statement in regard to the rejection of Jesus by the Jews. It was always God's intent to bring salvation to the Gentiles (non-Jews). It was not His intent that the Jews would reject that salvation. But, since they have, God hopes that His new relationship the Gentiles will make the Jews jealous—envious—and cause them to want that relationship for themselves. Apparently, some Gentile Christians turned their acceptance of Christ into pride and harassed the Jewish Christians. God is for all, and even the Gentiles who accepted Christ should not have treated the few Jewish Christians they came into contact with arrogantly.

**Rom 11:16 For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches.**

The phrasing is odd, but it's believed that the "*dough*" refers to the first Jewish Christians and the "*whole lump*" to Jews in general. Meaning that God has not abandoned the Jewish nation indefinitely. If the first Jewish Christians were redeemable, then the Gentiles needed to remember that every Jew is redeemable. "*First fruits*" is used as a metaphor to mean the **first part of the harvest** of Jewish souls that are to be saved through Christ's sacrifice.



1 Corinthians 15:20, 23 refer to Jesus as the "firstfruits" of those who will be raised from the dead. He is the firstborn Son of the Father, and His resurrection is the first of the promise that all who follow Him will also be raised. He is a guarantee of our future blessing.

**2 Thessalonians 2:13 and James 1:18 call New Testament saints "firstfruits."**

They were the first to follow Christ, and act as a promise that there will be more to come. In fact, James 1:18 infers that the Christians in the early church were the "firstfruits" of all of creation and the promise that creation itself will be restored.

The final mention of firstfruits in the Bible is in **Revelation 14:4** and speaks of the 144,000 Jewish witnesses who will spread the Gospel during the Tribulation. They will have a special role in Heaven and are claimed by God and Jesus as special representatives of those who are saved.

All to say that although the term "firstfruits" is used in the New Testament, it does not refer to giving, whether to the Temple or the church. **It acts as a metaphor to mean those who experience God's blessing first or in a special way. Firstfruits symbolizes God's harvest of souls**, it illustrates giving to God from a grateful heart, and it sets a pattern of giving back to Him the first (and the best) of what He has given us. Not being under the Old Testament Law, the Christian is under no further obligation than to **give cheerfully and liberally** (2 Corinthians 9:6-7).

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

Paul taught the Corinthian believers to set aside a collection "on the first day of the week" and, just as the offering of firstfruits was an occasion of thanksgiving, so the Christian is to give with gladness.

1Co 16:2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you **lay by him in store**, as **God hath prospered** him, that there be no gatherings when I come.



### **Blessed or Cursed**

I want to clarify the concept of “**blessing**” and “**curse**” as many will say that we are not under the curse as New Testament believers. We are now living under God's grace. I also found this confusing and to be honest, God gave me understanding by revelation and I pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal the truth. “**Blessing**” is the consequence of obedience and “**curse**” is the consequence of disobedience.

The Bible does clearly state that Jesus bore our sins, sicknesses, sorrows, pains and shame on the cross. The scripture is telling us that we have been "redeemed from the curse of the law"

Gal 3:13 Christ purchased our freedom [**redeeming us**] **from the curse (doom) of the Law** [and its condemnation] by [Himself] becoming a curse for us, for it is written [in the Scriptures], Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree (is crucified); [Deut. 21:23.]

Without a doubt, Jesus bore all of these things – and more than we can imagine on the cross. In 1 Peter 2 God Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness and by whose stripes you were healed.

1Pe 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: **by whose stripes ye were healed.** KJV

### **Past tense – you were healed.**

It is this very same verse God revealed the truth to me:

**Have you sinned since you became a believer?**

**Have you ever been sick since you became a Christian?**

Isaiah even prophesied which Matt quoted that Jesus took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses.



Mat 8:17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare *our* sicknesses. KJV

### **But why are we then sick?**

Why are we still struggle under the curse of sickness?

We are saved by grace through faith, not by grace alone. Yes the Lord paid the price for us not to be lost, not to be sick and not to live in any financial shortages.

Eph 2:8 For by **grace are ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: KJV

But if we continue to live under grace without faith, we will experience some of the effects of the curse. It is not God cursing us – God still loves us very much, but He can't override His own words, laws, and statutes.

As believers, if we disobey the Word of God, we can still experience the effects of the curse. That applies to our finances just as surely as it does to our physical bodies. Can we, if we are in willful violation of God's principles of firstfruits, see our finances come under a curse? Yes, we can.

### **And I saw and experience it in my own life!**

There is always a choice – God does not force us to do anything – but He always gives us a choice to choose from. This is profound and I really hope you are catching this revelation: God is setting before you “**life**” and “**death**” – “**BLESSING**” and “**CURSE**” – you choose.

Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, *that* I have set **before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life**, that both thou and thy seed may live:

I like the way the ISV is saying the last part – After God set life and death, blessing and curse before us – He also direct us and say: “**Choose life**”

Deu 30:19b **Choose life**, that it may be well with you—you and your children. ISV



And He even gives us the reason why He is saying to you to choose life – “That it may be well with you” – Not only with you but also with you and your children.

**Praise God:** “As I was busy writing these truths I was stuck in between these two major principles of some not believing we can any more be cursed and those who believes we can be under a curse. So I was asking God please give me words and understanding to explain to the reader what is the truth. And as I started to read again what people had written about this subject, God remind me on the text of Eph 2:8 “For by **grace are ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (KJV) and also the scripture in Deut 30 setting blessing and curse before you to choose.

Now it is up to you to take it or not – God will not force you to do anything.

So the good news is that we have the wonderful promise of Malachi 3 that God promises to “rebuke the devourer”

Mal 3:11 **And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes**, and he **shall not destroy the fruits of your ground**; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

What a wonderful God we serve – when we obey His commandments and co-operate with Him, we come under His blessings and live a blessed life.

**Just one very important comment I like to make here: when I am saying that giving, firstfruits, and tithing is a law, I am not referring as it is the Messianic Law (“the Law of Moses in the Torah of the Old Testament) – I am referring to it as a governing law. A law as the law of gravity.**

God's grace is really amazing. Yet far too few Christians truly understand what grace is or how it operates. For one thing, the righteousness of grace always exceeds the righteousness of the law. In Matt 5 we see that the righteousness of grace always exceeds the righteousness of the law.



Mat 5:17 **Think not that I am come to destroy the law** or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, **but to fulfill**. 18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. 19 Whosoever, therefore, shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I say unto you, **That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes** and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. KJV

Every time Jesus points to an Old Covenant law, He then sets a higher standard under the New Covenant grace. Ex 20:13 said not to commit murder, but in Matt 5:22 Jesus said not even to be angry with your brother. A higher standard!

The law said not to commit adultery (Ex 20:14), but Jesus said not even to look at a woman lustfully (Matt 5:28). A higher standard.

In other words, the righteousness that grace demands (and Jesus is grace) goes further than that which the law demands.

**Knowing this, can you still saying; “I am not tithing because I am not under the law, I am under grace”. So you then give according to the law of grace?**  
**Great – then that means you are giving more than 10%!**

### ***The Principle of Firstfruits***

My starting journey in searching for the truth about Kingdom Finances (giving, the tithe and firstfruits) ended with confusion. I always reached a dead end caused by the viewpoint of three main groups. The first group believes you are to tithe as God instructed and failing to do so results in you robbing God and living under a financial curse. The second group still tithes but do not believe that we as New Testament believers could be under a curse. The third group does not tithe at all as they believe this is an Old Testament concept.





In my own life, God showed me through the work of Dr. Henry Wright how sickness and disease are still a reality in believer's lives. The bottom line is when we are disobedient to God's Word and we yield ourselves under another law, in this case "**the law of sin**", sickness and disease comes into our lives.

Is it God that cursed us with sickness? **Most definitely, NOT.**

But why are we still sick if the Word of God tells us that Christ purchased our freedom – He redeemed us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse for us?

Gal 3:13 Christ purchased our freedom [**redeeming us**] **from the curse (doom) of the Law** [and its condemnation] by [Himself] becoming a curse for us, for it is written [in the Scriptures], Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree (is crucified); [Deut. 21:23.]

If we violate the financial laws God put in place for our benefit, and He Himself became a curse for us, why are we living in poverty? Why are we living with constant financial shortages, even in times when we make millions?

I have seen many people who don't obey these financial laws, live with shortages, but I have never seen a single believer who truly lived by these kingdom financial laws, not walking in abundance. Do not be trapped by circular reasoning about this and stay in financial bondage (*because this is where the enemy, the devil wants you*). Through scripture we will answer these very important, life changing questions. As God told me when I asked Him to tell me what the truth is: "**I showed you how sickness and disease operate, the rest (everything else, including money, prosperity, and wealth) works just the same.**"

#### **Sacrificed or Redeemed**

God had established a very important precedent in Exodus 13.

Exo 13:2 Sanctify unto me **all the firstborn**, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, *both* of man and of beast: **it is mine**.



God is just saying that the firstborn is "Mine". It all belongs to Him.

Exo 13:12 That thou shalt **set apart unto the LORD** all that openeth the matrix, and **every firstling** that cometh of a beast which thou hast; the males *shall be* the LORD'S. 13 And every **firstling** of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb; and if thou wilt not redeem it, then thou shalt break his neck: **and all the firstborn of man among thy children shalt thou redeem.**

According to the Old Testament law, the firstborn was to be either sacrificed or redeemed! There was no alternative. Every time one of your livestock animals delivered its firstborn, you were to sacrifice it, or if it was designated unclean, you had to redeem it with a clean, spotless lamb.

**The clean firstborn had to be sacrificed and the unclean firstborn had to be redeemed!**

Jesus was God's firstborn. Jesus was clean – perfect and unblemished in every way. On the other hand, every one of us was born unclean. We were all born sinners with a fully active sin nature. Remember the law God gave in Ex 13, that if the firstborn animal was clean, it was to be sacrificed. But if the firstborn was unclean, it was to be redeemed with a clean animal. God laid everything perfectly down for us – and even He, God, did not – could not – violate His own laws.

Henceforth, **Jesus Christ, the firstborn of God the Father, was born pure, a spotless lamb and unclean, Jesus was sacrificed to redeem us.**

When He redeemed us by His sacrifice, He bought us back for God. He was literally the firstfruits offering. In a very real sense, **Jesus was God's tithe.**

God gave His tithe (Jesus) in faith before we ever believed. God gave Jesus to us before we believed:

Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.** KJV



This is a law, a statute, a principle that God laid down – God himself followed His own laws and He laid it down for our benefit to be blessed!

### Tithe

This principle of firstfruits offering is also known as the “**tithe**”. It is vital to understand what the word “**tithe**” means. It is much deeper than just an Old Testament **tenth of our income**. It is a principle of “**firstfruits offering**” and just as God the Father gave His “**tithe**” – Jesus – similarly we need to give our tithe to the Lord! God gave Jesus in faith so that He could be the firstborn among many brethren.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

In this sense, Jesus is God's tithe. God gave Jesus first, in faith, even when we were sinners – even as we were mocking Him and spitting in His face while He was dying. God didn't wait to see if we would first change or repent or make ourselves worthy. He knew the principle of first things first. God, the Father, by faith, made the offer to redeem the rest. He paid the price in full and still, there are so many who do not come and collect and accept this precious gift of eternal life.

**Do you remember the story of the children of Israel, when Moses came to redeem them out of slavery? All the firstborn died in the final plague described in Exodus, because God had a legal right to take every firstborn - every one of them in Egypt and in Israel belonged to Him. But the firstborn of Israel didn't die that night because a lamb was sacrificed to redeem them. A spotless, perfect lamb took their place. God instructed Moses to apply the blood of the sacrificed lamb to the doorposts of each home (Exodus 12:7).**

This is precisely how we're saved. God redeemed us in the same way – by giving His Firstborn Son as a sacrifice. The principle of the firstfruits is very, very powerful. It had been said that any first thing given is never lost, and any first thing not given is



always lost. In other words, what we give to God, we won't lose because God redeems it for us. But what we withhold from God, we will lose.

Mat 16:25 Whoever wants to **save his life will lose it**, but whoever **loses his life for my sake will find it**, ISV

**We find this principle throughout the Bible. That is what tithing really is – giving our first to God!**

What you declare by doing that is that you are going to give God the “first” and trust in Him to redeem the rest. It always requires “**faith**” – you give Him the first of your flock and trust Him that there will be enough. It means giving to God first **before** you see if you're going to have enough. By tithing, we say to God: “**I recognize You first. I am putting You first and I trust You to take care of everything else in my life.**” That's why tithing is so important. It is the primary way we acknowledge that God is first. The first portion is the redemptive portion. In other words, when the first portion is given to God, the rest is redeemed.

### First of the First

Not only does the firstborn belong to God but the firstfruits belong to Him as well.

Exo 23:19 The **first of the firstfruits** of thy land thou shalt **bring into the house** of the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.

God even goes further giving us instruction in how his laws of blessing are working. Not only does God want the firstfruits, but He is saying the “first” of the firstfruits belongs to Him. That means the last of your firstfruits isn't acceptable. It's not the tenth portion of your firstfruits; it's the first portion of your firstfruits. And also this first of the firstfruits belongs to the “House of the Lord”.

Pro 3:9 Honour the LORD with thy substance and with the **firstfruits of all thine increase**: 10 So shall thy **barns be filled with plenty**, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.





When the Israelites were instructed to take over Jericho, the Lord declared all of the spoils from Jericho belonged to Him. Why did the Lord say that all of the silver and gold from Jericho had to be given to the Lord's house? Because it was the first city conquered in the Promised Land. It was the firstfruits. God was saying to them bring the firstfruits to My house and you can keep the rest for you. It took faith for them to do so – and so does tithing. There was also a man named Achan who took some of the spoil for himself and became accursed (**Joshua 6:18**). Consecrated or cursed - that's exactly what the tithe is all through the Bible. The tithe is consecrated to the Lord and for the Lord's House. But if we take it for ourselves, it becomes a curse because it's stolen.

### ***Are we robbing God?***

The well known Malachi 3 God makes it clear that if we keep the tithe to ourselves, we are robbing God. But not the tithe, but also in offerings, God said.

Mal 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say Wherein have we robbed thee? ***In tithes and offerings.*** 9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, *even* this whole nation.

I heard many reasoning from this Scripture of people who tries to come out of it by saying it is Old Testament. But in the same Chapter, God is saying that I am the Lord, I change not!

Mal 3:6a **For I am the LORD, I change not** KJV

Isn't God telling us something that we as New Testament believers are missing? I definitely think so. Why didn't God says that you are stealing from me, but instead using the word "**rob**"?

The word rob is used in the sense of '**take from**'.

On the other hand, the word steal is used in the sense of '**lift**'.

This is the main difference between the two words. The word rob is generally used only in the case of **thefts that are considered high in volume**. The loss in a robbery is usually a several hundred or thousand dollars of money. On the other hand, the



word **steal is used in the case of small thefts of lesser volume**. This is another important difference between the two words.

Isn't this a coincidence? When God is saying you are robbing me, you are taking what belongs to me referring to considerable high volumes?

- So if the Lord says that the firstborn belongs to Me – Ex 13:2
- And the firstfruits are Mine – Ex 23:19
- And that the tithe belongs to Him – Mal 3:8-9

And God is saying "I do not change" (Mal 3:6), then when did those things supposedly change? Aren't there many other things that were under the law and are still valid under grace for the New Testament believers? As adultery was forbidden under the law, it is no acceptable under grace? There are eternal principles throughout the Word of God and tithing is clearly one of them.

The "**firstfruits**" the "**firstborn**" and the "**tithe**" belongs to God.

### **Cain & Abel**

Have you ever wondered why Cain and Abel brought an offering to the Lord? Who told them to bring an offering? After God sent Adam & Eve out of the Garden of Eden, He still ministered to them. So, God was still instructing Cain & Abel and laid down the principle of offerings. When Cain and Abel brought their offerings before the Lord, it was not a matter of not wanting to accept Cain's offering, but He couldn't accept it! ***You might be surprised by this.*** God could not accept it, because Cain did not apply God's principle of firstfruits. Let's explore this in scripture. Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock, as the Lord instructed them to do.

Gen 4:3 And in **process of time it came** to pass, that **Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.** 4 And **Abel**, he also **brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof.** And the **LORD had respect unto Abel** and to his offering: 5 **But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect.** And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. KJV



I always wondered about this. Why would God do such a thing, accepting one brother's offering but rejecting the other's?

Carefully look again to the scripture – it says in process of time, it came to pass that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering to the Lord. That means that Cain brought to the Lord an offering under his own terms and conditions. Cain did not obey God's commandment of firstfruits. Just look what Abel had done: "he brought of the firstlings of his flock" and the Lord had respect the offering of Abel. Why? Because Abel brought the firstfruits offering according to God's prescriptions.

Because God laid down these principles, God couldn't accept Cain's offering as a firstfruits offering, because Cain did not obey God's prescriptions. It was not that God wouldn't – He couldn't. God cannot violate His own word.

The tithe is your first fruit. The tithe must be first.

Lev 27:30 And 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.

### Abraham & Melchizedek

A full 430 years before tithing was a part of the Mosaic law, Abraham tithed to Melchizedek. Abraham is our spiritual father and Melchizedek is a type of Jesus Christ (some prominent Bible teachers think he might even have been Jesus Christ Himself). Melchizedek's titles were "king of righteousness" and "king of peace", and of course, Jesus is the true King of righteousness and peace.

Gen 14:18 And **Melchizedek** king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the **priest of the most high God**. 19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed, *be* Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: 20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all. KJV



In Hebrew, we see that Melchizedek is a type of Christ.

Heb 5:9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; 10 Called of God a high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

In Chapter 7 it shows how Jesus is the fulfillment of all the types and shadows embodied in Melchizedek. It gives particular attention to the fact that Abraham tithed to Melchizedek.

Heb 7:1 For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met **Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings**, and blessed him; 2 To whom also **Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness**, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; 3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.

Abraham is our spiritual father, tithed to Melchizedek, who was either Jesus Christ Himself or symbolic representations of Christ. Moreover, all this occurred 430 years before the law.

According to Heb 7:8, Jesus receives tithes in heaven. When you return your tithe, you may think you're giving it to your local church, but in a very real, spiritual sense, true tithe has their offerings received by the Lord Jesus Himself! Whoa!

Heb 7:8 In the case of the priests the **tenth is collected by men who die**; but as for **Melchizedek the tenth was collected by one who lives**, as the scripture says. GNB

*What a privilege – what a holy thing! And what a loss for those who never take the step of faith and tithe!*

### Jacob

Also, Jacob's vow to tithe came straight from his grateful heart. True tithing comes from the heart – not from a legalistic mind!

Gen 28:22 And this stone, which I have set *for* a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.



I also want you to note that this promise came 400 years before the law. Like his grandfather Abraham, Jacob wanted to give God the first of his firstfruits – the first 10%. Having experienced the sweetness of God's presence and the goodness of His favour, Jacob wanted to bless Him. It was a heart thing. We need to reach a point where the tithe is life to you and not just a law. When reaching this point in life it will be one of the greatest joys of your life.

### Prosper

Also in Leviticus God mentioned the tithe and God consider it as “holy”. The word holy simple means “to set apart”. In other words, the first 10% is to be separated and set apart for the Lord

Lev 27:30 And **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.**

It is not for me to determine what to do with it. It's is God's tithe.

Deu 26:1 And it shall be, when thou *art* come in unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee *for* an inheritance, and possessest it, and dwellest therein; 2 That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt put *it* in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name there.

When you understand that the tithe is holy – you don't want it in your house! You want to get it to the house of God where it belongs. You don't use part of it for your vacation. You don't use it to pay for your children's school tuition. You know that holy means set apart.

Deu 26:13 Then thou shalt say before the LORD thy God, ***I have brought away the hallowed things out of mine house***, and also have given them unto the Levite, and unto the stranger, to the fatherless, and to the widow, according to all thy commandments which thou hast commanded me: I have not transgressed thy commandments, neither have I forgotten *them*: 14 I have not eaten thereof in my



mourning, neither have I taken away *ought* thereof for *any* unclean *use*, nor given *ought* thereof for the dead: *but* I have hearkened to the voice of the LORD my God, and have done according to all that thou hast commanded me.

### Jesus

When I read Matt 23, in King James Version – in red letter indicating Jesus own words what He had been said about the tithe, I immediately, without doubt call my brother and said to him: “today, I am 100% certain that we as believers have to tithe” – No doubt about it. You cannot change my mind on this anymore.

***Mat 23:23 "How terrible it will be for you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your mint, dill, and cummin, but have neglected the more important matters of the Law: justice, mercy, and faithfulness. These are the things you should have practiced, without neglecting the others. ISV***

I like the direct words of TLB – “**Yes, you should tithe**, but you shouldn't leave the more important things undone”

TLB “Yes, woe upon you, Pharisees, and you other religious leaders—hypocrites! For you tithe down to the last mint leaf in your garden, but ignore the important things—justice and mercy and faith. **Yes, you should tithe**, but you shouldn't leave the more important things undone. 24 Blind guides! You strain out a gnat and swallow a camel. TLB

Just look at the closing statement in the verse: “These (meticulous tithing) you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone”. In other words, He says: “Yes, tithe of all your increase, but don't neglect the vitally important heart issues of justice, mercy, and faith”. Think about it. What we just read is in my opinion on of the most amazing Scriptures on tithing. Jesus Himself affirmed the tithe. I don't know how anyone with a soft heart toward God could get around this.



**Robert Morris**

*A person came to me saying I think these you ought to have done refers to justice, mercy, and faith. I said, let's assume you are right – then what does the rest of the verse say? Without leaving the others undone? See, I've got you either way. This is Jesus speaking here. Even looking at the original text in the Greek language it is very specific about this verse that Jesus was talking about the tithe.*

Of course, tithing isn't a grim duty. It isn't a dry religious exercise. And it isn't a punishment. It is an amazing opportunity that brings tremendous benefits to the tither.

**Blessed**

One amazing story about this is in the time of Hezekiah when the people started to bring the tithe to the House of the Lord, even Hezekiah was a concerned if the people had enough for themselves when he saw how much these people had given.

2Ch 31:4 Hezekiah also directed the people who lived in Jerusalem to give what was due to the priests and descendants of Levi, so they could be strengthened in the LORD's Law. 5 As the word spread around, the people of Israel gave generously for the **first fruits of grain, wine, oil, honey, and all of the produce of the fields**. They **generously gave a tithe of everything**. 6 The descendants of Israel and Judah who lived throughout the cities of Judah also brought **tithes of cattle and sheep**, as well as **tithes of gifts that had been dedicated to the LORD their God**. As these gifts were given, they were laid in piles. 7 They began to make these piles of gifts during the third month, and it took them until the seventh month to finish. 8 **When Hezekiah and the officials arrived and saw the piles of gifts, they blessed the LORD and his people Israel, 9 and Hezekiah quizzed the priests and the descendants of Levi about the piles of gifts.** 10 Azariah replied, "**Since they began to bring their gifts into the LORD's Temple, we have eaten and have been satisfied. Now we still have plenty left, because the LORD has blessed his people so that we have all of this leftover.**"



But, the priest informed the king that since they started to tithe, the Lord had blessed the people even more so that they all have enough leftovers for themselves. Not only had it blesses God's people but it also brings provision into God's house. King Hezekiah commanded the people to bring in the tithe so that the priests might devote themselves to studying the Word of God. (*Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house – Mal 3:10*)

**Must be first**

It must be first. If your tithe is not first, as with the offering of Cain, God can't accept it as a "**tithe**". To make it practical, let's assume you receive 10 x R100 bills. Let's agree on a 10% tithe, now the question is which one of the 10 bills is the tithe?

**You should immediately say the first one!** Ok, but which one is it, the one at the left or the one at the right? Is it possible to give 10% and still not be tithing in accordance with God's principle? **Absolutely.**

And herein lays the mystery of "**giving**". It is possible therefore to give 10% or even more of your income, and never tithe. The tithe is the first one of the notes that leaves your hand, that you spend or give out. The first money you spend represents your **firstfruits**. This is where the act of faith comes in – giving the last R100 note is not really faith after everything has been paid. The first portion we spend, the first amount going out of our account should be the tithe. That is the first fruit. And then the first portion is the redemptive portion. The first portion has the power to redeem the rest. This is the essence of Paul's message in Romans 11.

Rom 11:16 For if the **firstfruit be holy**, the **lump is also holy**; and if the root be holy, so are the branches.

There are so many blessings that go along with tithing, but it is the principle of putting God first and the principle of faith that initiate the blessings. They are the trigger. The first portion is the portion that redeems the rest.



***The first portion carries the blessing.***

*(Remember this part as we will come back to the principle of multiplication where this blessing part is critical)*

That is why you don't want to give the first portion to the mortgage company. Unfortunately, it seems that many Christians fear the banks more than they fear God. Another way to say that is, we respect them more than we respect the Lord. The thither says: ***"Yes, I have a stack of bills here, but I'm going to give to God first and trust Him to bless the rest of the lump"***. There was much more at stake than money when Abraham offered his first born son, Isaac. God asked Abraham to offer his only and first son as an act of faith. And it is this faith God is asking from us to tithe. It is giving God the first, in faith. When God asked for the firstborn lamb, you had to give it in faith, with only the promise and hope that the ewe would produce more. It is easy to say yes, I am putting God first, but the tithe is really where this announcement comes true and be demonstrated. It is not what we say that is our testimony of faith, but what we do and act on.

If God is not first, nothing will come into order; your marriage, your health, your finances, your family, your job, your career, your ministry – nothing. Let's look at your bank account then we'll really see who's first in your life. Your spending patterns will testify who is first. When the accuser is coming against you, you can say with confidence: *"No, I am a thither and God's Word says that God will rebuke the devourer for my sake. God is first in my life, and God is going to redeem and protect everything else in my life"*. It is because of our lack of understanding of these profound principles that we fail to walk in God's blessings. In 1 Corinthians, Paul instructs us to give every week, on the first day of the week as we prosper (NLT says in relation to what you have earned).

1Co 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so, do ye. 2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come. KJV



In other words, we should give to God in direct proportion to the size of our pay checks. This is the reason churches today have so many special offerings and fundraising activities because the members are not bringing God's tithe to the storehouse.

**Pass Down**

God even instructs Israel how to pass down the principle of the firstborn to future generations. When you are sacrificing the firstborn lamb and your child shall ask you why we are sacrificing this firstborn lamb – you are to sit with him and say: "Let me tell you about when we were in Egypt".

Exo 13:14 And it shall be when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What *is* this? that thou shalt say unto him, By strength of hand the LORD brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage: 15 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh would hardly let us go, that the LORD slew all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man, and the firstborn of beast: therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all that openeth the matrix, being males; but all the firstborn of my children I redeem. KJV

***"Let me show you the scars on my back. Let me describe to you what it's like to be a slave. We were in bondage. We were slaves, but God delivered us with a mighty hand. Because He set us free, this is the sacred covenant that we have made with God – to keep Him first in our lives. That's why we gladly give Him the first of all our increase."***

*In my own experience I've also come a long way (as the saying goes: "it is not where we are, but where we come from"). I was in bondage and came out of Egypt (notwithstanding the fact that I served the Lord my entire life) and many hidden sins kept me in captivity. But one-day Yahshua HaMashiach delivered me with His mighty right hand and my whole life changed for the better. My heart towards God changed and He revealed more truths to me - I now gladly give God the first of everything He blesses*



*me with. My very first thought, my very first act, my very first words. He is now the first in my daily walk and I gladly hand over my very firstfruits to Him - whatever He puts in my hands. Maybe you have not been delivered yet or have not tasted what it feels like to be delivered by Yahshua HaMashiach. Maybe you haven't experienced what it feels like to stand in front of the Red sea with mighty warrior soldiers following you and anxiety filling you because there is no way to escape. But then you see how God opens up the mighty waters of the Red Sea so you can walk through on dry land and looking back you see your enemies destroyed. Maybe that might be the reason if your heart cannot consider this profound, deep truth! (See my personal "New Song" of victory in the book "Dispensation").*

We do not give out of duty or compulsion – no we gladly give our tithe to God because we want to let Him know that He is first in our lives. And because we give our first to the Lord, He blesses us, protects us, and provides for us. We must live out these truths and we must pass them down to our children.

*Acknowledge: Robert Morris*

## Where to Give

Many believers are confused where to give their tithes. Let's look what the scripture is saying.

Mal 3:10 Bring all the tithes (the whole tenth of your income) **into the storehouse**, that there may be food in My house, and prove Me now by it, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not **open the windows of heaven for you and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.** [Mal. 2:2.]

In the Old Testament, the tithe was given toward the work of God or it was brought directly to the Temple. The Tithe was direct to the ministers (2Ch 31:4b to give what was due to the **priests and descendants of Levi**, so they could be **strengthened in the LORD's Law**); that was how God supported the ministers who were doing His work. Most pastors teach that the storehouse is your local church and all other institutions



meant to be supported by offerings (which is over and above the tithe). In a perfect world - this might be the case - we are not living in a perfect world

## WHERE YOU ARE FED

Technically a storehouse is where you put your food. The Storehouse is where you get fed. So you should be giving your tithe where you get fed - spiritually speaking. And that may not be your local church.

## LOCAL CHURCH

We have to recognize that churches do more than just teach the Word. It fosters community and is an important part of spiritual growth. We need the maturity that comes through fellowshiping with other believers. Also, offers one-on-one counseling & marriage counseling. Local pastors help us deal with grief and get through hard times. The local church does much more than a TV- or traveling minister could do for you. IF you are at a good local church that is preaching the Word, helping widows and orphans and doing what a godly church is supposed to do - then you should be tithing at your church, no question about it.

## OTHER OPTION

Many churches today do not preach the true Gospel or do the right thing. How do we know God is first in your life? Bring me your bank account and I will tell you. How do you know that your local church is putting God first? Look at their bank account and financial statements!

***It matters where you plant your seed.*** People think that God sees their heart when they give and they reap a benefit from their giving regardless of what the church does with their money. But that's NOT True. Having this attitude - would make you a very poor farmer (*just casting seed on pavement expecting a harvest*). If you feel worst after the service than before - it might be better putting your seed





somewhere else. It is wrong to put your money in something you do not agree with. Your tithe where you get spiritually fed.

**WE MUST START LEARNING THE TRUTH - NOT SUPPORTING ALL SORTS OF FALSE TEACHING AND LIES - SO THESE PEOPLE CAN GO OUT OF BUSINESS MAKING ROOM FOR THE TRUTH**

- Your return is going to depend to a degree on how fruitful the ground is that you are sowing into
- There are still too many begging or some sort of emotional coercion in the body of Christ
- The body of Christ is empowering those preachers and perpetuating all of that manipulation giving money to support it.

**PARTNERSHIP**

We all know the scripture of Philippians 4 that God shall supply all my needs! I attended a weekend seminar one day and the person who struggle in his life to trust God meditate on Philippians 4 for a yearlong to break the stronghold.

Phi 4:19 But my **God shall supply all your need according** to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

We need to look at the whole chapter to discover the deeper meaning of what Paul talks about here. Paul wrote this to people who partnered with him in spreading the Gospel. He was talking about the special blessing on partnership. Earlier in his letter Paul said:

Phi 1:3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, 5 For your **fellowship** in the gospel from the first day until now;

Fellowship

koinōnia



*key-nohn-ee'-ah*

From G2844; **partnership**, that is, (literally) *participation*, or (social) *intercourse*, or (pecuniary) *benefaction*: - (to) communicate (-ation), communion, (contri-), distribution, fellowship.

Fellowship here means koinonia - partnership. Paul was thanking the Philippians for their partnership in the Gospel. They were people who give to Paul in a greater way than any other church had. Paul made specific mention of how eager they were to care for him and provide for his needs. Philippians were regular supporters of Paul as he traveled from place to place preaching the Good News.

Phi 4:10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your **care of me hath flourished again**; wherein ye **were also careful**, but ye lacked opportunity.

They were helping him carry the Gospel to other areas around the world. They did not always know where to send their money as they did not know where he was. In prison in Jerusalem, shipwrecked on his way to Rome – the location constantly changed for about 3 years. So, they weren't able to send money to Paul, but the moment they heard Paul was in Rome, they sent him clothes, finances, and supplies - they were eager to help him.

Phi 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content. 12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Paul was saying here that he had learned to live a life of abundance. Paul was saying further that no other churches were giving him money to help preach the Gospel - only the Philippians! "Communicated - talks about finances"

Phi 4:14 Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. 15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel when I



departed from Macedonia, **no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.**

The Living Bible (TLB) clearly talking about the Philippians became his partners in giving and receiving.

**TLB** <sup>15</sup> As you well know, when I first brought the Gospel to you and then went on my way, leaving Macedonia, **only you Philippians became my partners in giving and receiving. No other church did this.**

And the Amplified version talks about the opening of an account in giving and receiving.

**AMPC** <sup>15</sup> And you Philippians yourselves well know that in the early days of the Gospel ministry when I left Macedonia, no church (assembly) entered into a **partnership** with me and **opened up [a debit and credit] account in giving and receiving except you only.**

Many other churches fed him, help him, but as soon as he left town he was on his own again. Only Philippians blessed Paul after he went away.

Phi 4:16 For even in **Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.** 17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

It was not just about Paul - but Philippians was helping to establish God's kingdom. Paul was rejoicing because he knew that God gives prosperity to help establish His covenant. Paul understood that - their giving would result in a supernatural return because God gives seed to sowers.

2Co 9:10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness.

In reading again verse 19 of our text, this is Paul speaking when he is using these words: *"My God shall supply all your need according"*.



Phi 4:19 But my **God shall supply all your need according** to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Many misquote this verse and say: **"and God will supply all MY needs"**, which is true (*God is doing it*), but in this context, it is all about **partnership** with somebody to bring the gospel. When you do this – *then my God will supply in YOUR needs!*

Yes, the Lord does want to bless us - and He sends the sun and rain on the just and the unjust alike – **Psalm 35:27; Matthew 5:45; 3 John 2).** But **Philippians 4:19** talks about people who partnered with Paul in sharing the Gospel and were helping to establish God's covenant upon the earth. They were not just giving because they were receiving from him.

If you really want to be blessed, partner with a ministry that has a big vision and is doing a great job of spreading the Gospel. Money passes through the hands of the partners first - and as the money passes through there will be plenty left over for you. Best way to prosper is to find a ministry that is powerfully anointed by God and become a partner with it. This is why God can cause a supernatural flow of finances to go your way when you identify yourself as a giver. If you say: "I want to help this person go around the world and spread the gospel" then God can prosper you to do that. God gives money to people who will use it to advance the kingdom.

Deu 8:18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

He gives more than enough so there is always plenty left over for the giver. When you partner with a ministry and give deliberately, you can partake of the blessing that is in that ministry. It is not about giving and partnering just to receive, but to help bring you where you want to go. When you do that it starts a supernatural flow of God's finances toward you so that you are able to both meet your own needs and also abound unto every good work.



2Co 9:8 And God are able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

Remember, the heart motives are more important than the gift itself. When your heart is right, partnering with a ministry to help it get the Gospel out is going to open up doors for you and cause you to prosper. GIVING is a powerful part of tapping into God's prosperity. We can't really prosper in God's economy until you start sowing into His kingdom.

## **PRINCIPLES OF MULTIPLICATION**

As I had said earlier, the concept in the Bible of multiplication always fascinated me, but I didn't fully understand it until I read the book of Robert Morris and how he explained it. Everything starts making sense.

God is the Master of multiplication – He specialised in it. While the world is returning interest, the Lord is multiplying 30, 60, 90 and 100 fold. While we all know the multiplication of the two fish and five loaves of bread, we (I believed) are missing an important link Jesus showed us – this is the principles of multiplication!

Luk 9:12 As the day was drawing to a close, the Twelve came to him and said, "Send the crowd away to the neighboring villages and farms so they can rest and get some food because we are here in a deserted place." 13 But he told them, "You give them something to eat." They replied, "**We have nothing more than five loaves of bread and two fish**—unless we go and buy food for all these people." 14 Now there were about 5,000 men. So he told his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about 50." 15 They did this and got all of them seated. 16 Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he **looked up to heaven and blessed them. Then he broke the loaves in pieces and kept giving them to the disciples to pass on to the crowd.** 17 All of them ate and were filled. When they collected the leftover pieces, there were twelve baskets. ISV



When His disciples interrupted Him saying that the people needed to rest and get something to eat, it is interesting how Jesus responded: "**You give them something to eat**". Reading this in depth, I realised that Jesus was trying to teach His disciples something. He wanted them to meet the needs of the people by tapping into the supernatural realm. Unfortunately, they were slow to consider it. Does this sound familiar? We are very slow to even consider the supernatural, let alone apply the technique of multiplication.

They hoped that Jesus would dismiss the people, but instead He told them to start organising the people into groups of 50. They were probably all trying to figure out how Jesus was going to provide for these 5000 households – more than 15 000 people (including the wives and children). That's our tendency too - we want to figure out in advance how God will provide. We are usually wrong.

## **KEYS TO MULTIPLICATION**

Verse 16 give us two very important keys – principles – for multiplication. First, Jesus looked up to heaven and blessed it.

*Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he **looked up to heaven and blessed them.***

Then, Jesus began breaking it in half and handing it to the disciples.

***Then he broke the loaves in pieces and kept giving them to the disciples to pass on to the crowd.***

Jesus first blessed the food and then gives it away to his disciples. **The miracle didn't happen in the Master's hands – it happened in the disciples' hands.** The rest is history and you all know the outcome – all the people were fed – and the disciples receive a "doggie bag" for themselves – 12 big baskets of leftovers!

**Principle 1: Something must be blessed before it can multiply**

**Principle 2: Only what is given away can multiply**



**Before your money can multiply, it has to be blessed.**

Remember our scripture of Rom 11 – the firstfruit be holy (set apart), then the rest, the lump is also holy.

Rom 11:16 For if the **firstfruit be holy**, the **lump is also holy**: and if the root be holy, so are the branches.

It is the principle of putting God first and the principle of faith that initiate the blessing. The first portion carries the blessing. When we giving the first, our tithe, to the Lord, the rest of it is blessed. When doing so, your money has now the ability of to multiply. Jesus, the One who receives our tithes, is the only One who has the power to bless it so that it can multiply. That's the first principle of multiplication.

**Only what is given away can multiply**

Jesus first blessed the bread and then it had the potential to multiply. But if they had just eaten it themselves, it would have remained five loaves and two fish. It would never have multiplied. They would have had a couple of bites of food each instead of full stomachs and 12 baskets of leftovers. They had to give it away so that it could multiply.

**GIVING**

This brings us to the next very important part of the gift of giving!

There is a difference between the “tithe” and “giving”. Tithing is not a form of giving! When clearly examine scripture we see that **tithing is simply returning to God that which He has said is His**. Giving our firstfruits, our first 10% to the Lord (remember it says bring all the tithe into the storehouse) is what causes that which is ours to be blessed. You can't give that which doesn't really belong to you. The firstfruits are the Lord's, the rest is yours to keep or give as you choose. It is from this account that you give what the Bible says often refers to as offerings. Remember Malachi 3 referring to the tithe and offerings!



Tithing isn't really giving – it's returning. It is bringing back to the Lord what is already His. Thus, the second principle of multiplication is that finances over and above the tithe must be shared if they are to multiply.

In Matt 25 Jesus is telling us a parable of three stewards.

When the one steward came back with double the amount, the Lord told him well done, good and faithful servant.

Mat 25:21 His master told him, **'Well done, good and trustworthy servant!** Since you have been **trustworthy with a small amount**, I will put you in **charge of a large amount**. Come and share your master's joy!' 22 "The one with two talents also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two talents. See, I've earned two more talents.' 23 His master told him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy servant! Since you have been trustworthy with a small amount, I will put you in charge of a large amount. Come and share your master's joy!' 24 "Then the one who had received one talent came forward and said, 'Master, I knew that you were a hard man, harvesting where you haven't planted and gathering where you haven't scattered any seed. 25 Being **afraid, I went off and hid your talent in the ground**. Here, take what is yours!' ISV

But when the last servant returns to the Lord what was already His, the Lord called him wicked and lazy.

Mat 25:26 "His master answered him, 'You evil and lazy servant! So you knew that I harvested where I haven't planted and gathered where I haven't scattered any seed?

Please do not think this is to say if you only tithe you are lazy – not at all – it only illustrates the point that we are supposed to give over and above our tithe because tithing is simply returning to God what is already His.

If you are currently tithing – that is the place to start. Tithing is where we remove the curse. Tithing is what brings the blessing on the balance of our finances. Tithing is what causes God to rebuke the devourer and open the windows of heaven. It is the



foundation on which our giving is built. When God is saying you are robbing me, He referred to the tithe and in offerings.

Mal 3:8 Will a person rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' **By the tithe and the offering.**

God wants your finances to be blessed and also to be multiplied. But it is vital to understand that you will never see the multiplication of your finances until you understand these two principles.

***We give to the Lord first so that our finances are blessed***

***We give over and above our tithes because only that which is shared can be multiplied.***

## **THE LADDER OF GIVING**

Up to now, we discussed the gift of giving in Part 1 and then looked at the principles God laid down for us to give. It is clear to this point that we can unlock our gift of giving, returning the tithe back to the Lord which belongs to Him so He can bless it for us and redeemed the rest which we keep. Secondly, only the part that we then give away, God can multiply. So we have tithe and giving.

### ***Painful Giving***

But there is also a third level of giving called a “***painful offering***”. One might think this extravagant giving is just a ploy to try and force you to even give even more.

But let's look at scripture: King David gave an extravagant offering during the time he desired to build the temple. Even knowing that God told him that Solomon will build it, David still gave extravagantly. David gave the equivalent of \$36 billion in gold and \$14 billion in silver. He made one last offering before handing it over to Solomon – 110 tons of gold and 260 tons of silver (**1 Chronicles 29:3-5**). After that



all the leaders of the tribes caught the spirit of giving and began to donate large sums of money. One day they gave 190 tons of gold, 375 tons of silver – combined this has a value of \$17 billion.

1Ch 29:10 Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel our father, for ever and ever. 11 Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

David gave God the credit for being the source of all his riches

1Ch 29:16 O LORD our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own. 17 I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee.

King Solomon sacrificed 1 000 burnt offerings and that night at Gibeon - God appeared to him and asked him to ask whatever he wanted - **1 Kings 3:4-5**. It was no coincidence that God appeared to him the very night he offered this huge sacrifice and God said: “***Ask me anything!***”

When Abraham was ready to sacrifice his son - Isaac - the Bible says that God swore upon himself an oath to confirm to Abraham the promises he had given him earlier - **Gen 22:16-18**.

***There is power in sacrificing to God –extravagant giving – a painful giving!***

A sacrificial seed will cost you - see Mark 12:41-44 (Widow) and 1Chronicles 21:23 (David). When Abraham was ready to sacrifice his son - Isaac - the Bible says that God swore upon himself an oath to confirm to Abraham the promises he had given him earlier - **Gen 22:16-18**



People in the Bible that sowed a seed of faith:

- Hannah - promised to give God a son if only God would let her conceive this son - 1 Sam 1:11
- Widow of Zarephath - gave the last plate of food to save her and her son from starvation and she miraculously survived the terrible famine
- King David gave an offering on the threshing of Ornan and stopped the plague killing people in the land and the list goes on

When Jesus multiplied bread and fish to feed thousands of people - he asked first what was available! With what was available - He performs this multiplication miracle!

**YOU CAN USE WHAT YOU HAVE TO GET WHAT YOU DON'T HAVE - WHEN YOU ARE STUCK IN A CRISIS TAKE AN INVENTORY OF WHAT YOU HAVE - IT CAN BAIL YOU OUT IF YOU SOW IT IN A FAITH**

You might think but those people were royal, but look at his extravagant giving of a widow in Luk 21.

Luk 21:2 Then he saw a destitute widow drop in two small copper coins.

It took much more faith in her because it was all she had and that was according to Jesus a painful give.

Luk 21:4 because all the others contributed to the offering out of their surplus, but she, in her poverty, dropped in everything she had to live on."

***It is not the amount you give – but it is the heart!***

Not far from the hill where Abraham offered his only and first son, Isaac, God Almighty offered His only and first Son as a sacrifice for our freedom and lives. Isn't that a painful, extravagant gift?



God is generous, and He wants to do a work in our hearts that makes us more like Him. Do you remember that Jesus raised Martha and Mary's brother from the dead – his name was Lazarus (John 11). Only one chapter later, John 12, Mary pour out very expensive perfume on his feet and hair.

Joh 12:1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived in Bethany, **where Lazarus lived, the man whom Jesus had raised from the dead.**

Joh 12:3 **Mary** took a pound of **very expensive perfume made of pure nard and anointed Jesus' feet. She wiped his feet with her hair**, and the house became filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

Isn't it possible that Mary, when Jesus raised her brother from the dead, gave her a new perspective? I wonder if somebody today would raise your spouse or child from the dead (after being dead for four days), wouldn't change your values and priorities? Maybe material possessions didn't seem so precious anymore. Getting a glimpse of what Jesus can do for the people we love has a way of doing that for us. Perhaps our perspective needs to change as well. After all, if you know Jesus, you've been raised from the dead yourself!

***Shouldn't we have the same perspective Mary had?***

Eph 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love for us 5 even when we **were dead because of our offenses, made us alive together with the Messiah** (by grace you have been saved), 6 **raised us up with him**, and **seated** us with him in the **heavenly realm in the Messiah Jesus ISV**

***Anoint My Body***

But when Mary anointed Jesus' feet and hair with this very expensive perfume, Judas complained saying why not sell it and give the money to the poor?





Joh 12:4 Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, which should betray him, 5 Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? KJV

But Jesus said: "She hath done what she could: **she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying**" (Mar 14:8).

Isn't this profound – there was no time to anoint Jesus' body with perfumed oils or spices as they normally would in those days. That was the reason why the woman went to His grave that third day and saw the angels who told them that Jesus had risen (Luk 24:1-5).

Now, think about it; the only person on earth who received the privilege of anointing Jesus' body for burial was Mary. She didn't know that was what she was doing until Jesus said, "she has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial" (Mark 14:8). Sometimes we do not have any idea how significant our extravagant gift really is. But God knows and He has a purpose for every gift.

When Jesus heard what Judas had said to Mary, Jesus said: "Why trouble you this woman?"

Mat 26:10 When Jesus understood *it*, he said unto them, **Why trouble ye the woman?** for she hath wrought a good work upon me. 11 For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always. 12 For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did *it* for my burial. 13 Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, *there* shall also this, **that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.**

Jesus went on and said: "this will make Mary famous one day – they will be talking of this for years". Mary did not even realise what she was doing - she was only giving and expressing her love for Him and did not do anything to expect any return. Generosity doesn't give to receive, but generosity is always rewarded by God. If you give, god is going to bless you. No power on earth can stop it. Like any good parent, God desires to reward His children.



### The Gift of Cornelius

I want to share a profound truth regarding giving with you - a revelation from Heaven that God Almighty revealed to me in the spirit. It is the story in Acts, the 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter where a centurion Captain of the Italian Regiment was living at Caesarea (**Acts 10:1**). Remember, a centurion wasn't a Jew, and the gospel hasn't spread to the gentiles yet. So, Cornelius and his family were hungry for the Word of God. He was a devout man and he gave much to the poor ("A *devout man who venerated God and treated Him with reverential obedience, as did all his household; and he gave much alms to the people and prayed continually to God*" **Acts 10:2**).

Cornelius saw a clear vision that day at 3 pm.

Act 10:3 About the ninth hour (about 3:00 p.m.) of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God entering and saying to him, Cornelius! AMPC

The next day, at noon, Peter who was at that time staying in Joppa at the house of Simon Peter a tanner, went up to the roof and fell into a trance while waiting for his lunch to be prepared.

Act 10:10 He became very hungry and wanted to eat, and while the food was being prepared, he fell into a trance 11 and saw heaven open and something like a large linen sheet coming down, being lowered by its four corners to the ground. 12 In it were all kinds of **four-footed animals, reptiles, and birds of the air.** 13 Then a voice told him, "**Get up, Peter! Kill something and eat it.**" Act 10:14 But Peter said, "**Absolutely not, Lord, for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean!**" 15 Again the voice came to him a second time, "You must stop calling unclean what God has made clean." 16 This happened three times. Then the sheet was quickly taken back into heaven. ISV

Peter, the very religion Apostle of Jesus, saw unclean animals and God told him in his trance to kill the unclean animals and to eat it. Jewish tradition forbade to eat unclean animals and Peter rebelled and said: "Absolutely not, Lord – I have never



eaten anything that is unclean". This happened three times with Peter and then the sheet quickly moved back into heaven.

Peter was still thinking about this vision the Lord gave to him when the Spirit suddenly told Peter that there are three men looking for him.

Act 10:19 Peter was still thinking about the vision when the Spirit told him, "Look! Three men are looking for you.

Now, the previous day, during the vision God gave Cornelius, the centurion Captain, an angel of God said to Cornelius to send men to Joppa and call for Peter who is staying with Simon the leatherworker (tanner).

Act 10:5 Send men now to Joppa and summon Simon, who is called Peter. 6 He is a guest of Simon, a leatherworker, whose house is by the sea." KJV

When these men arrived, the Holy Spirit told Peter that these men are looking for him. The Holy Spirit said to Peter: "Get up, go downstairs and do not hesitate to go with.

Act 10:20 Get up, go downstairs, and don't hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them."

So Peter went down and met these people who were looking for him. They told him about the vision of Cornelius a centurion, who respected the Jewish nation invited him to come and preach the good news of the Gospel. The next day Peter arrived at Caesarea and met with Cornelius who was expecting him.

Act 10:21 So Peter went to the men and said, "I'm the man you're looking for. Why are you here?" 22 The men replied, "Cornelius, a centurion and an upright and God-fearing man who is respected by the whole Jewish nation, was instructed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his home to hear what you have to say." 23 So Peter welcomed them as his guests. The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa went along with him. 24 The next day they arrived in



Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called his relatives and close friends together.

Notwithstanding the fact the Jewish people did not eat unclean food, they also were not allowed to enter the house of a gentile. By doing so they became unclean. But the Holy Spirit came to Peter and told him what God declares clean is not unclean anymore! (Act 10:15 Again the voice came to him a second time, "You must stop calling unclean what God has made clean."). That prepared and opened up the way for Peter, a Jew, to bring the Gospel to Cornelius, a gentile. Isn't this good news – because of this act, you and me (gentiles) received the Gospel and made it into eternal life.

### ***Do you know the real reason for this to happen?***

Let read and look carefully at verse 4 in the AMPC version. When Cornelius responded to the Lord, the angel said: "Your prayers and your **GENEROUS GIFTS** to the poor have come up **AS A SACRIFICE** to God and have been **remembered** by Him

Act 10:4 And he, gazing intently at him, became frightened and said, What is it, Lord? And the angel said to him, ***Your prayers and your [generous] gifts to the poor have come up [as a sacrifice] to God and have been remembered by Him.*** AMPC

Man, this is profound. Cornelius act of giving and sacrifices before the Lord came up as a fragrant – a good smell before the Lord – and God said: "Cornelius, I saw the precious gifts you gave, I saw your heart is pure, I saw you longing for Me, now because of your act, I, the Lord, is now opening the door to bring the Kingdom of God to you and your family and to all of the "gentiles".

But, let's go one step further – in TLV (Tree of Live) version we find the word "tzedakah", which even bring more and deeper understanding of what Cornelius was done. Remember, Cornelius was not a Jew, henceforth he was not bound by Jewish law and traditions. He was a centurion, a Roman Captain.



(TLV) He stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" The angel said to him, "Your prayers and **tzedakah** have gone up as a memorial offering before God.

Let's look at the meaning of the word: Tzedakah

**Tzedakah is an obligation** - though it is a **different concept from charity** because **charity is typically understood as a spontaneous act of goodwill and a marker of generosity**.

**Tzedakah** is based on the Hebrew word (צדק, *Tzedek*) meaning *righteousness, fairness or justice*, and it is related to the Hebrew word Tzadik meaning *righteous* as an adjective

In Judaism, *tzedakah* refers to the **religious obligation** to do what is right and just, which Judaism emphasises are important parts of living a spiritual life. Maimonides says that, while the second highest form of *tzedakah* is to give **donations anonymously to unknown recipients**, the **highest form is to give a gift, loan, or partnership** that will result in the **recipient supporting himself instead of living upon others**.

Unlike philanthropy or **charity**, which is completely **voluntary**, **tzedakah is seen as a religious obligation, which must be performed regardless of financial standing**, and must even be performed by poor people.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tzedakah>

### **Could it be that Cornelius was "tithing"?**

Most probably – as we can see that the word "tzedakah" is an obligation (*in contrast with a charity which was totally a voluntary gift*), which must be performed regardless of financial standing and must even be performed by poor people!

Peter was still busy preaching, the Holy Spirit fell on all of them who were listening and Peter was amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on GENTILES even before they were even baptized with water. They all started to speak in tongues.



Act 10:44 While Peter was still making this statement, the Holy Spirit fell on all the people who were listening to his message. 45 Then the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the gentiles, too. 46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, 47 "No one can stop us from using water to baptize these people who have received the Holy Spirit in the same way that we did, can they?"

No doubt – Cornelius, a non-Jew, with a loving heart for God, understanding the deep principles of giving (*"probably having the gift of giving"*) – not voluntary gives but an obligation to bring what belongs to God as an offering (**"tzedakah" of Cornelius, a gentile**) - **opens up** the door for me and you (**as gentiles**) to come into the Kingdom of God!

Amazing – Profound – Hallelujah!

### **Praise God**

*If the Holy Spirit did not bring you with this revelation to the importance of giving and tithing as an obligation you need to bow before God to receive a heart transplant.*

### **God desire is to bless us**

- Isaac was so prosperous that a king asked him to leave the land because it couldn't sustain his wealth

Gen 26:16 And Abimelech said unto Isaac, Go from us; for thou art much mightier than we.

- Jacob was even more prosperous than Abraham or Isaac

Gen 30:43 And the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses.

- God made David, who was just looking after his father's sheep - King



1Sa 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

- And David became so wealthy that he gave \$6 billion offering in on day toward the building of the Temple - 1Ch 29:2-5
- And Solomon became even more prosperous than David

1Ki 1:37 As the LORD hath been with my lord the king, even so, be he with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord king David.

- Gifts also have an effect in the spiritual realm
- When you give - it opens up doors for you

***IT CAN CREATE OPPORTUNITIES AND BRING YOU BEFORE POWERFUL PEOPLE***

**QUEEN OF SHEBA**

Queen of Sheba from Ethiopia went to see King Solomon. She went with spices, precious stones, and very much gold.

1Ki 10:2 And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart.

She wants to see for herself the wisdom and prosperity of king Solomon

1Ki 10:6 And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. 7 Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard.



Trying today to meet with any country's president would be impossible. BUT - a gift such as the queen of Sheba opens the door to let her right in front of the row (120 Talents of Gold is 145 000 ounces of gold @ \$1730 (price of gold) = \$250 million just in gold)

1Ki 10:10 And she gave the king an hundred and twenty talents of gold, and of spices very great store, and precious stones: there came no more such abundance of spices as these which the queen of Sheba gave to king Solomon.

Getting in at king Solomon - not only did she spend time but she also ate with him and saw all the different aspects of his kingdom! This gift just opens a door and made room for her and brought her before the greatest man of her day. That's the positive power of a gift!

King Solomon gave back to the queen all her desires and he gave to her a royal bounty!

1Ki 10:13 And king Solomon gave unto the queen of Sheba all her desire, whatsoever she asked, beside that which Solomon gave her of his royal bounty. So she turned and went to her own country, she and her servants.

- She probably received more back from the king than what she brought with her.
- She was not giving that amount of gold to King Solomon to help him
- BUT to help herself!
- She used it to gain entry and to partake of Solomon's wisdom, favor, and anointing -
- She end up leaving Jerusalem with all of the bounties Solomon gave her
- On her return - she still had tremendous wealth - and she had wisdom and anointing she could use to build her entire nation!



## THE HEART OF MARY AND JUDAS

Interesting that when Judas complained why not selling that expensive perfume and give the money to the poor, the next verse immediately followed explaining that Judas did not care for the poor, but he was a thief and that he carried the bag (he was carrying the tithe of Jesus)

Joh 12:5 Why was not this ointment sold for *three hundred pence*, 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 bag, and bare what was put therein. KJV

What an amazing story and contrast of two hearts;

- The heart of Maria – a heart of generosity and
- The heart of Judas – a heart of selfishness.

All displayed for us in one incident. Three hundred pence was a year's wages. Imagine spending a year's income on perfumed oil and then pouring it onto someone's feet and hair. As we read previously, Mary did it because in the previous chapter Jesus raised her brother, Lazarus, from the dead and that incident changed her attitude for the rest of her life. But why did it bother Judas so much?

There is a breathtaking selfishness at work in Judas's heart, and it is manifested in his comments about Mary's offering. Jesus said that he did not care for the poor, but he asks such a question because he was a thief (this is one of his disciples).

Joh 12:6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

Judas was pretended to be thinking about others while he was really thinking of no one but himself. This is a tactic that many others down through history have imitated. It is the oldest cover-up for selfishness known to man. That's why it all sounds very familiar. The sadness is that we also do this today:



- "How could anyone in good conscience drive a car that expensive"?
- "She could have helped a lot of people for what she spent on that coat"
- "I could sure do a lot of good with the money they spent on that ....."

All these remarks are selfishness and jealousy dressed up as religious superiority – and it's ugly. This is what Judas did that day – he saw a year's wages being "**wasted**" instead of passing through his money box so that he could pilfer a good chunk of it. That's basically how Judas viewed a grateful woman's beautiful act of sacrificial worship – a waste. At this stage, Judas might've already worked in the background with the religious officials who wanted Jesus dead. It's possible that Judas knew Jesus would be killed soon. If so, Judas would have assumed that all the money in the box would ultimately be his to keep.

The bag that verse 6 refers to, was the money box which is similar to our offering box of today. This bag held the offerings people gave to support Jesus' ministry. In turn, Jesus would use the money to bless other people and Judas was stealing from it. Of course, we think that is outrageous. We can't imagine anyone having the nerve to steal from Jesus. But think about this: "**Yet you are robbing me! But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' By the tithe and the offering**" (Malachi 3:8) – **Jesus said.**

***Is it possible that just as Judas robbed the Lord by taking out of the offering box, we have been guilty of robbing Him by failing to put into the offering box what is rightfully His in the first place?***

*I know these words are hard, but this is not to condemn you, but to bring the truth to set us free. It is no coincidence that you are reading this. Jesus wants to bless you far more than you can imagine, dream of, hope for, pray for or have a desire for – you only need to mix your faith with His promises, obey His Word and walk out in freedom – Amen!*



Judas was, in essence, hanging out with Jesus based on the “**what’s in it for me**” principle. And as soon as it became clear to Judas that Jesus wasn’t going to come through in the way he had hoped, he betrayed Him. Of course, this is not too different from what many people do today. They follow God out of the “**what’s in it for me**” principle instead of being focused on what they can do for Him. And as soon as He “disappoints” them – when He doesn’t come through for them in the way they want – they get upset and quit coming to church.

Selfishness, by its very nature, cares about nothing and no one but self. A selfish person will sell out his or her friends if it will help the person get what he or she wants. And a selfish person will always find good reasons not to be generous. That’s exactly what Judas did – “*you can’t blow that expensive perfume on Jesus – we can turn it into cash and give the money to the poor*”.

Selfishness tries to get the focus of the selfish one and onto the “**extravagance**” of others. Selfishness drives by nice houses and criticizes other people’s blessings. Selfishness always looks after self by pointing at someone else.

### **Your Weaknesses**

Do you think that Jesus knew all of this – that Judas was taking money from Him? Of course, He did. So why did Jesus give Judas the responsibility of carrying the bag, knowing that Judas is a thief and stealing from Him?

### **We as believers will always be tempted in the area of our weakness.**

*Just as Judas – the person with the weakness for money and prestige – was giving responsibility for the money bag, God will give you responsibility in the area of your weakness. Why?*

God is setting you up for succeeding. The only way we can truly succeed is by confronting our weaknesses and overcoming them. When God gives you some



small responsibility in the area of your weakness, He is taking you through a growth process necessary for your success.

1Co 10:13 No **temptation has overtaken** you that is unusual for human beings. But **God is faithful**, and he will not allow you to be tempted beyond your strength. Instead, along with the temptation **he will also provide a way out**, so that you may be able to endure it.

We all have the ability to resist whatever temptation is coming our way. God wants to help us turn our area of greatest potential for defeat into our area of greatest victory. Thus, Jesus gives a thief responsibility for the money and, in doing so, gives him the opportunity to overcome his selfishness and greed. But Judas didn’t do it.

God is using the unrighteous mammon to teach us righteousness!

Money is, therefore, a much bigger test than you think. In fact, you are being tested by money right now. The extent of the responsibility you will have in the kingdom is directly proportional to how you handle money.

In red – in Jesus own words:

Luk 16:11 So if you haven't been **faithful with unrighteous wealth**, who will trust you with true wealth? 12 And if you haven't been faithful with what belongs to foreigners, who will give you what is your own?

The prize for passing the test is true riches. As we said, true riches are people – it is the words of knowledge, gifts of healing, faith and miracles that minister to people. True riches are being able to help others who have spent their entire lives in bondage to depression or oppression experience freedom for the first time. True riches are souls!

### **That is why the spiritual act of giving is so important.**





When you give – people get saved. God is taking what was unrighteous mammon and redeeming it when you give the first to him. As you give offerings, he's turning it into true riches – people.

**There is a battle going on inside each of us – a battle between selfishness and generosity.**

Who is winning?

Acknowledge – Robert Morris

## DEMONIC FORCES

We already looked at the spirit of mammon, which we define as;

- money, wealth, or possessions; also means "**that in which one trusts**".
- god of riches; hence riches, wealth;
- greed as an evil master that **enslaves**
- mammon as greed
- riches are called by the name of a devil
- **mammon is the name of a devil**,
- mammon is the name of a **demon**
- an idol worshiped as the god of riches,
- where mammon oversees a cave of worldly wealth.
- fallen angel who values earthly treasure over all other things.
- the materialist spirit of the 19th century.

Carefully reading through the above-mentioned list, mammon is a demonic force, ruled by satan to enslave the believer. Studying the kings in the Old Testament give is a deep revelation of how these demonic forces are working. Nebuchadnezzar took the children of Israel into captivity! **He was the one who enslaved them** – isn't this a coincidence? No, it is not! He also **took the gold and silver** and brought it into the house of his gods and he took captive the next generation (not only the children of Israel), but he took *good looking, intelligent men and he trained them*. That is how



Daniel and his friends landed under Nebuchadnezzar's control (**see the complete series of Beware of Chaldeans**).

**So, Nebuchadnezzar stole the tithe!**

You have to listen very carefully – Satan is misleading you – he is darkened your understanding through your ignorance.

Eph 4:18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

Satan still wants the "**tithe**" and the next "**generation**" – training them to speak the tongues of the Chaldeans. **He is influencing God's people in every way he can for you not to pay what belongs to God and not to study the Word of God.** Just look at the profound word of Colossians in the GNB (Good News Bible) –

**"You are enslaved yourself when you listening to worthless deceit of human wisdom and teachings by human beings and from ruling spirits"**

Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. KJV

(GNB) See to it, then, that no one **enslaves you by means of the worthless deceit of human wisdom**, which comes from the **teachings handed down by human beings and from the ruling spirits** of the universe, and **not from Christ**.

The enemy put you in bondage by imputing things in your mind, your body and what belong to God!

1Jn 2:16 For all that *is* in the **world**, the **lust of the flesh**, and the **lust of the eyes**, and the **pride of life**, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Lust of the flesh: - "What you put into your body and what you do with your body"



Lust of the eyes: - “What you put in your mind - try to make you smart”. Pride of life: “Any person that does not tithe is arrogant and has pride in him” You believe you can make it on your own. You have to be arrogant to steal from God.

**When we do not tithe - we are opening a door for demons to enter!**

Remember - satan is a thief and you allow satan to be a thief when you are not tithing. He will try to influence you to steal - steal from God - what belongs to God! This is not to condemn anyone but this is a serious open door to demons!

**GUARANTEED RESULTS**

*A Word from Robert Morris*

***“I can tell you without hesitation that if you will apply these principles, you will get remarkable, positive financial results – guaranteed!”***

“The reason I can say that is because God is faithful. His past performance is an indicator of future results. As we’ve seen repeatedly, whenever God’s people are obedient and faithful, God blesses. I want to remind you of the central truth of this book. Giving is important because it does a supernatural work in our hearts, and that’s what God is after – our hearts. God is not after our money – He doesn’t need it. But our treasure is tied to our hearts. Thus, God goes through our treasure to get to our hearts. That’s why I can promise you “guaranteed financial results”. When you give with a heart transformed by God, the results are guaranteed. God will back up His word. “God is not a man, that He could lie – Numbers 23:19. He simply cannot do so without violating His very nature, which holds the universe together. (Heb 1:3b and upholding all things by the word of his power KJV). When God makes a promise, He will fulfill His promise as we fulfill the conditions of that promise. We were all born takers; we are born-again givers. Now it’s our responsibility to renew our minds. God wants us to be generous, gracious, kindhearted and compassionate. When God does that work in our hearts – when we begin to give simply because we want to – then we actually will be rewarded so that we can give even more to the kingdom of God.

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*“I am the Bright Morning Star -  
Surely I come quickly”  
Rev 22:16, 20*