

# The Gift of Giving

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# FOREWORD

“**The Firstborn is Mine**” says the Father (Exodus 13:2). It all belongs to Me. This law implies that the firstborn was to be either **sacrificed** or **redeemed!** There was no alternative. Every time a livestock animal delivered its firstborn, it had to be sacrificed, or if it was designated unclean, it had to be redeemed with a clean, spotless lamb (Exodus 13:12). Therefore, the **clean firstborn had to be sacrificed** and the **unclean firstborn had to be redeemed!**

**Yahshua 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. According to God's law, the firstborn (if it was clean) must be sacrificed. God laid everything down perfectly – and even He, YEHOVAH, did not, and could not violate His own laws. **Henceforth, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of God the Father, was born pure, a spotless Lamb and unclean, and had to be sacrificed to redeem us.** When Yahshua redeemed us by His sacrifice, He bought us back for the Father. He was literally the firstfruits offering. In a very real sense, **Yahshua (the firstborn) was YEHOVAH's (the Father's) tithe.** YEHOVAH gave His **tithe (Yahshua)** in faith before we ever believed. God gave Jesus to us before we believed. **While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).** 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!

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The Father accepted this firstfruits offering of the Son and declared that “I AM” now the **way**, the **truth** and the **life** and that no one can come unto the Father but by me (John 14:6). I am the door (John 10:9), if you accept my precious gift, and open the door, I will come in and eat (Revelation 3:20) with you and I will abide in you and you in ME forever (John 15:4). This law is a universal act of a pure heart of love. **We were all born takers**, therefore a heart transplantation is necessary to have the same attitude of Elohim, to share and to give unconditionally as He did. **We are born-again givers.**

**You might be very surprised to find out what God’s ways are to change our hearts to be able to do so!**

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## THE GIFT OF GIVING

I am convinced that the devil does not want you to read this book. We are in a spiritual war, day and night – whether you are aware of it or not – regardless of your feelings about it – we are constantly under attack. Being ignorant of this fact and a lack of knowledge just keeps us in bondage. But today I have good news for you. God has an appointment with you and He wants you to be free, full of joy, peace, comfort, love and prosperity. It is the truth that will set you free. You only have to acknowledge it, believe it and start to implement it in your life. We must become doers of the word of God and not only hearers (*“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves” James 1:22 KJV*). We need to meditate on God’s word day and night – but we shouldn’t stop there – we need to observe, to obey and TO DO what He says in His word (*“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success” Joshua 1:8 KJV*). When we start to do this, we will become prosperous and have success. It is true that we as New Testament believers are living under the law of grace, but it is not grace alone that will bring breakthrough in our lives. We are saved by grace through faith (*“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” Ephesians 2:8 KJV*). If an unbeliever does not acknowledge and believe through faith and by grace the price He paid on the cross for us, he or she cannot be saved. The rest of the Christian life works in the same way – everything has already been

done for us by grace. Now it is our turn to respond to it and to put faith into action to see results. Please have a teachable heart on this subject - these truths are profound and it will change your life forever – if you open your heart to the Holy Spirit to do His work.

**I pray now that the Holy Spirit will give you deep revelation so that you can glorify the name of our Lord, Christ Jesus.**

## **PART 1 MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The first part of this book explores motivational gifts. The gift of giving is one of the seven motivational gifts we find in Romans 12. The gift of giving has to do with the condition of our heart. This is of vital importance and God wants to teach us. He uses giving to transform our hearts from being selfish, into generous hearts. Open your mind for a moment and forget everything that you have learned about finances. Forget what you have learnt about what and when to give, and let the Holy Spirit guide you. Let Him show you God's ways of using His motivational gifts to change the attitude of our hearts. The end result will be to become like Him - He has shared everything He created with us and we too have to learn to give and share.

### **TRAINED IN UNBELIEF**

Unfortunately, we cannot be double-minded and mix worldly financial principles with kingdom principles. This will cause confusion and we will never discover the truth. In my Book, "**In Bondage?**" I have discussed hardness of heart and illustrated how people with a medical background have been trained in unbelief. When confronted with a certain disease, they believe it to be incurable with limited life expectancy. To them, there is no room for faith or the supernatural. Their unbelief stems from their profession and what they have seen and believe to be true. God's word is clear, without faith it is impossible to please Him.

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*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. **Hebrews 11:6 KJV***

In my own life, having a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics created the same problem as those with a medical background have. My unbelief left no room for the supernatural flow of kingdom financial principles. When the Lord tried to teach me kingdom financial principles through the Word of God, my heart was extremely hardened. It was impossible to believe that the Lord could move supernaturally to abundantly supply all my needs. This kind of **unbelief must be dealt with through prayer and fasting!** (See my Book “**In Bondage**” for a detailed discussion.) This is what the Lord teaches us in scripture when His disciples could not cast a demon from a sick boy (Matthews 17:18). Jesus clearly said: “Because of your unbelief” you could not cast the demon out and immediately in the next verse, He gave them the answer: “This kind of unbelief goes out with prayer and fasting”.

*And Jesus said unto them, **Because of your unbelief:** for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a **grain of mustard seed**, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. **21** Howbeit **this kind** goeth not out but by prayer and fasting. **Matthew 17:20-21 KJV***

This is profound – Jesus says we should go back to the Word and study it until our unbelief has been replaced by the Word of God (“*For with God nothing shall be impossible*” **Luke 1:37 KJV**). It is with prayer and

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fasting that we exercise our senses to restore our faith to a place where anything is possible for GOD.

*For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. **14** But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. **Hebrews 5:13-14 KJV***

Most Christians want more faith, but according to Jesus we don't need more faith, we need to rather get rid of our unbelief. Faith as a grain of mustard seed is enough. When we do have faith like a mustard seed, but mix it with unbelief, our act of faith is cancelled out. This is exactly what the boy's father asked Jesus, “**I believe, but help me with my unbelief**”.

*And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. **Mark 9:24 KJV***

Take a moment and meditate on these profound words of truth. We need to get our unbelief (which is in our minds) out of the way and consider that there is a supernatural realm that we as believers have access to. We are trained by a worldly system and do not consider anything else. What you do not consider, your heart will automatically be hardened and become insensitive to.

***For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened. Mark 6:52 KJV***

The disciples were **more sensitive to the natural realm** which is easy to believe. When it came to the **supernatural**, they were **so insensitive** that they **could not believe**. The reason for their unbelief was a hardened heart.

What about you? Most of us do believe God that can do anything, but it is our unbelief that stands in the way of receiving the abundant life that God desires for us. Therefore, we need to exercise our senses as Paul instructs us:

*But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

**Hebrews 5:14 KJV**

Beware, your unbelief will cause you to sink:

*But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and **beginning to sink**, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.*

**Matthews 14:30 KJV**

Your five senses (*what you can see, hear, taste, smell and feel*), must submit to your spirit. If not, your carnal mind will always contradict your faith - what your spirit knows and believes (because of the Word of God).

**Whatever we consider, study, focus or meditate on will influence you.**

This is exactly what happened to me, having a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics, I was influenced by the world view on how the financial

markets function. When your heart is “tied” to things, you become sensitive to it. An example is when people’s hearts are tied to a sport, they will be able to tell you everything about it, the players and every little detail of the game. But they can’t remember a single scripture or recall what they just read in the Bible. **Why?** Because their hearts were not tied to it. Let’s look again at the words in Mark 6:52; “**For they considered not the miracle**”. If you do not consider the supernatural and become sensitive to it, you cannot access it.

Our hearts stand in the way of receiving revelations and restricts the fullness of Biblical truth. In my own search over many years I have put together all the bits and pieces that God has showed me. Looking back, God has been dealing with the condition of my heart for many years. After my heart changed, my mind opened to receive revelations from my spirit. This was during a time that God taught me how to deal with sickness. After that I asked the Lord if He could teach me Biblical truths about Kingdom Finance and to overcome in this area of my life. His answer came immediately: “**It works the same as sickness**”. As I overcame sickness and disease in my own life, and helped other people to get healed, I asked God to help me deal with the “**mammon spirit**”.

God’s word is alive and after you’ve finished a teaching on a topic, a new revelation is revealed giving you deeper understanding. The Holy Spirit revealed the truth to me and I want to share this with the reader. Hopefully, this will also bring light to you to grasp these truths and apply it in your own life to experience the marvellous freedom, joy, and peace that comes with it.

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I pray that as you are reading this book that God Almighty will reveal these truths and bring you out of any bondage and captivity in Jesus Name.

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## SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The Bible teaches us that God is giving His Body different spiritual gifts to edify His church (*the Body of Christ*). This information is not given to open a debate or to bring division but only to explore what the Bible says about spiritual gifts.

### WHAT ARE THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

In 1 Corinthians 12, we learn that spiritual gifts are given to God's people by the Holy Spirit for "the common good." Verse 11 says the gifts are given according to God's sovereign will ("as He determines"). Ephesians 4:12 tells us these gifts are given to prepare God's people for service and for building up the body of Christ. The term "spiritual gifts" comes from the Greek words *charismata* (gifts) and *pneumatika* (spirits). They are the plural forms of *charisma*, meaning "expression of grace," and *pneumatikon* meaning "expression of Spirit." While there are different kinds of gifts (*1 Corinthians 12:4*), generally speaking, spiritual gifts are God-given graces (special abilities, offices, or manifestations) meant for works of service, to benefit and build up the body of Christ as a whole.

### SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE BIBLE

The spiritual gifts can be found in the following passages of Scripture:

- Romans 12:6-8
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28-31
- Ephesians 4:7-13
- 1 Peter 4:10



Although a great deal of disagreement exists between denominations, most Bible scholars classify the spiritual gifts into three categories:

- Ministry gifts
- Manifestation gifts
- Motivational gifts

### MINISTRY GIFTS

The ministry gifts serve to reveal the plan of God.

They are characteristic of a full-time office or calling, rather than a gift that can function in and through any believer. The ministry gifts were once presented to me through a five finger illustration that I've never forgotten:

- **Apostle** - An apostle establishes and builds churches; he's a church planter. An apostle may function in many or all of the ministry gifts. He is the "**thumb**," the strongest of all of the fingers, able to touch every finger.
- **Prophet** - Prophet in the Greek means to "forth tell" in the sense of speaking for another. A prophet functions as God's mouth piece, speaking forth God's Word. The prophet is the "**index finger**," or pointer finger. He points to the future and points out sin.
- **Evangelist** - An evangelist is called to be a witness for Jesus Christ. He works for the local church to bring people into the body of Christ where they can be disciplined. He may evangelize through music, drama, preaching, and other creative ways. He is the "**middle finger**," the tallest one who stands out in the

crowd. Evangelists draw a lot of attention, but they are called to serve the local body.

- **Pastor** - The pastor is the shepherd of the people. A true shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The pastor is the "**ring finger**." He is married to the church; called to stay, oversee, nurture and guide.
- **Teacher** - The teacher and the pastor are often a shared office, but not always. The teacher lays the foundation and is concerned with detail and accuracy. He delights in research to validate truth. The teacher is the "**pinkie finger**." Though seemingly small and insignificant, he is designed specifically for digging into tight, dark places, shining a light and picking apart the Word of truth.

### MANIFESTATION GIFTS

The manifestation gifts serve to reveal the power of God. These gifts are supernatural or spiritual in nature. They can be further subdivided into three groups: utterance, power, and revelation.

- **Utterance** - These gifts **say** something
- **Power** - These gifts **do** something
- **Revelation** - These gifts **reveal** something

### UTTERANCE GIFTS

- **PROPHECY** - This is the "forth telling" of the inspired Word of God primarily to the church, for the purpose of confirming the written Word and building up the entire body. The message is usually one of edification, exhortation or consolation, although it can declare God's will in a particular circumstance, and in rare cases, predict future events.
- **SPEAKING IN TONGUES** - This is a supernatural utterance in an unlearned language which is interpreted so that the entire body will be edified. Tongues may also be a sign to unbelievers.
- **INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES** - This is a supernatural interpretation of a message in tongues, translated into the known language so that the hearers (the entire body) will be edified.

#### POWER GIFTS

- **FAITH** - This is not the faith that is measured to every believer, nor is it "saving faith." This is special, supernatural faith given by the Spirit to receive miracles or to believe God for miracles.
- **HEALING** - This is supernatural healing, beyond natural means, given by the Spirit.
- **MIRACLES** - This is the supernatural suspension of the natural laws or an intervention by the Holy Spirit into the laws of nature.

#### REVELATION GIFTS

- **WORD OF WISDOM** - This is supernatural knowledge applied in a godly or correct way. One commentary describes it as "insight into doctrinal truth."

- **WORD OF KNOWLEDGE** - This is supernatural knowledge of facts and information that can only be revealed by God for the purpose of applying doctrinal truth.
- **DISCERNING OF SPIRITS** - This is the supernatural ability to distinguish between spirits such as good and evil, truthful or deceiving, prophetic versus satanic.

#### MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS

Most believers are well aware of these spiritual gifts, even if only to a certain degree, but few are aware of the motivational gifts mentioned in Romans 12.

*Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether **prophecy**, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 7 Or **ministry**, let us wait on our ministering; or he that **teacheth**, on teaching; 8 Or he that **exhorteth**, on exhortation: he that **giveth**, let him do it with simplicity; he that **ruleth**, with diligence; he that **sheweth mercy**, with cheerfulness. **Romans 12:6-8 KJV***

I like the way The Living Bible translates this:

*God has given each of us **the ability to do certain things** well. So if God has given you the **ability to prophesy**, then prophesy whenever you can—as often as your faith is strong enough to receive a message from God. <sup>7</sup> If your **gift** is that of **servicing others**, serve them well. If you are a **teacher**, do a good job of teaching. <sup>8</sup> If you are a **preacher**, see to it that your sermons are strong and helpful. **If God has given you money, be generous in***

**helping others with it.** If God has given you **administrative** ability and put you in charge of the work of others, take the responsibility seriously. Those who offer comfort to the sorrowing should do so with Christian cheer.

**Romans 12:6-8 TLB**

Here's an interesting way to picture these gifts. Christians with the motivational gift of:

- **Prophecy** is the **eyes** of the body of Christ.
- **Service** is the **hands** of the body of Christ.
- **Teaching** is the **mind** of the body of Christ.
- **Giving** are the **arms** of the body of Christ.
- **Exhortation** is the **mouth** of the body of Christ.
- **Administration** is the **head** of the body of Christ.
- **Mercy** is the **heart** of the body of Christ.

## WHAT IS YOUR MOTIVATIONAL GIFT?

The motivational gifts serve to reveal the personality of God. The verses followed the above-mentioned is an explanation of each gift.

*Don't just pretend that you love others: really love them. Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good.* <sup>10</sup> Love each other with brotherly affection and take delight in honoring each other. <sup>11</sup> Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically. <sup>12</sup> Be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble, and prayerful always. <sup>13</sup> When God's children are in need, you are the one to help them out. And get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or, if they need lodging, for the

night. <sup>14</sup> If someone mistreats you because you are a Christian, don't curse him; pray that God will bless him. <sup>15</sup> When others are happy, be happy with them. If they are sad, share their sorrow. <sup>16</sup> Work happily together. Don't try to act big. Don't try to get into the good graces of important people, but enjoy the company of ordinary folks. And don't think you know it all! **Romans 12:9-16 TLB**

## PROPHECY

Romans 12 says that the people who has the gift of prophecy should love everyone – the good and the bad.

*"Don't just pretend that you love others: really love them. Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good"*

**Romans 12:9 TLB**

Believers with the motivational gift of prophecy are the "seers" or "eyes" of the body. They have insight, foresight, and act like watch dogs in the church. They warn of sin or reveal sin. They are usually very verbal and may come across as judgmental and impersonal; they are serious, dedicated, and loyal to the truth even over friendship.

## MINISTERING / SERVING / HELPS

This is the Lord's description of someone who serves with excellence.

*Love each other with brotherly affection and take delight in honoring each other.* **Romans 12:10 TLB**

Those with the motivational gift of serving are the "hands" of the body. They are concerned with meeting needs; they are highly motivated,

doers. They may tend to over commit, but find joy in serving and meeting short-term goals.

### TEACHING

*Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically. **Romans 12:11 TLB***

Teachers tend to be very diligent, but their admonition from Scripture is to be fervent when they teach the truths that the Lord has given them from Scripture. Those with the motivational gift of teaching are the "mind" of the body. They realize their gift is foundational; they emphasize accuracy of words and love to study; they delight in research to validate truth.

### EXHORTATION / ENCOURAGEMENT

*Be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble, and prayerful always. **Romans 12:12 TLB***

People who are exhorters know how to rejoice, but they also know how to be patient with people. They are also the intercessors who always pray for people in need.

Those with the motivational gift of encouragement are the "mouth" of the body. Like cheerleaders, they encourage other believers and are motivated by a desire to see people grow and mature in the Lord. They are practical and positive and they seek positive responses.

### GIVING

*When God's children are in need, you be the one to help them out. And get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or, if they need lodging, for the night.*

### **Romans 12:13 TLB**

People who function in the gift of giving truly love to distribute to the needs of the saints. They are also very hospitable, always opening up their homes to others.

Those with the motivational gift of giving are the "arms" of the body. They truly enjoy reaching out in giving. They are excited by the prospect of blessing others; they desire to give quietly, in secret, but will also motivate others to give. They are alert to people's needs; they give cheerfully and always give the best that they can.

### ADMINISTRATION / LEADERSHIP

*If someone mistreats you because you are a Christian, don't curse him; pray that God will bless him.*

### **Romans 12:14 TLB**

This is certainly something that those in places of authority must do continually. People who lead are no strangers to having people speak against them. Instead of cursing those speaking against you, bless them in Jesus Name.

Those with the motivational gift of leadership are the "head" of the body. They have the ability to see the overall picture and set long-term goals; they are good organizers and find efficient ways of getting work done. Although they may not seek leadership, they will assume it when no

leader is available. They receive fulfilment when others come together to complete a task.

## MERCY

*When others are happy, be happy with them. If they are sad, share their sorrow. **Romans 12:15 TLB***

People with the gift of mercy naturally weep with those who weep, but sometimes need admonishing to rejoice with those who rejoice.

Those with the motivational gift of mercy are the "heart" of the body. They easily sense the joy or distress in other people and are sensitive to feelings and needs. They are attracted to and have patience with people in need, motivated by a desire to see people healed of hurts. They are truly meek in nature and avoid firmness.

## GIFTS

A mature born-again believer is supposed to operate to a certain extent in all these motivational givings. Of course, this teaching is not about all spiritual gifts or all motivational gifts, but only to focus on the “**gift of giving**”. The reason for this, I believe is that very few are even aware that “**giving**” is a gift of God. Not being aware of your God given talent only leads the Body of Christ to perish. The “**law of giving**” I believe, is the most violated law in the Body of Christ and in my opinion the main reason why the body of Christ suffers so much!

These days people are so sensitive when they hear the word “**giving**”, they think you are asking for money and freeze. But how can you talk about grace without mentioning giving? God is our example of giving –

He gave His beloved Son for us while we were still His enemies. He gave the Gift unconditionally and we need to accept it to have eternal life. I am sharing these truths with you without any thought of financial gain. GOD is my Provider and Source. God Almighty will direct sufficient funds to me - He has done so many times in the past and He will continue to supply in the future – Amen!

Often it is the people who do not give anything that are the most offended. People who have a revelation on giving will not get offended when you talk about giving, but those in bondage to mammon can never taste freedom unless they hear the truth. People with the gift of giving can sense manipulation easily and will not respond to it. People with a true gift of giving responds to the voice of God. That is the most important lesson for you to learn today.

It might be difficult for some, but I'd like to encourage you not to be hindered by your previous disappointments. Many people gave large sums of money and got discouraged, disappointed and were mistreated. Don't allow bitterness in your heart. Get such an incident behind you, forgive those responsible and focus on what the Word of God says. Let the “**gift of giving**” germinate in your heart.

People at a certain point in their lives who don't want to hear about “giving”, will often use failure or shortcomings in religious leaders to justify their point of view. Dear Reader, we are living in an evil world and are in constant spiritual battles. Do not be deceived by the god of this world. When individuals fall into a trap, such incidents should not influence our beliefs in what the Bible teaches us.

The Father gave His only beloved Son unconditionally to save the world. We need the same heart attitude to also give unconditionally. It is all about our hearts and not about what we give!

### **PARTIALITY**

Aren't we all guilty of judging a person according to their outward appearance? Sometimes we do this unknowingly, but often knowingly in our conscious mind, and treat them based on our judgement.

*But if you treat people **according to their outward appearance**, you are guilty of sin, and the Law condemns you as a lawbreaker. **James 2:9 GNB***

*But if you show **partiality**, you are committing sin and will be convicted by the Law as violators. **ISV***

Most of the time wealthy people are treated better than others. Surprisingly enough, in the Body of Christ, wealthy people are often treated worse than the rest. This treatment comes from a **spirit of envy, jealousy** or **greed**. Believers truly walking in the “**gift of giving**” and blessed by Christ, must face religious reasoning as to why a believer should not have riches.

In my personal experience, pastors (*not all, but many*) talks wealthy believers out of increase, advising them to scale down and live a life of simplicity. There is nothing wrong with living in simplicity, but when that results in drawing the wealthy down to their level, they limit what God wants to do through them. Often, they portray success as if it were a sin or something to be ashamed off. Instead of unlocking the “**gift of**

**giving**”, the church stands to lose the wealthy believers with a true gift of giving. It is all based on a false doctrine infected by the world's way of thinking. Even movies often discriminate against wealthy people, portraying the successful businessperson as the bad guy. The “evil rich person” and the “greedy corporation” have become Hollywood clichés.

The worldly view today has lead us to believe that everyone who does well in life must have lied, cheated, and backstabbed to achieve it. This lie resonates with people because it appeals to envy and jealousy in the fallen human nature. In reality, people who do well over the long term tends to be people who do things God's way – whether they know it or not! This is what God's Word says:

*The LORD makes people poor and he makes people rich, he brings them low, and he also exalts them. 8 He raises the poor up from the dust, he lifts up the needy from the trash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. Indeed the pillars of the earth belong to the LORD, and he has set the world on them. **1 Samuel 2:7 ISV***

*Lazy hands bring poverty, but hard-working hands lead to wealth. **Proverbs 10:4 ISV***

*The blessing of the LORD establishes wealth, and difficulty does not accompany it. **Proverbs 10:22 ISV***

*A generous person will prosper, and anyone who gives water will receive a flood in return. **Proverbs 11:25 ISV***

### **My Own Story**

*I can truly say that I was embarrassed at a relatively young age at how God blessed me financially. I then became involved with a ministry that constantly bombarded me about my wealth in a very subtle way. A Pastor gave me a book called "Living on the Edge". I read the book and really struggled with God about the concepts taught therein. In my spirit, I felt that this was not God's heart. I never found one single text or example in the Bible where God told His people to live on the edge. His Word is full of blessings for the righteous. It was during this time of struggle that I switched on an International Christian Television Station and a well-known minister said at that exact moment: **"It is not God's will for you to live on the edge"**. I just knew in my spirit that this was God answering me and not a coincidence. When I told the person that I didn't want to live on the edge, confirming what I believed was God speaking to me, he became very upset because in his eyes I discredited a good book.*

*Many years later I read Andrew Wommack's book called Believer's Wealth. A person with the gift of giving told him:*

**If you aren't embarrassed by your level of prosperity, then there is a good chance you aren't depending on God as your SOURCE!**

*My friend, do not believe the false doctrines, it is God's heart and desire for you to prosper.*

Yes, I agree that there are many pastors who have falsely taught a "prosperity theology", but as we progress, you will see what the difference is. In hindsight I can understand this pastor's feelings. After God showed me how to deal with sickness and diseases, I asked Him about Kingdom Finances and He showed me that it works the same. The reason why so many churches do not believe in healing anymore, is because there is no anointing of the power of the Holy Spirit. The people make each other comfortable in their discomfort in the church. Likewise, this book "Living on the Edge" served to make the pastor comfortable in his own financial discomfort. This was the reason for his defensive response.

***Please read further to discover many hidden truths to live a blessed life!***

According to these scriptures, **wealth** is a blessing from God and a product of things such as **diligence** and **generosity**. So, why would we put down someone whom God has blessed? Why would we consider something that came from the hand of God to be evil or shameful? It borders on blasphemy. We really need to start changing our attitudes about money. We need to examine our hearts and see if we have any prejudices against people who have been blessed financially. Envy and jealousy are rampant in our culture and sadly in our churches. Many of God's people in the Bible were rich. They were blessed because they were good stewards and God knew that He could trust them with wealth. God knew they would use their resources to bless others and carry out God's purposes (*"The Blessed Life" by Robert Morris*).

The problem isn't money – the problem is our thinking about money and those who have more of it than we do.

**A Story by Robert Morris**

*"I believe God tried to restore the truth about giving to the Church in the 1980's. But Satan distorted that truth with a hyper-prosperity message; thus, we saw many ministers exploit people and gather large sums of money for their own pleasure. The abuses were there for the whole world to see. Yes – God wants to bless His people, but for the right purposes.*

**Signs of a believer with the “gift of giving”**

- People who have the gift of giving responds to strong vision with clear objectives
  - They want their money to count
  - They want to see ministries and ministers that operate by sound financial principles
  - They want to invest in ministries and ministers that are good stewards and are successful in using the funds God gives them
  - They are literally investors in the kingdom
  - And as good investors, they want to put their money in good ministries that are being effective with the funds entrusted to them
  - This is very important to them
  
- People who have the “*gift of giving*” have discernment that allows them to determine genuine needs

- A person with this gift – a gift from God – picks up manipulation quicker than anyone can by natural means
  - They are able to look at ministries and missionaries and determine where bona fide needs are and how money should be used
  - People who have the gift of giving are great at serving on mission committees and benevolence committees because they have the ability to determine true needs that are worthy of investment by the church
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- People who have the gift of giving are very frugal but also very generous
  - Sometimes a person would give away thousands of Rands as the Lord prompted but would then turn around and pour over his wife's grocery receipts to see if she spent money needlessly
  - Such a person is not necessarily mean – he just let the frugality that comes naturally to a giver get out of balance
  - Such a person might not understand everything about giving, and did not realise he was being generous toward strangers, but stingy toward the most important person in his life
  - People with this gift knows where their money goes
  - They like budgets, and they understand the principles of finance
  - Their greatest joy comes from meeting needs



- A person who has the gift of giving desires to be appreciated, but not recognized
  - They don't want their name on anything
  - They don't want to be praised in front of their church for their giving
  - They don't want any recognition for their gift
  - BUT they do like to know that their obedience and sacrifices are appreciated
  
- People who have the gift of giving want to invest in a stable ship, not a sinking ship
  - Saying that the doors will close without support is to announce the death penalty
  - People with this gift wants to know that leaders have demonstrated the ability to handle large sums of money in prudent and wise ways
  - Ministry must show that they are helping people – they were saved, delivered, healed etc.
  
- Contrary to common belief, people who truly have the gift of giving don't want to control their money after they have given it
  - If a person still wants to **control** through the giving of their money, you can be sure they are not operating in the **“spiritual gift of giving”**
  - They only need to know that their money will be handled correctly
  - Givers with wealth wants to be treated like everyone else

- People who have the gift of giving don't want to be a bandaid – they want to be a cure
  - They do not want their money to be a short-term fix of something that is going to break again
  - It must bring lasting solutions to situations
  
- People with the gift wants to give more than money
  - They give time, talent and wisdom
  - They love to see their experience and expertise put to work for the kingdom
  - They want to offer wise counsel to the church they love and appreciate
  - **Most institutions expect only co-operation and don't want counseling** from them – which of course will lead to losing such expertise. They will look for ministries that are looking for counselors, rather only to co-operate with the pastor
  
- People with the gift are often gifted leaders
  - Their ability to lead is frequently the reason they have been so successful
  
- People with the gift of giving do not want to be put down or criticized for having a successful lifestyle

- If wealthy believers have large homes, they most likely see them as investments that are actually building wealth that they will ultimately be able to use in the kingdom of God
  - The income that God has blessed them with may give them the ability to drive expensive vehicles and have nice clothes
  - For them, it's not about extravagance or being ostentatious; it's about enjoying some of the fruits of God's blessings
  - Often, people being criticized are giving away a much higher percentage of their income than that preacher would ever dream of doing himself
- Successful people with the gift of giving don't want to talk about money all the time
    - Some people only want to talk about money when they are around people with money
    - Money is not something they worship, obsess over or analyse all the time
    - They want to be asked about their family and kids – talk about anything but money

**A Story by Andrew Wommack:**

*In one of his books, Andrew told the story of a person who lives in a large house and drives luxury cars. Most people criticised this person, but what very few knew was that he gave about US \$70 000 away each month. Then Andrew made a profound statement – he*

*said this person lives in a house that equals 16 months of the amount he gives away each month. The house is worth \$1.12 million.*

**In meekness, may I challenge you to do the same math?**

Take your monthly “giving away money” and multiply it by 16 (months) and see what you end up with. Most of us would only be able to afford living in a tent or maybe a mobile caravan when doing the same math.

**Advice for Givers**

Maybe for the first time in your life, you'll discover that you have the “gift of giving”.

- Look for opportunities to bless worthy ministries that are affecting and helping people
- Begin distributing to the needs of the saints as you are given to hospitality
- Invest your money where it will make the largest possible impact for the kingdom of God
- Forgive those who **mistreated you previously** – even if it was a pastor, a church or any other religious organization. Don't let it cause you to get bitter in your heart and stop the flow of giving and blessing in your life
- God has caused you to be a river and not a reservoir
- Water in a river is pure and clean – but water in a reservoir is contaminated

- Make sure that you are continuing to give as God leads you, to the church and to worthy ministries that are making an impact for the kingdom of God.

*Acknowledgement*  
*Robert Morris – A Blessed Life*

## A HEART TRANSPLANT

By nature, we were born selfish and giving does not come naturally. We need to be born again to be generous. We need to learn to walk in our new born-again nature. Our human body is flesh and born out of a corruptible seed.

***“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is a spirit”. John 3:6 KJV***

We need to be born again of the Spirit to be saved;

***“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God”. John 3:5 KJV***

Our mortal body must put on the spirit which is immortal and this corruptible body must put on in-corruption to enter internal life:

***“For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality”***  
***1 Corinthians 15:53 KJV***

You are a **new creature**: *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things become new”* (2

***Corinthians 5:17)***. **Perfectly made**; *“That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works (2 Timothy 3:17) and now having the mind of Christ; “For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16)*. You now have **“The measure of Faith”**, which is the same faith Jesus had on earth – *“according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith (Romans 12:3)*. Your new born spirit is as perfect as Christ’s, vacuum packed and **sealed** with the Holy Spirit and will never change again: *“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise (Ephesians 1:13)*. **Lay down the old man** which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; put on the new self, **created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness (Ephesians 4:22; 24)**.

God instructed us not to be conformed to this world, but that we should **renew our minds**.

***“Do not be conformed to this world, but continually be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you may be able to determine what God’s will is—what is proper, pleasing, and perfect “ Romans 12:2 KJV***

You need to purify yourself by the truth which we can only find in the Word of God (*“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” John 17:17*) so we can become as pure as God is (*“And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure” 1 John 3:3*). Your new life in Christ on earth is a walk through sanctification and cleansing with the washing of water by the word of God: **“That he might sanctify**

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**and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word' (Ephesians 5:26).**

Therefore, it takes a heart transplant to reach a place where we give simply because we have an unselfish, liberal heart of gratitude towards God. When you give – be it with good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over as the Gospel of Luke advises us.

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

We will come back to this very important scripture, but let us first discover how we as believers can change our hearts.

**Giving is all about the condition of your heart.**

### **The Selfish Heart**

Selfish thoughts are labeled by God as wicked. It is selfishness that whispers that we won't have enough or that God won't be faithful to meet our needs if we give. God does not want us to think like this. Remember, you need to renew your mind – so you need to change from a greedy, selfish takers heart to a grateful, generous givers heart.

***"Be careful not to think this wicked thought to yourselves: 'The seventh year, the year of remission, is drawing near,' and you show ill will toward your poor relative and not give to him. He may then call to the LORD***

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*on account of you, and you will be guilty of sin".*

**Deuteronomy 15:9 ISV**

### **The Grieving Heart**

Your heart should not be grieved when you give. The ISV says to give to Him and not feel regret for doing so. Look carefully in this text, it's saying you will be blessed.

***"You must certainly give to him and not feel regret for doing so. Because of this, the LORD your God will bless all your works and everything you do".***  
**Deuteronomy 15:10 ISV**

You might give and then afterwards regret it. Most people are impulsive buyers and regret their purchases. The Word of God warns us not to regret giving. People give because they feel they have to, rather than because they want to. They feel pressured into giving and afterwards they grieve over the gift, but God is trying to do something deeper in your heart.

So, how do you overcome a grieving heart?

You have to have a different perspective regarding "your" money. Because it really isn't your money, it's God's money. If I asked you to hold a R200 bill for me and then just ask you to give it back. You will not have any feelings of grief, remorse or emotional conflict about giving me the money back, because you knew it wasn't yours in the first place.

When you have that same perspective about God's money – He owns it all – it is easy to give it when He asks for it. You do not need to act like an owner but rather start acting as a steward.

### Generous Heart

We need to give liberally from what God has blessed you with. That's why we must cultivate a liberal heart. This is all part of renewing your mind – we have to get to a place where we honestly trust God and trust in the fact that He will take care of us if we are generous givers.

*“Provide for them **liberally** from your flock, threshing floor, and wine vat. As the LORD your **God has blessed you, so give to them**”. Deuteronomy 15:14 ISV*

Our old nature always tries to figure out how we could manipulate circumstances into our favour. This is an attitude of a taker and not a giver. Selfishness tries to manipulate God or tries to “**make deals**” with Him where giving is concerned. A liberal-hearted person gives quickly and generously because he knows it all belongs to God, and he trusts in God to take care of him and bless him.

**This is the reason why God invented giving –**

**“it works selfishness and greed out of our lives”!**

Do we not all need to acknowledge that we are misled by the false doctrine “**give to get**”? It is wrong. It works selfishness and greed back into your life. When you hear a preacher teach “**Give and you'll get**”, and the people respond, “**well I want to get so I am going to give**”, a revelation of **GETTING** is received that is counterproductive to God's

message. He wants us to give in order to change your heart from selfishness into a generous heart. This is where the Body of Christ has been misled by the prosperity theology. They took a Biblical concept and twisted it to preach the doctrine of the devil.

**Win the battle of selfishness and always put God first in your giving.**

### BY FAITH TROUGH DOING

While I was writing this book, I woke up one morning and God just downloaded words of – “**Hear**” – “**Speak**” – “**Act**” & “**Do**” throughout the previous night into my spirit. We all know that by grace, through faith we are saved. That is the gift of God. God's grace is 24/7 available for each and every person on planet earth.

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

But not all are saved! Why not?

Because you need to act on the grace God provides – you need to mix your faith with God's grace. By doing so, you receive a blessing, a gift of God – He took you out of darkness and into the light. He brought you out of the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of light! Look what happens you don't mix your faith with God's promises; “the word preached will not profit you much”.

***For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not***

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**being mixed with faith in them that heard it.**

**Hebrews 4:2 KJV**

Here, the people of Israel did not mix their faith with God's promise to take them into the Promised Land and God said to them: "**So I swear in my wrath, they shall not enter into my rest**" (**Hebrews 3:11**). Do not let your heart be hardened. ("**Today if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.**" **Romans 4:7c KJV**). God has already promised us many blessings, we only need to act on His voice, mixing our faith with His promises and walk into a blessed life – into our promise land of rest.

This brings me to another important point – that is faith only comes by hearing.

**"So then faith cometh by hearing" Romans 10:17a KJV**

For you to act on God's promises, you first need faith. And faith only comes by hearing. And hearing only comes by the Word of God.

**"and hearing by the word of God". Romans 10:17b KJV**

Paul asked the following a few verses prior: How is it possible for you to believe if you do not have heard of it? **So how can you start to believe in giving if you have not heard about it?**

*How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15a And how shall they preach, except they be sent? Romans 10:14 KJV*

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These amazing words follow this passage: "**how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel – those who bring good news.**"

*as it is written, **How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!** Rom 10:16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. **Romans 10:15b KJV***

But, then Paul warns saying not all obeyed the gospel. Not all of you reading here will obey. Will you be obeying God's instructions? It is very sad when members of the Body of Christ listens to a teaching and immediately change their minds when listening to someone else teach differently on the same topic. Believers are reluctant to study the Bible for themselves and relies on someone else's insight. When Christ, Yahshua HaMashiach permanently abides in you, then you have no need for anyone to instruct you!

*<sup>27</sup>**But as for you, the anointing (the sacred appointment, the unction) which you received from Him abide [permanently] in you; [so] then you have no need that anyone should instruct you. But just as His anointing teaches you concerning everything and is true and is no falsehood, so you must abide in (live in, never depart from) Him [being rooted in Him, knit to Him], just as [His anointing] has taught you [to do]. 1 John 2:27 AMPC***

Then so – you shouldn't just “hear” the good news, or only “speak” it, but you need to “act” and “do” what the Word of God says!

*But be ye **doers of the word**, and not **hearers** only, **deceiving your own selves.** James 1:22 KJV*

This might sound so elementary and as if it happens effortlessly, but very few believers are really doers of the word. It is only when we act on what the word says, that faith is released unlocking the supernatural. Joshua confirms this, saying that we need to meditate on the Word of God day and night and then it will make us prosperous. But this is not all, the second part of this scripture says: “**Observe to do according to all that is written therein**”.

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

The ISV says to carry out everything that's written in it – not just reading and listening, but to do and obey God's Word!

***This set of instructions is not to cease being a part of your conversations. Meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to carry out everything that's written in it, for then you'll prosper and succeed.** Joshua 1:8 ISV*

## THE LAW OF RECIPROCITY

The word “reciprocity” refers to the practice of exchanging things with others for mutual benefit, especially privileges granted by one country or organization to another. Let us look at this principle in the scripture. When we give, let it be with good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over.

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

But it doesn't stop there, it also says that with the very same measure you measure, it shall be measured to you again. In other words – in the same measure that you are giving, it will be given back to you. God is saying; **whatever you give is going to be given back to you** in “good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over.

What does this good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over refer to?

In the Old Testament, farmers needed to leave the corners of the field to the poor. During harvest time, the farmers would harvest the crop in the middle of the field and the poor could harvest the crop in the corners to feed themselves and their families. It didn't matter how full the baskets of the workers bringing in the primary harvest in the middle of the field were, they got paid by the hour.

Unfortunately, this was not the case for the poor. For them, the amount of food they could get in their baskets would be the amount of food available to their families. So, imagine you are a poor man in that field, gathering food for your family – you would probably put in a **good measure** first. Then you would **press it down** to compress the grains together to create more space. Then you would **shake it** to eliminate any air pockets between the grains. After this, you would probably pour in as much grain as you possibly could, heaping it up above the rim until it began to **spill over** the sides.

It is one thing to receive grain for free, but far better to receive a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over the basket. The people of Israel understood this term as they came from a farming background. So, when Jesus spoke they related to Him and understood what He meant **for with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again (Luke 6:38b KJV)**.

Although this applies to money, Jesus also said you shall give mercy and forgiveness. If you give, it shall be given back to you in the same measure. When we do not give forgiveness, we give un-forgiveness and therefore un-forgiveness will come back to us in the same measure. This leads to incurable diseases.

*“Be ye therefore **merciful**, as your Father also is merciful. 37 **Judge** not, and ye shall not be judged: **condemn** not, and ye shall not be condemned: **forgive**, and ye shall be forgiven” **Luke 6:36 KJV***

This is contrary to many teachings which says “**give and it shall be given to you**” as a principle of motivation. It is a principle of reward! This principle is this: if you give judgement, judgement will be given back to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over. If you give condemnation, condemnation will be given back to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over.

Isn't this good news? If you give forgiveness, an abundance of forgiveness will be given back to you. If you sow love, you will receive an overflowing harvest of love. This is a fundamental principle in the Kingdom of God.

#### **This is the law of reciprocity**

**It is therefore wrong to teach the Body of Christ to give and expect to receive.** There is nothing in Scripture that says we should make personal gain our motive for giving. How do you think God feels when people get excited about giving towards His kingdom purposes only when they are whipped into a frenzy through get-rich-quick promises? **This is not a revelation of receiving – it is a revelation of giving.** And yes, as we start doing, we will receive much more in return. However, our motives are everything.

#### **OUR MOTIVES**

Our motive for giving has to be a cheerful heart. We do not give to please God. We do it out of a sense of appreciation for all that God has done for us. God the Father put all of His wraths on Jesus - so He isn't



mad at you for not giving. He is not even in a bad mood. But just because the punishment for not giving has been taken away doesn't mean we should stop giving. Start giving with a joyful heart if you want to see a return on your giving.

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**Always give Personally - Willingly - Cheerfully**

*“Give, and [gifts] will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will they pour into [the pouch formed by] the bosom [of your robe and used as a bag]. For with the measure you deal out [with the measure you use when you confer benefits on others], it will be measured back to you. Luke 6:38 MSG*

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**God loves a cheerful giver**

**WRONG MOTIVE**

**Some people have been giving faithfully for a long time, BUT they've been doing it with the WRONG motivation.** They have been taught they should give out of obligation and they've just been paying a bill. Or they've been doing it to appease God. You have to plant your financial seed with a cheerful heart - motivated by love because your gift is ruined when you give with the wrong motive. BUT our giving should flow from a revelation of God's love for us! **We need to purify our**

**motives.** It is better to give a little with the right motivation than to give a huge amount without any benefit.

**RIGHT MOTIVE**

In Malachi is the only Scripture where the Lord says: "Prove Me" with regards to giving. He says - try it and see for yourselves if this doesn't work. (See our complete discussion later on the tithe).

*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.] **Malachi 3:10 MSG***

**MY STORY**

Somewhere during my life, I lost the principle of giving (there was a time that I was a cheerful giver). When God spoke to me and I fully grasped these truths of giving, I was financially at rock bottom. It stayed at rock bottom until God told me to start giving from what I had. I took a R100 note and put it in the storehouse. I took a small amount and gave it away. During that time, I was waiting for a transaction to go through, but for some reason it just did not happen for more than three months. All negotiations were already completed. When I started to give with the right attitude, not expecting anything back, the person phoned me suddenly and the transaction was finalised within a week. God moved miraculously

and He opened the door for that provision to come in. I used some of the money to buy a vehicle for someone in need. After this, more doors continued to open.

One morning, just after our giving, three payment notifications came through simultaneously (I've never experienced this before) and my phone rang that very same minute. Over the past four years, I haven't done any professional consultation work and nobody ever phoned me to ask if I wanted to form a joint venture on a project. That morning, a consulting company called me to discuss work they wanted me to do. I knew this was God, it was just supernatural.

**Start learning today to co-operate with God**

When you first start giving, it might be better for you to give a small amount with a cheerful heart, if that is what you can trust God with and do it with joy and peace. This better than to try and please God with a legalistic bigger amount. It is not about the amount, it is all about your motives!

*And there came a certain poor widow, and she **threw in two mites, which make a farthing.** 43 And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this **poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury***  
**Mark 12:42-43 KJV**

I can assure you with 100% certainty that Yahshua is definitely interested in what we bring to the storehouse. He did not turn to the

poor widow when she gave her last two mites, but instead, He turned to His disciples to teach them about giving: "*this widow had cast more in than all of these people have cast into the treasury*".

If that is what you can give cheerfully - then start there. It's better to give a small percentage cheerfully than to give in fear! As New Testament givers, we are supposed to give more than any Old Testament requirement.

**God's laws in the New Testament have higher demands than Old Testament laws – Yes, in the Old Testament God's instructions were to stone an adulterer to death, but in the New Testament, God said that only looking at a woman with a lustful heart causes you commit adultery**

*Let each one [give] as he has **made up his own mind and purposed in his heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves (He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful (joyous, `prompt to do it") giver [whose heart is in his giving].***  
*[Proverbs 22:9.] 2 Corinthians 9:7 MSG*

We need to get at a place where we can say: "God, this is Your money"

- What do You want me to do with it?
- It all comes down to the motive of your heart

- Giving out of FEAR is the same as "grudgingly" and out of manipulation and condemnation is the same as giving of necessity - and PROFITS you nothing!

**We can't buy prosperity from God**

**or force Him into blessing you..**

**You also don't need to pay Him protection money to keep the curse of the Law out of your life**

Start giving because you love God and want to show your appreciation for all that He has done for you. When you purify your motives for giving and start doing it as you desire in your heart, then you'll begin to see the hundredfold return on your giving. And you'll probably find yourself wanting to give a lot more than just 10%.

I think one of the problems in our society today is that we cannot distinguish between the believer and the unbeliever. In many cases it seems as if the unbelievers are more trustful in business than those who call themselves believers. But God's Word is clear that when we give, to give to those whom you know will not pay you back. What benefit is there in loving somebody who loves you, because the sinners also do the same. No, we as believers are supposed to love our enemies.

***Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again. 31 And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. 32 For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love***

***them. 33 And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. 34 And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Luke 6:30-35 KJV***

I know these are very hard words, but these are Kingdom laws. It is the total opposite of earthly, governmental laws. This is the reason we are the "called out ones" – His Ecclesia. We are called out of the world, Babylon, into the Kingdom of Heaven. For us believers, we are operating under a different set of rules and laws.

#### **Give and it will be given (verse 38)**

- Not coincidentally, this passage begins with the words, "Give to everyone who asks of you – (verse 30).
- Both verses began with GIVE
- This is the revelation of giving – "Give"
- Give to those who ask of you
- Give to those who can't pay you back
- Give love to those who don't deserve it
- Give mercy to those who wrong you
- Give the kind of treatment you would hope to receive from others

Just give and give and by the way, when you do, your heavenly Father will make sure you get much more in return!! God is a “GIVER” (He shared everything He made with us, except His glory) – and yes when we give, God will give back to us, but that should not be our motive for giving. We should give for the pure joy of imitating our wonderful Father. It’s our hearts the Lord is concerned about. When you give just to give, I’m going to reward you by giving back to you in much greater measure. The reward comes because we have allowed God to do a work in our hearts in the area of giving – not in the area of getting.

#### DON’T FORGET

In my Book, “Dispensation”, I wrote about my personal experience of coming out of Egypt and how God delivered me. When you’ve had such an experience, salvation has a complete new meaning. Then, as the Lord told me; “*don’t you ever forget that you were once a slave in Egypt – I, the Lord your God redeemed you*”, my heart and attitude changed for good.

***Don't ever forget that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, yet the LORD your God redeemed you. Therefore, I'm giving you these commands today. Deuteronomy 15:15 ISV***

“Therefore, I am giving you these commands:”

***If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor***

***shut thine hand from thy poor brother: 8 But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth. Deuteronomy 15:7-8 ISV***

***Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and thine eye be evil against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the LORD against thee, and it be sin unto thee. 10 Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto. Deuteronomy 15:9-10 ISV***

***For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land. 12 And if thy brother, an Hebrew man, or an Hebrew woman, be sold unto thee, and serve thee six years; then in the seventh year thou shalt let him go free from thee. 13 And when thou sendest him out free from thee, thou shalt not let him go away empty: Thou shalt furnish him liberally out of thy flock, and out of thy floor, and out of thy winepress: of that wherewith the LORD thy God hath blessed thee thou shalt give unto him. Deuteronomy 15:11-13 ISV***

**And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the LORD thy God redeemed thee: therefore I command thee this thing to day. Deuteronomy 15:15 ISV**

This is a clear picture of God's heart for helping people. Let your hearts not be grieved when you give. Once we become cheerful, willing givers, we become more and more like our heavenly Father. God is trying to do a work in us through the Ruach HaKodesh – He wants to purify our hearts.

**Will you let Him?**

### **SOWERS & EATERS**

It is interesting to realise that when we read scripture during a time when our hearts are hardened, how little impact it makes in our lives. We are hearing the gospel, but it did not profit us.

*For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. Hebrews 4:2 KJV*

How many times have I read and listened to the message of the Lord that gives seed to the sower, and still I ate the seed. In hindsight I realise how much seed God gave me and instead of sowing it, I just ate all of it. God is looking for people who have proven to Him that they are sowers, to give seed to them.

*“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; 11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10 KJV*

It is amazing how the ISV explains verse 11 – the reason for giving seed to the sower is for you to grow even richer and become even more generous!

*(ISV) “In every way **you will grow richer and become even more generous**, and this will cause others to give thanks to God because of us”*

Did you know that the eyes of the Lord are literally searching the world for people He can give finances to - people who are givers?

*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose **heart is perfect toward him**. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth, thou shalt have wars. 2 Chronicles 16:9 KJV*

I like the statement of Andrew Wommack:

**“If you are consistently short on money..  
If you always have more month than you have money..  
Then maybe God doesn't see you as a GIVER”**

Instead of being sowers, we become eaters. Eaters are focussed on getting their own needs met, establishing their own kingdoms. They use their resources to buy everything they want and only give if there is money left over. Sowers are all about putting other people first. It is our selfishness that short-circuits prosperity because it causes us to consume all of our resources.

Prosperity doesn't happen overnight. There is a time between planting seed and harvesting. Money has power and it just might be that you are not ready to handle the power of prosperity.

### **Testimony**

*As I am writing these words, the Lord gave me a flashback of about 20 years ago when we started a family business. It grew over 800% in a very short period of time and branched into several businesses. We were not mature enough to handle such growth. I believe we became arrogant and it was soon very obvious that we could not handle the responsibility. Strife came and God's word is very clear, where strife and envy is, there is confusion and all evil works (James 3:16). The family broke apart and it took many years to restore the broken relationships.*

I am sharing this with the reader for one reason only – not to be deceived by the lies of the god of this world. Satan promises us things that only GOD can give! If the devil cannot stop you, he will push you. Yes, there was a time in my life that I felt like nothing could stop me. Little did I know I could be pushed. First, get an attitude of a giver and walk it out over time! God will see He can trust you and will increase your finances.

After reading Andrew Wommack's book "Financial Stewardship" and Robert Morris's "A Blessed Life", I realised how much seed I have eaten in the past. The most profound words Andrew spoke in his book are "**if God can get money through you, He'll get it to you**" and it won't be long before you have plenty left over for yourself. We can only reach this point in our lives when our motives are pure. Pure motives can only come from a pure heart.

### **How do you see the money you own?**

Do you see it as being there to meet your need, or is it there to satisfy your greed, or do you see it as SEED?

***But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 2 Corinthians 9:6 KJV***

If you see your money as seed, how do you sow? Do you sow sparingly or bountifully? You shall reap in the same manner that you sow! We are all tested in the area of need and greed. In Proverbs, the scripture highlights this principle: "**Give me neither poverty (need) nor riches (greed).**

***Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: 9 Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain. Proverbs 30:8-9 KJV***

This scripture asks the Lord to be in the sweet spot of His provision. God can supply all your needs without using money. This might be too much to understand if we are in a struggle to survive. But scripture is full of instances where God provided without giving money. The problem lies in the fact that we don't believe this is God's desire. I can tell you with boldness that the **strategy of the antichrist** comes through the spirit of **mammon** – we will not **buy and sell** without the mark of the beast!

**And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.**

**Revelation 13:17 KJV**

### STEAKS FOR ELIJAH

The Lord used ravens to feed Elijah – the ravens brought Elijah steaks.

*Crows would bring him bread and **meat** both in the morning and in the evening, and he would drink from the brook. **1 Kings 17:6 ISV***

And later on an angel fed him.

*Then he lay down and went to sleep under the juniper tree. All of a sudden, there was an angel, who kept grabbing him and telling him, "Get up! Eat!" **6** So he looked around, and there near his head was a muffin sitting on*

*top of some heated stones, along with a jar of water. Elijah ate and drank and then lay down again.*

**1 Kings 19:5 ISV**

### Naked - But Prosperous

Just look what God did with Joseph when he was sold in an auction without a single possession to his name; God said **Joseph was a prosperous man!**

*And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither. **2** **And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. **Genesis 39:1*****

It's clear that prosperity isn't measured by how many assets you have. While naked, God was still with him and it was just a matter of time before money started flowing his way. God is always committed to meet our needs, but are you committed to use your money as SEED?

**God always gives seed to the Sowers**

God's blessing on Joseph's life caused him to prosper in everything he did, and soon he was promoted.

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*And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. **Genesis 39:4***

Even in prison after he didn't want to sleep with Potiphar's wife, he prospered.

*And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, **Lie with me. 8 But he refused**, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; **Genesis 39:7***

*The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, **the LORD made it to prosper. Genesis 39:23***

Joseph was released and promoted - he prospered more and made Potiphar even wealthier.

*And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do. **Genesis 41:55***

He even used his position to save his brothers and family - the people who sold him into slavery. Joseph was a Giver and he always put God first. Christians today cut back on giving if the economy turns down -

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that is the absolute worst thing we could do. When hard times come, we should increase our giving so that we can increase our harvest. Even Isaac, Joseph's grandfather, sowed in a year of famine and reaped a **hundredfold return**.

*Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him. **Genesis 26:12***

He planted seed in a time when everyone else was holding back in fear of poverty - and he became tremendously wealthy! In recession time, cut back on personal spending, but never cut back on what you are doing for GOD. You have a choice, you can grind the whole sack of seed into flour for bread and then hope that someone would give you some more seed for planting. Or you could use some of it for bread and the rest for seed. If you sow that seed, you are going to get a harvest much larger than the original seed sown.

## USING MONEY AS SEED

I listened to a teaching by Earl Pitts many years ago where he said that God uses the unrighteous mammon to teach us righteousness. Isn't this profound? How can God entrust us with true riches – the riches of heaven – if we are not even faithful in the unrighteous mammon (money, possessions) as the Amplified says it?

***If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? Luke 16:11 ASV***



***11 Therefore if you have not been faithful in the [case of] unrighteous mammon (deceitful riches, money, possessions), who will entrust to you the true riches?***

***Luke 16:11 AMPC***

God gave us money to teach us Kingdom principles. Interesting that Jesus says; “**And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground**” (Mark 4:26 KJV). We must learn to use money as seed – to plant a seed. The harvest will always be larger than the seed we have sown, depending on our attitude as we sow: “**But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully (2 Corinthians 9:6)**”. Remember that God always supplies more than just seed. According to Scripture, He also supplies bread and food.

*“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”*

***2 Corinthians 9:10 KJV***

God does not have a problem when we take from the seed He’s given us to eat, but the rest He wants us to sow. He even adds a promise to the seed. He supplies the seed and He multiplies it. So, you will always receive more than you sow.

*Now he who supplies seed to the farmer and bread to eat will also **supply you with seed and multiply it and enlarge the harvest that results from your righteousness. 2 Corinthians 9:10 ISV***

A single kernel of corn planted in the ground sprouts up a plant that bears thousands of kernels. When you give money – the same multiplication occurs. God gives seed to the sower to sow.

### **BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF “SEED”**

Let’s look at three Biblical principles of seed.

### **SOW & REAP**

You can only reap what you sow. If you sow corn, you are going to reap corn and if you sow money you will reap money. It is a law that was established at the creation of the world. Sowing a seed will multiply after their kind according to Genesis 1 – remember these were words God had spoken and His words will do exactly what He commanded it to do and will not come back empty handed (Isaiah 55:11 MSG).

*And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb **yielding seed**, and the fruit tree **yielding fruit after his kind**, whose **seed is in itself**, upon the earth: and it was so. 12 And the earth brought forth grass, and herb **yielding seed after his kind**, and the tree **yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind**: and God saw that it was good. **Genesis 1:11 KJV***

A farmer can’t sow corn and expect to reap wheat at harvest time. That is precisely what so many believers do. They expect a harvest of something they never planted. Or even worse, believers reaps a harvest of many things they have sown years ago without realising what they had sown. Whatever you sow, you will reap – if you sow judgement, you

will reap judgement, if you sow forgiveness you will reap forgiveness and if you sow money, you will reap money.

### PLANT A SEED

The next very important principle is that you reap **after** you sow. Again, God laid down this principle at the beginning of creation. God established the order. Before there can ever be a harvest, there must be a seed time.

***While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. Genesis 8:22 KJV***

Jesus always spoke in parables, using agricultural examples to make the Kingdom of God more understandable. In Mark 4 Jesus used an example of a farmer sowing seed into the ground. He compared the Kingdom of God saying that is how the Kingdom of God works.

*And he said, So is the kingdom of God as if a man should cast **seed into the ground**; 27 And should **sleep**, and **rise night and day**, and the **seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.** 28 For the earth **bringeth forth fruit of herself**; first the **blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.** 29 But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest comes. **Mark 4:26-29 KJV***

It is clearly illustrated in this parable that you cannot sow a seed and expect your harvest tomorrow. You need to go to sleep and rise, night

and day and wait for the seed to spring up and to grow. First, it produces the **blade**, then the **ear** and after that, a full **corn** in the ear before it can be harvested.

The beauty of this is that God is even gives seed to the farmer to sow. The Word of God promises us He will give more and more seed to the givers to sow. He will even make it grow so we can give more away!

*For God, who **gives seed to the farmer** to plant, and later on good crops to harvest and eat, will give **you more and more seed to plant** and will make it grow so that you can give away more and more fruit from your harvest.*

**2 Corinthians 9:10 TLB**

***Make up your mind right now – not to wait until you have money before you start to give.*** It will never happen, I know this from experience. I was waiting for sufficient funds before I started to give, but it never happened. The moment I took a step of obedience and planted a seed by faith, God supernaturally moved and finances came. You reap what you sow!

### MULTIPLICATION

The principle of multiplication in God's Kingdom always fascinates me. During my involvement with a ministry that serves the Agricultural Community in Africa, we taught in this principle of multiplication. In hindsight, we missed a fundamental principle in our thinking and teachings. Praise YEHOVAH Elohim that He directs us to understand doctrine precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little and there a little.

***Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: Isaiah 28:9-10 KJV***

As we study the Word of God, the more He will reveal to us as our understanding grows into maturity (***see the principle of multiplication in Part 2***).

The very first principle of multiplication is that we always reap more than we sow. This is a law – God laid it down.

*They that sow in **tears shall reap in joy**. 6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, **shall doubtless come again with rejoicing**, bringing his sheaves with him. **Psalms 126:5-6 KJV***

The principle of harvest increase is so powerful that even if you cry as you are scattering your little bag of precious seed, your tears will turn into rejoicing as you begin to bring in your sheaves of harvest. You will always get more when you sow God's way!

### **THE POWER OF THE SEED**

God puts divine power in any seed. When a man plants a seed within a woman during intercourse, that seed grows into another human being, into the likeness and image of our Creator! In Mark 4 scripture says that ***a seed is the Word of God***. Do not compare the Word of God to any

social system - because that can be corrupted. For example you can study for a test the night before without attending classes and still pass, effectively beating the system. But you can't beat God's system - you can't sow seed in the evening and expect results the very next morning. It just doesn't work that way.

***The sower soweth the word. Mark 4:14 KJV***

In the system that God put in place - ***Seed - Time - Harvest*** will remain, and you can't beat this system.

*And he said, **So is the kingdom of God as if a man should cast seed into the ground; 27 And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. 28 For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. Mark 4:26-28 KJV***

The Kingdom of God works in the order of Seed - Time - Harvest. We must learn to be patient and give it time - having faith before the miracle comes to pass. The whole earth works according to the seed system. Men procreates through seed. Andrew Wommack told the story of the supernatural power of a seed. A seed growing inside a rock has the capacity to split even a huge rock in half. That is the power that God puts inside a seed. As God's Word is the seed, we have to plant that seed in our hearts and meditate on it day and night.

*My eyes anticipate the night watches and I awake before the call of the watchman, That I may meditate on Your word. **Psalm 119:148 AMP***

Just as a seed splits the rock in half, this seed; **the Word of God will split your heart, it doesn't matter how hard your heart has become.** The Word of God will split it and you will start to walk after the spirit, totally turned away from the lust of the flesh. It will heal you, it will deliver you and it will split whatever hardened your heart or stands in your way. The Word of God will bring forth miraculous results.

**He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. Psalms 107:20 KJV**

#### **Personal Testimony**

*I woke up one morning and decided that enough is enough. I wanted to make a new commitment to overcome the world, the flesh and the pride of live. If the Word of God instructed to forgive, I was going to forgive unconditionally. I closed my office door and started to study the Word of God for 10 hours a day. I just had to reset my old way of thinking. I had to conform to what the Word of God commands us to do. I had to delete all the old icons in my mind and break the strongholds, even those that were inherited generationally.*

*Today, 13 months later, I can tell you with utmost honesty that this seed – the Word of God – not only split my hardened heart, but I received a new heart and my carnal, worldly mind died. By His grace and my commitment, the Ruach HaKodesh healed me, delivered me and brought me to a place of peace – not as the world gives – but the peace we receive from the Prince of Peace! “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government*

*shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).*

***But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. 27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John 14:26-27 KJV***

***Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. Romans 15:13 KJV***

***For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Romans 8:6 KJV***

You have to start meditating on Scripture - day and night - it will make you prosperous. But the secret lies in the “to do” part of verse 8 – to do according to all that is written therein and it shall make you prosperous.

***Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. 8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate***

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**therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Joshua 1:7-8 KJV**

God's grace and peace comes through knowledge. We get knowledge through the Word of God.

*Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 2 Peter 1:2*

Furthermore, we need to keep our mind on the Lord and we will have perfect peace.

*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Isaiah 26:3*

God's promise overcomes your problems! If you do not have peace - your mind is focussed on the wrong things and you gain knowledge on things outside of Him. His power gives us all things through the knowledge of Him.

*According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 2 Peter 1:3*

Healing, joy and prosperity all comes through knowledge. The Word of God is a SEED. We must get the seed, the Word of God in our hearts.

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And he said, So, is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast **seed into the ground**; - WORD OF GOD (Mark 4:26). The word ground in this scripture refers to our hearts. When we understand the Word of God - you can swallow it and that goes into your heart.

*Their moral understanding is darkened and their reasoning is beclouded. [They are] alienated (estranged, self-banished) from the life of God [with no share in it; this is] because of the ignorance (the want of knowledge and perception, the willful blindness) that is deep-seated in them, due to their hardness of heart [to the insensitiveness of their moral nature]. Ephesians 4:18 AMP*

Peacefully we go then to sleep and it will rise night and day.

*And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. 28 For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. Mark 4:27*

It is not necessary for you to understand how a seed can split a rock. The only thing we need to do is to mix our faith with God's promises.

*For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. Hebrews 4:2*

You need to believe it before it can work for you. You can't dig it up every day to look at it and then replant it again. You need to leave it in the ground - believe it, so it can grow. Unfortunately this is not

something you only do on Sundays and live the rest of your week by digging up your seeds through un-forgiveness and doing business according to the worldly system! It takes time. When we waver we are double-minded - that means you dug up your seed.

*If any of you **lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. 8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.***  
**James 1:5 KJV**

How do you treat your work colleagues? Why are you not seeing fruit? Is it because you only operate in the worldly system? Do you only spend 5 minutes time a day in devotion? Keep your heart focussed on God (your ground) and it will automatically and effortlessly change you. The nature of a seed is to produce fruit effortlessly - if you do not interfere. The Word of God works the exact same way - it will effortlessly change you if you stay focused on the Word of God with a pure heart.

The heart doesn't know which seeds you plant. Pornography, hatred, violence, etc. - are all seeds that you plant that will harvest fruit. Your heart will harden and over time you will get a full corn in the ear.

*For the earth **bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.***  
**Mark 4:28 KJV**

God looks for mature hearts (complete / whole / at peace) with a right attitude towards Him. Who will believe His promises and put the kingdom of God first? He is looking for people who will give from their hearts and not as a form of manipulation or just to receive. God is literally searching the world for people He can give finances to - people who are givers!

*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose **heart is perfect toward him.** Herein thou hast done foolishly; therefore from henceforth, thou shalt have wars.*  
**2 Chronicles 16:9 KJV**

We experience shortages and lack in our lives because of wrong beliefs or wrong heart motives and attitude. We experience lack because we aren't givers.

### PROPORTIONAL

God did not specify any amount and it is not about large sums - it is all proportional (about a percentage)! God saw the widow and said that she gave more than all the other rich men.

*And he looked up and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. 2 And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. 3 And he said, Of a truth, I say*

unto you, **that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all:** 4 For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had. **Luke 21:1**

He that **trusteth in his riches shall fall:** but the righteous shall flourish as a branch. **Proverbs 11:28 KJV**

Stop trusting your money and put all your trust in the Lord. If you are not honoring the Lord with your firstfruits, the bottom line is that you don't trust God. Fear that God won't supply is what keeps you from giving and that fear is actually releasing poverty into your life. Honouring the Lord with your firstfruits will release the power and anointing of God in your life and you will begin to prosper.

### SPIRIT OF MAMMON

We are all well aware of the fact that we are not wrestling against flesh and blood, but against powers, dominions, and principalities in the air. God gave us a warning that no man can serve two masters!

*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.***  
**Matthew 6:24 KJV**

Why did Jesus state that you can't serve God and mammon? Why didn't He refer to anything else that has the ability to become an idol?

### WHY MAMMON?

The ultimate demonic force, the strategy of the antichrist we are dealing with before the Lord's return is not a nuclear threat, **BUT** a mammon spirit! The mark of the beast will prevent anybody to buy and sell without it!

**And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.**

**Revelation 13:17 KJV**

We perish because of a lack of knowledge and understanding and as a result we are easily deceived. What is the principle of deception? Satan comes to lie, steal, destroy and to murder ("*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy*" **Joh 10:10a**). This is his nature. He did it in the very beginning with Adam & Eve and he is still doing it today, using the same strategy and tactic. What happened in the Garden of Eden? Satan only came to the woman with a question "**Has God indeed said you shall not eat?**"

*Now the serpent was more crafty (subtle, skilled in deceit) than any living creature of the field which the Lord God had made. And the serpent (Satan) said to the woman, "Can it really be that God has said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'" **Genesis 3:1 AMP***

The rest is history. He is still doing the same with mankind. God says in His Word to forgive so He can forgive us.

*For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. **Matthew 6:14***

God instructs us to even love our enemies, bless them that curse us. Love the Lord our God so that we can love ourselves and our neighbours.

*But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; **Matthew 5:44***

*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. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like, unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. **Matthew 22:37***

The enemy asks, "**Has God really said that?**", and if man decides to ignore these words of God, bitterness, hatred, self-hate, rejection, unloving spirits and many other things enter the heart of man. The result is that strongholds develop in our minds and it becomes our way of thinking. Without even noticing we come under the influence of demonic forces and are in captivity.

*Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. **Romans 1:25***

The King clearly said you cannot serve **two masters** and immediately He refers to **GOD** and **mammon**!! This clearly indicates that we are dealing with a demonic force, a strategy of the antichrist to rob us from our belongings by **giving mankind an alternative to trust and hope in. Once mankind has been trapped into this false sense of security,**

**the enemy will come in with a final lock-down using the mark of the beast; close all the doors and say: "You have been trapped for many years in trusting mammon, and now I, the god of this world will not allow anyone to buy nor to sell without my mark" (Revelation 13:17).**

Life on earth is a battle, not against flesh and blood, but against forces in the air (**Ephesians 6:12**). There are many different forces we are dealing with. Without exercising your senses to discern between both good and evil (**Hebrews 5:14b**), you will be misled and fall into Satan's traps.

Let's just take two very strong forces that the enemy is deceiving mankind on earth with. The first demonic force came from the King of Tyron. Nimrod and Nebuchadnezzar were examples of these kings. They were very strong kings and attacked their enemies by influencing the souls of the people. When a person's soul is weak, you cannot resist the attacks of the enemy.

A second very strong demonic force is that of king Molech.

*And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to **Molech**, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD. 22 **Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination. Leviticus 18:21***

Molech signifies a king, or governor, of similar import with Baal, lord, or governor; and it is generally supposed that the sun was worshiped under this name; and more particularly as the fire appears to have been so



much employed in his worship. The name "Molech" literally means "king". The Amorite spirit is a spirit of "self-exaltation". People possessed by this spirit strive to be "kings" over others. Therefore, "Molech" represents an Amorite spirit that establishes an "earthly kingdom" of domination over others. The Amorite spirit is unfortunately very strong inside the church, and it manifests itself in human leaders who impose an earthly system of domination over other believers through earthly rules and decrees. In families, for example, where there may have been many generations of Jebusites sacrificing their "prophetic seed" to various "Molech", a door is opened for the spirit of homosexuality to enter (**Leviticus 18:22**).

Knowing that we are wrestling against principalities, powers, and forces and that these forces, once we yield or listen to them steals our health and prosperity, joy and peace, it is therefore deemed necessary to first look at who and what "mammon" is.

*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. **Ephesians 6:12***

## MAMMON

Mammon is no different - **it is a demonic force** - used by Satan to deceive mankind into taking the mark of the beast in order to buy and sell. *You might say that at that time you will not take the mark and rather face consequences.* But what if Satan is still uses his subtleness

to deceive us? If Satan came to Eve with force, she definitely would not have eaten from the tree. But because he deceived her with subtleness to question God's words, she ate because she lost the ability to distinguish between good and evil. In the same way, Satan has already deceived us to serve mammon. We already have two master's (*do you own a MasterCard?*) and God warned us about this. We are trapped and this is how a stronghold forms in our head. This tactic worked in the Garden of Eden, he tried this to defeat Jesus and he still uses it to defeat us today. In our mind we struggle to believe that God is our provider begin to trust in something or somebody else to supply our needs. **Most Christian's believe God had no involvement in what they own – they accumulated what they have by working hard.** You cannot serve God on a Sunday and busy yourself with own works the rest of the week. Some might give back to God but still serve two masters. That's how strong the mammon spirit is.

## WHO IS MAMMON?

The word *Mammon* comes from post-classical Latin *mammona* '**wealth**', used most importantly in the Vulgate Bible. This was in turn borrowed from Hellenistic Greek μαμωνάς, which appears in the New Testament, borrowed from Aramaic מַמּוֹנָא *māmōnā*, an emphatic form of the word *māmōn* **wealth**, profit perhaps specifically from the Syriac dialect. The word may have been present throughout the Canaanite languages: the word is unknown in Old Testament Hebrew, but has been found in the Qumran documents; post-biblical Hebrew attests to *māmōn*; and, according to St Augustine of Hippo, Punic included the word *mammon* **profit**. It has been suggested that the Aramaic word *māmōn* was a loanword from Mishnaic Hebrew מַמּוֹן (*mamōn*) meaning **money, wealth**,

or **possessions**; although it may also have meant "**that in which one trusts**". According to the Textus Receptus of the New Testament, the Greek word translated "mammon" is spelled μαμμωνᾱ in the **Sermon on the Mount at Matt 6:24**, and μαμωνᾶ (from μαμωνᾶς) in the parable of the **Unjust Steward at Luke 16:9,11,13**. The spelling μαμμωνᾱ refers to "a Syrian deity, **god of riches; hence riches, wealth**"; μαμωνᾶς is transliterated from Aramaic [ממון] and also means "**wealth**." The Authorised Version uses "**mammon**" for both Greek spellings; John Wycliffe uses *richessis*.

Gregory of Nyssa also asserted that mammon was another name for Beelzebub. In the 4<sup>th</sup> century, Cyprian and Jerome relate mammon to greed and **greed as "an evil master that enslaves"**, and John Chrysostom even personifies **mammon as greed**. During the Middle Ages, Mammon was commonly personified **as the demon of wealth and greed**. Thus Peter Lombard (II, dist. 6) says, "**Riches are called by the name of a devil**, namely **mammon**, for **mammon is the name of a devil**, by which name riches are called according to the Syrian tongue. "Piers Plowman also regards Mammon as a **deity**. Nicholas de Lyra, commenting on the passage in **Luke**, says: "*mammon est nomen daemonis*" (**mammon is the name of a demon**).

Albert Barnes in his *Notes on the New Testament* states that mammon was a Syriac word for an **idol worshiped as the god of riches**, similar to Plutus among the Greeks, but he cited no authority for the statement. No trace, however, of any Syriac god of such a name exists, and the common literary identification of the name with a god of covetousness or avarice likely stems from Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*, where

**Mammon oversees a cave of worldly wealth**. Milton's *Paradise Lost* describes a **fallen angel who values earthly treasure over all other things**. Later occultist writings such as Jacques Collin de Plancy's *Dictionnaire Infernal* describe **mammon as Hell's ambassador to England**. For Thomas Carlyle in *Past and Present*, the "**Gospel of Mammonism**" became simply a metaphoric personification for the **materialist spirit of the 19th century**.

Under the influence of the Social Gospel movement American populists, progressives and "muck-rakers" during the generation of 1880-1925 used "**mammon**" with specific reference to the consolidated wealth and power of the banking and corporate institutions headquartered on Wall Street and their predacious activities nationwide.

#### **Mammon is,**

- money, wealth, or possessions; although it may also have meant "**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.

**It is clear that mammon is a demonic force, referring to the devil himself, who values earthly treasure over all other things. He uses greed as an evil master to enslave mankind on earth to possess more earthly wealth that they can trust in or rely on. Through this spirit mankind developed a dependency on material things and he can in this way oversee a cave of worldly wealth. The manner in which people on earth are currently losing money and in many cases legally, confirms this demonic force is at work by overseeing a cave of worldly wealth.**

*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: **John 10:10 KJV***

Jesus, in His own words, warned mankind to be aware of mammon. It is not possible to trust earthly treasures and wealth and still serve and trust in Him, your King. If you decide to trust in mammon, God will not stand in your way – then mammon must provide for you.

I wish I knew this growing up in a Babylonian system, but we are conditioned to spontaneously believe these lies. When somebody tries to guide us to the truth, it is impossible to consider that God can supply all our needs. We are indoctrinated that without tertiary qualification it is impossible to find work. Being unemployed it is impossible to provide and in recent years the system has replaced millions of male employees with women (*all part of the woman's rights agenda*). This serves to throw down God's order, as the Word is very clear that the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ is the head of the church.

*For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.*

**Ephesians 5:23 KJV**

As a side note, when the roles are reversed with the woman climbing the corporate ladder and the men staying at home, a wide door for confusion opens up. A whole generation has grown up with this twisted order in their homes and envy and strife follows – this is responsible for all evil works!

*For where envying and strife is, there is **confusion** and every evil work. **James 3:16 KJV***

The spirit of Jezebel enters because of the confusion (*this spirit flourishes on confusion and manipulation*) and after a short while the men transforms into Ahab (becoming the weaker one in the household), submitting to his wife. This is the dilemma our society is in today.

### **THE MAMMON STRATEGY**

The enemy has been subtle and skilled in deceiving mankind and caused man to lose his dominion on earth - man yielded themselves to the deceitful thoughts of Satan. He came in the form of a serpent to the woman and only questioned what God had said: "**Has God indeed said you shall not eat?**" **KJV**

*Now the serpent was more crafty (subtle, skilled in deceive) than any living creature of the field which the Lord God had made. And the serpent (Satan) said to the*

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woman, "Can it really be that God has said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" **Genesis 3:1 AMP**

From the moment mankind lost his dominion and even after Jesus restored back to man, we have been under the attack of the enemy - whether we are aware of it or not.

*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.* **Ephesians 6:12 KJV**

The enemy darkens our understanding:

*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 KJV**

Because of our lack of maturity in the Word of God, we are unable to discern good from evil.

*But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.* **Hebrews 5:14 KJV**

In the process mankind has lost fundamental concepts, like for instance that a good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children!

*A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.* **Proverbs 13:22**

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Statistics shows us that the total household debt has dramatically increased over time. Knowing that mammon is a god of riches and a demonic force and that we wrestle against, we can conclude this is a strategy of the enemy to get the children of God in bondage. So, we are in financial bondage and become slaves again, just as the Israelites were slaves before. Don't you know you become the servant of him who you obey?

*Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death or of obedience unto righteousness?* **Romans 6:16**

How is it that most Christians know Scripture fairly well, but still they remain in bondage? Financial bondage, physical- emotional and spiritual sickness, having no joy or peace are just a few of an endless list. Opposed to this we see non-Christians walking in freedom? Earl Pitts once asked a Jewish accountant which of his clients were more prosperous, the Christians or the Jews? The accountant answered "**my Jewish clients of course**". Explaining *why*, he said:

**"You Christians tend to leave out of the front of the book. Unfortunately for Christians, most of the financial principles are in the front of the book. So, we Jews believe in and abide by these principles, while you Christians seem to ignore them and discount them because they are Old Testament. However, I believe that the adherence to these principles is what causes people to prosper financially."**

Craig Hill's book - **Wealth Principles** - also discusses his Jewish friends' similar views: *"I don't really fully understand your Christian beliefs, but from what I understand, it seems that most Christians have the idea that they can violate the basic principles described in the Bible, and then because of the grace of God extended by the sacrifice of Christ, they are forgiven and everything will be alright. Thus, it seems to me that most Christians feel that they don't have to pay any attention to the financial principles explained in Proverbs, or the rest of the Old Testament because these are part of the Law. Since Christians are in Christ and no longer under the law, they feel no need to abide by these Old Testament financial principles. On the contrary, we Jews believe that we actually have to practice and abide by these principles in the Law. So, in my opinion and experience, abiding by the biblical financial principles produces much greater financial prosperity than ignoring and discounting them"*.

Isn't it true that Christians study the Bible, and many can tell where a particular passage is located and even quote the verse to you? However, frequently, while they have studied the Bible passage, such Christians have in practice violated the life principle contained in the passage. On the other hand - many Jewish people can't tell you where in the Bible a particular passage is, but because of culture and the teaching of their family, they inherently practice the principle.

Proverbs tells us that the borrower is a servant to the lender.

***The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender. Proverbs 22:7 KJV***

Isn't it common today that most mortgage holders (lenders) are Jewish bankers and Christian believers are borrowers? But it is the Christian believers who hold weekly Bible study groups about Biblical financial principles of finance. ***Yet who is the master and who is the slave?*** Who is making money, and who is borrowing money? Isn't it true that the Jewish banker chose to be the master and the Christian borrower has chosen to be the slave?

### **SO HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?**

Many years ago, Satan gathered all the demons and announced that he was looking for a new strategy by which he could enslave nations and generations to himself. The spirit of mammon raised his hand and stated that he had a plan:

**Mammon began,** *"I think that we can use a principle I learned from the Bible. Proverbs 22:7 tells us that the borrower is slave to the lender. We already have many institutions and individuals that we control from hell. They are completely dedicated to serve me, and I control them through their love of money. So, we will begin to use these institutions and people to make money available to borrow at interest. Others who then borrow the money become slaves on the lenders, whom we control."*

**Satan then asked,** *"But how do we force people to borrow?"*

*"No, we don't force them at all, said Mammon. People will voluntarily borrow the money"*

**"WHAT?** rallied Satan. You think that people will voluntarily agree to be slaves to institutions and people we already control from hell? They won't do that."

"Maybe not many, at first, said **Mammon**. But we will continue to deceive people and get them accustomed to the idea. So, at first, we will have only a few who will borrow. But after a few short decades, I think we will have most of the entire society acclimated to the idea of debt and most people will borrow and become our slaves."

**Satan then said;** "But I really wanted a strategy that would affect the Christians too. I don't think this will work with them"

"Sure it will, said **Mammon**. They will do the same as everyone else"

**"You mean to tell me that you think that people in relationship with God, filled with the Holy Spirit, will just voluntarily bow down and become slaves of institutions and individuals that we control from hell? They'll never do that. They're not that stupid!"**

**"Again Mammon countered,** Maybe not much at first, but after some time, more and more will, as we deceive them too, and introduce this idea to them as normal. I believe that eventually, we will even get their pastors and leaders to borrow for their church buildings and thus subject their institutions to be our slaves. We will make the concept of debt seem so completely normal, such that after several decades, families, companies, churches, cities and even nations will become our slaves

through debt. Let's just introduce the concept and see what happens over a little time."

Satan mused for a few moments, and barked, "Okay Mammon, go ahead with our plan. We will see if our deception is really as strong as you think, and people will voluntarily submit themselves to be our slaves through debt. It is hard to believe that people could be so foolish and short sighted, but perhaps you are right. Soon we will see!"

Acknowledge:  
(Graig Hill - Five Wealth Secrets)

## BREAKING THE SPIRIT OF MAMMON

People who are influenced the most by the spirit of mammon tends to have the biggest fear about money – Jesus warned: “*You cannot serve God and mammon*” (**Matthew 6:24**). Mammon wants to rule, he is looking for servants and worshippers.

**It will promise you everything but deliver nothing!**

Clearly, Jesus suggested that mammon will try to take the very place of God. Mammon promises us those things that only God can give – security, significance, identity, independence, power, and freedom. Mammon tells us that it can insulate us from life’s problems and that money is the answer to every situation. When you think about what we have discussed, you will realise that mammon is nothing more than the system of this fallen world that **stands in sharp opposition to God and His ways**.

**“If money can fix your problems – You do not have a problem”!**

(Robert Morris)

### **My Story**

*I was raised in a farm community my desire was always to run a successful business. My plan was to go to University, get a degree and then return to the farm to take it to another level. Due to significant dry periods and cycles, my father advised me after completing my degree, to rather enrol for post-graduate studies and wait for the drought to break. Well I studied for many years and*

*received a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics, something I never planned on. After that, the cost was just too high for me to return to the farm and instead I joined as a board member while my brothers joined my father. In hindsight, I can confirm that everything in the world stands in sharp contrast and opposition to the Kingdom principles. Notwithstanding our pure motives of doing business, it was just not possible to mix the worldly financial system with Kingdom principles. Saying this, I am not saying you cannot have a successful business or farm if that is what God calls you to do. But had we known these profound truths, we might have had less growth, but more peace and unity. Instead, we chose to expand extremely fast and it happened to be our downfall.*

As you can see, I am not just writing this from an academic point of view, but from my own experience, I am sharing the Biblical way – and I discovered it all begins with “giving”.

Just look at the following profound oppositions:

- Mammon says to buy and sell – God says to sow and reap.
- Mammon says to cheat and steal – God say to give and receive.
- Mammon wants to rule – the antichrist attempts to dominate people through economics, preventing people from buying or selling unless they submit to him – *Revelation 13:17*
- The brief rule of the antichrist will be through the spirit of mammon.

What Jesus meant by saying you can't serve both God and mammon makes even more sense now because the spirit of mammon stands in direct opposition to the Spirit of God.

**Money and mammon are not synonymous**

Money is not inherently evil.

*For the love of money is the root of all evil.*

**1 Timothy 6:10 KJV**

The Bible does not say that money is the root of all kinds of evil – it says the **LOVE** (the worship of) **money** is a root of all kinds of evil. It is the idolatrous love of the spirit of mammon that is evil. In other words, greed, covetousness, and selfishness are all manifestations of the spirit of mammon. While mammon wants to take and focus on selfishness, God's model is always to give and be generous. Mammon is a spirit, hence it is talking to you all the time. *"If you have the right credit card, right clothes, car, house, living in the right neighbourhood and know the right people, you'll be happy and fulfilled."*

***It tells you that if you just had more money, people would listen to you, your relationship problems would go away and life would be sweet – you could do what you want, go where you want and live the way you want.***

This same spirit also gets religious.

***"If you just had more money, you could really start helping people" –***

***Keep in mind that Jesus never told anyone the answer was more money. Money is not and will never be the answer to problems.***

When we are under pressure, we normally need God to miraculously change our circumstances or we need someone to drop a truckload of money on us. The spirit of mammon always tries to position itself as a substitute for God.

***"You either need God to work a miracle right now or you need more money"***

That is the lie that mammon tells you. When considering a business idea, you might motivate it by saying that if you just had more money, you could help so many people; or how you will paying for everything in cash and not fall into debt etc. From experience, I can honestly tell you this is a lie. You will never give. The best opportunity to start giving is when you are at rock bottom and broke. Start giving and apply these principles, trusting God with a pure heart and see for yourself. The moment we start thinking that most of our problems can be solved by having more money, it's a sign we're under the influence of the spirit of mammon.

***I like the story that Robert Morris always tells:***

*When I (Robert) was a young boy I broke my father's brand new motorboat by unplugging a wire because of a warning signal regarding low oil level. When the engine ceased, I told my dad that*



*I will make a plan to find the money and replace the engine. My dad told me (those words I will never forget), son;*

**“If you think that money can solve your problems then you do not have a problem”**

**If money can't fix it, God can!**

Money isn't the answer to your problems. God is always the answer to your problems. The spirit of mammon tries to influence us and make us think it's the answer to our problems. Please do not misunderstand this – God does not tell us to hate money – what He is saying is that if you love GOD, we will hate mammon – the greedy, selfish, lying, deceiving, antichrist like spirit that operates through money worship. That is precisely what Jesus is saying in *Matthew 6:24*; “*either you will love one and hate the other or we will be loyal to one and despise the other*”. We are to despise the spirit of mammon that lies to people, promise everything but deliver nothing, and dare to try to take the place of God.

One of the most profound scriptures God showed me is **1 Corinthians 14:10** “*there are so many kinds of voices in the world and no kind is without signification*”. There are many voices and all of them have meaning. Look at the The Living Bible translation:

*<sup>10</sup> I suppose that there are **hundreds of different languages in the world**, and all are **excellent for those who understand them**, <sup>11</sup> **but to me they mean nothing**. A person talking to me in one of these languages will be a stranger to me and I will be a stranger to him. <sup>12</sup> Since you*

*are so anxious to have special gifts from the Holy Spirit, ask him for the very best, for those that will be of real help to the whole church. **TLB***

There are hundreds of different languages in the world, but they are only excellent to those who understand them. It's significance only gets meaning when adhered to. This is profound - Paul says that he does not understand all the languages of the world and to him they mean nothing. He is a stranger to that language, to those voices are just a stranger to him too.

As God and mammon always talks to us, the question is to whom do you listen to and which language, which voice has significance to you? We need to learn to discern between these voices and only listen to the voice of the Shepherd.

**My Personal Note:**

*I have heard a lot of people complain about money, but let me tell you the truth. Do you know what real loneliness is? When you have everything in life that you ever dreamed of and have nobody around you to share it with! When you sit in a motorboat and no one wanted to share the experience of skiing with you! When you travel the world but came back to a house full of strife. Money is never the issue. Joseph was prosperous when he stood naked on the plain, sold as a slave. The word says Joseph was prosperous in jail. And that is the point. When God talks about prosperity, He refers to your spirit, soul and body.*

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

**3 John 1:2 KJV**

### **TRUE RICHES**

The first time God started talking to me about true riches, I wondered what it meant. Over time God revealed the truth to me. Understanding this bring peace and freedom above imagination and indescribable joy. It is my prayer that the Holy Spirit reveals this to you.

God calls mammon unrighteous in Luke 16 – He does not call money unrighteous!

*And I say unto you, Make to **yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness**; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations. 10 He that is **faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much**: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. 11 **If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?** 12 **And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?** 13 No servant 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. **Luke 16:9 KJV***

### **Jesus calls the spirit that can rest on money unrighteous.**

Money can be used for either unrighteous or righteous purposes. It can be used for temporal or eternal purposes. Money that has been submitted to God (*as opposed to being used in an attempt to replace Him*) is blessed. That's why blessed money multiplies and is not

consumed by the devourer. It's money that can be used for good and to bless other. Clearly, Jesus also illustrates that we are to use our money for that which is eternal. **And herein lays the truth of true riches!**

**True riches are people**

Everything on earth will eventually burn – and we can't take anything with us where we go to after life on earth. So, the only thing on earth that is eternal, is people. The human soul is eternal. Use your money to affect people – help them hear the gospel – and they will from part of your welcoming committee when you get to heaven. Jesus did not say that money will welcome you in heaven. He said that the friends you make will receive you into an everlasting home. Just as Jesus turned water into wine, God can turn money into souls. He is the only One who can transform unrighteous mammon into true riches.

I was confused with the scripture in Matthew 6 where Jesus told us not to lay up treasures on the earth, but in heaven. For many years I asked God to reveal to me how to do that.

*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for **yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. **Matthew 6:19 KJV***

This is the truth: “When we use money for righteous purposes, we are laying up treasure in heaven. That's why we need to be wise stewards of money and sow where churches and ministries are investing in people. Use your money to help, love, feed and care for people. Investing in ministries that takes the gospel around the globe and affecting people in powerfully positive ways – both physically and spiritually – lays up treasures in heaven!

Imagine entering the Kingdom of Heaven one day and a multitude of people are waiting for you, welcoming you because your money helped to reach them across the globe.

***“I'm in the kingdom because you gave to a missionary or ministry that shared Christ with me. Thank you for letting God turn unrighteous mammon into heavenly treasure”***

The truth is that money is not inherently evil. God uses money to feed and clothe people. He uses it to facilitate and spread the gospel to the unreached parts of the earth. This explains why the enemy of our souls works so hard to corrupt and distort our thoughts about money. The devil knows that God can take the temporal money and turn it into eternal souls. He knows that the more money we give to ministries, the more souls are going to be saved, the more the kingdom of God is going to be advanced, and the kingdom of darkness is going to fail. Hell is being plundered by our offerings and Satan knows it. The devil hates Spirit-led giving because it simultaneously diminishes his kingdom and makes us more like our heavenly Father.

**The enemy does not want you to read this profound truth. He doesn't want you to get financially free; therefore, he doesn't want**

**you to give so that your money can be blessed and multiplied!**

Some of you might think that because you do not have any money to give, this “unrighteous mammon”, stewardship and giving is not relevant to you.

**“Yes, it is relevant and you’ll never have any money if you don’t embrace this principle”**

***He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. Luke 16:10 KJV***

We must be faithful with a little before we will be entrusted with much. Not having a lot of money makes you a perfect candidate to start giving. Be faithful with that little, God will give you more. If God can get money through you, He will get money to you! This is a principle. He knows that a person who is unjust with a little will also be unjust with more.

***If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? 12 And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own? Luke 16:11 KJV***

*If you have read Luke 16:10-12 rather quickly and perhaps have missed the essence;*

*Most people dream of bigger and better possessions (and there is nothing wrong with it), e.g. a better car or house etc. But when you look inside their current car it really is a total mess. That*

*immediately gives you a clear picture of what is going on in in their life. You’ll find the same picture in their houses, wardrobes, kitchens etc. God laid down a principle of stewardship and He will first test you with little, before much can be released. If you cannot maintain and clean a one bedroom apartment, how on earth are you going to look after a three storey house? Some people can be entrusted with large amounts of money without falling into a trap. The reality is that few can – look at the lifestyles of most celebrities – they cannot handle the power of money!*

*Maybe God loves you so much, that He has not released that amount of money into your life, knowing that if He did, you might end up in a place without Him.*

**Think about that!**

*In a teaching of Earl Pitts (“Walking in financial freedom”) he told the story of a young boy who applied for an enrolment with them, but unfortunately, he was in debt at that stage and could not be allowed to enter. But, Earl decided to help the boy and asked him what the arrangement with the outstanding debt was. He answered that there was no arrangement to pay his father back. When we have debt with no arrangement in place to pay it back that put us in bondage. His father confirmed that this was indeed a loan and had to be paid back and Earl showed this person the concept of a closed circle. He told the boy to make an offer to his father to pay back \$5 per month – that was all he could afford. At first, his father was reluctant, as this would take a lifetime to settle the outstanding amount. But his*

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*father agreed and the son paid \$5 each month. After eight months, the boy got a raise which he could use to pay of his debt sooner. Because he kept his circle closed, he settled the outstanding amount in less than a year.*

This was a huge lesson I had to learn. In the past, my salary just managed to cover my living costs, but as my salary increased over time, so did my living costs. With this approach, you'll find yourself in bondage sooner or later.

All that you have belongs to God, we are just His stewards. Each new day brings a test of how you are stewarding someone else's treasures – money. If I am not even a good steward with the unrighteous mammon, how can God entrust me with His true riches – people?

*This is insightful for those who are called by God into full-time ministry. You need to walk as a good, entrusted steward with the unrighteous mammon before God can promote you and trust you with His true riches – His flock – His people! His people are God's treasure, regardless of what they have done in the past. God loves them all and it is not for us to judge them, but to care and to minister to God's true riches and bring correction in meekness and in love!*

*And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to **teach, patient, 25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves;** if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; 26 And that they may **recover***

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***themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will. 2 Timothy 2:24 KJV***

I am currently very sensitive with whom I spend time with, what I listen to or look at. God can send me to a precious jewel of His to minister to at any time and therefore I cannot afford to be double-minded. Of course, we are all human, but there cannot be any intention or motive to seek the riches of this world and still have a desire to teach. Patiently and in meekness we need to instruct those that have been taken captive so that they may recover themselves from the snares. While there may be many false teachers who might make a lot of money through teaching the Gospel, that should not be our focus or concern. I do not participate in conversation that condemns any pastor nor do I listen to any negative comments in this regard – as you should also!

#### **FRIENDS OF MAMMON**

In the book "The Blessed Life" (Robert Morris), he explains how the spirit of poverty and the spirit of pride becomes friends of mammon and I'd like to share this deep truth with the reader! Again, it is only a subtle tactic of the "god of this world" to blind us, and it is this blindness that keeps us in bondage!

The "**spirit of poverty**" will always cause you to be **ashamed** of the blessings of God. If you are a faithful, generous steward, you will be blessed. There is no avoiding it. The devil can't stop you once you start giving and become a giver, but he can definitely try to make you ashamed of it. This is how the spirit of poverty is at work. You may think

this spirit is more active with poor people, but it is actually the other way around. It is the rich with the sense of shame and guilt about being blessed by God. Do you think God will do anything for you to feel ashamed of? Of course not. Many believers are doing things God's way and receive blessings and somehow feel as if they have to apologize for them. Don't ever do that. Don't ever allow the enemy to make you ashamed of God's blessings.

Now if you are not susceptible to the trap of poverty mentality, the enemy will try the opposite and approach you through the "**spirit of pride**". Pride says: "**You've earned this stuff**". Your hard work, ingenuity and talent have made it happen. Thus, you should be proud of the blessings you have received". These two spirits work from opposite ends of the spectrum but have a common root – they get us to focus on "**stuff**" rather on God. We become centered on the blessing rather than on the Blessor.

- The spirit of pride says: "Wealth comes from hard work"
- The spirit of poverty says "Wealth comes from the devil"
- The spirit of pride says: "You should be proud of what you have"
- The spirit of poverty says: "You should be ashamed of what you have"

They are both traps because they are **things**-focused rather than God-focused.

**Example:**

*How do you respond when someone compliments you on your watch or your outfit?*

**Pride says: "It's imported from Europe"**

**Poverty says: "This old thing – I got it at half price"**

The spirit of pride tries to make people think we paid more for things than we did. The spirit of poverty wants people to think we paid less. Poverty feels the need to justify purchases and possessions because it equates blessing with evil. It causes you to say: "I can't let you think I spent very much money on anything because that would mean I'm not spiritual"

**Can you see the trap?**

## RELATING TO THINGS

God is using things to test your heart and reveal what's inside.

The truth is that God not only uses our stuff to test us, but He uses other people's stuff as well. In other words, how we respond to someone else being blessed says a lot about the condition of your heart. One of the Ten Commandments says that you shall not covet your neighbour's stuff.

*Covet in Greek = "to set the heart upon" – which is very similar to the word 'lust'*

We are setting our hearts upon it. This is a problem as we are supposed to set our hearts upon nothing and no one but God. God doesn't care if we have stuff, He cares if stuff has us!

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**It is our hearts that matters!**

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**TESTING THE HEART**

Testing your heart;

- Am I looking to God or to people to meet my needs?
- Do I get angry or resentful with people don't help me as I want them to?
- Do I blame others for my circumstances?

When we are looking to men, rather to God as our source of provision, we are ultimately disappointed when people do not help us – we become **disappointed** and **discourage** and then we become **bitter**. We must also discern the presence of a spirit of pride or of poverty in our lives. It is vital to our spiritual health and effectiveness in God's kingdom that those spirits be replaced by a heart of gratitude. When you think about your situation in life:

- **Pride says: "I deserve more"**
- **Poverty says: "I should feel guilty"**
- **Gratitude says, "Thank you (gratitude is an attitude of thankfulness that always acknowledges God's provision)"**

*When someone says, "Wow, you have a nice house"*

- *Pride says: "We were going to build a bigger one"*
- *Poverty says: "It was a foreclosure"*
- *Gratitude says: "Thank you. The Lord has blessed us"*

*When someone says: "That's a nice suit"*

- *Pride says: "It's Cardoso-made"*
- *Poverty says: "It was half-price"*
- *Gratitude says: "Thank you"*

When someone says: "That's a nice car"

- *Pride* says: "I've got three of them"
- *Poverty* says: "It's a company car"
- *Gratitude* says: "Thank you"

Pride wants people to think that we paid more. Poverty wants people to think we paid less. Gratitude doesn't care what people think – it only cares what God thinks. **Pride** causes us to compare **ourselves with others**. **Poverty** causes us to compare **others with ourselves**. When someone pulls up beside you in a less expensive car, prides says: "Mine is better" but when somebody pulls up in a more expensive car, poverty says: "That's a waste – He's probably a crook".

Pride and poverty do have this in common – they both always get us to compare ourselves with others!! In a sharp contrast, a person with a heart of gratitude compares himself with God and says: "Thank you". Why? Because when you compare what you have done for God (which is nothing) with what God has done for you (which is everything), your heart naturally overflows with gratitude. Don't fall into the comparison trap: prides says: "I earned it" and poverty says: "I shouldn't have it". Gratitude says: "**I received it by grace**"

As we have seen, the key to resisting the spirits of mammon, pride, and poverty is to remember. We must remember we were slaves to sin, the work God has done in us by grace, and that although we have worked hard, it has been God's blessing on our lives that has produced anything good. This is what God told the children of Israel before they went into the promise land.

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. **Deuteronomy 8:18 KJV**

**You shall remember your God – it is the Lord who gives you the power to get wealth!**

**Prayer:**

*Dear God - Please forgive me for being selfish, prideful and covetous. Please forgive me for listening to the unholy spirits of mammon, pride, and poverty. In the Name of Christ Jesus, I break them off me, off my family and off my descendants. From this day on I declare and decree that I will be generous, and an extravagant giver to the kingdom of God in Jesus Name. Amen!*

*Acknowledgement:*

*Robert Morris: "A Blessed Life"*

**NEW WORLD ORDER**

I'd like to touch on prophecies in the Bible of a new world order. As Nimrod tried to establish a new world order after the flood, so did the Pharaoh try in the time of Joseph, Nebuchadnezzar again in the time of Daniel, then Alexander in Greece and the Romans during the time of Jesus' crucifixion. As God came down and destroyed the Tower of Babylon, so will He return again to destroy the New World Order of the UN. This deception will come through our Political, Religious and Banking systems. In Revelation, it speaks of the beast rising up out of the sea (a Political figure) and another beast coming up out of the earth



(a Religious figure) which will force all nations under one government and one religious system. This One World Order will also introduce a one currency system to be used over the entire world.

*And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a **beast rise up out of the sea**, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. **Revelation 13:1 KJV***

*And I beheld **another beast coming up out of the earth**; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. **Revelation 13:11 KJV***

My friend, God is in control and He already planned and worked it out from the beginning. All this is to allow the son of perdition (the antichrist), Satan himself, to assemble the nations and their riches in one place, so that the King of kings and the Lord of lords – Yahshua HaMashiach – can destroy them all at once.

***Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy. Zephaniah 3:8 KJV***

And all the gold and silver (all the riches) will be destroyed when Yahshua HaMashiach returns with His armies of the host of heaven for the battle of Armageddon.

*And Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the heathen round about shall be **gathered together, gold, and silver, and apparel, in great abundance. Zechariah 14:14 KJV***

***Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. Zechariah 14:3 KJV***

*And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. 12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. **Revelation 19:11-16 KJV***

This is a warning to the reader, if you trust in your wealth, there will come a day very soon that it all will be destroyed.

## Part 2: BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

### INTRODUCTION

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!

### 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!

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*In everything you do, **put God first**, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success. **Proverbs 3:6 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!

Carefully read through these scriptures in different translations of the Bible.

*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. **Proverbs 3:5 AMP***

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*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. **Proverbs 3:5 MSG***

*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. **Proverbs 3:6 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 (Romans 5:10).

*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. **John 3:16***

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

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. **Romans 8:28-29 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.**

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

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 on earthly things, the temporal things, but our mind and focus is on the King, the heavenly things!

***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]. Colossians 3:1-2 KJV***

Without a doubt - Jesus Himself confirmed this in His own word that you shall love the Lord thy God with everything you own - 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. *(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. Romans 8:5)*

*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.*

**Matthew 22:37**

Putting God first means that it is not possible to share the Lord with anybody else!

*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. Matthew 6:24*

Just as God requires of us that He is put 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!

***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. Psalms 35:27 KJV***

God does not need anything from us as everything belongs to Him. The principles He laid down is to help us prosper. **How can this be?**

God knows mankind's heart and uses 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 hearts. God said in the New Testament that it is much better to give than to receive!

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

The firstfruits offering found its fulfilment in Jesus.

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

**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 uses "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.

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

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)**.

*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. 2 Corinthians 9:6 KJV*

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.

*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. **1 Corinthians 16:2 KJV***

### **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.

This might sound surprising, but ties in perfectly with the truth about Kingdom Finances that God revealed to me - the principles are the same as those of sicknesses and diseases.

The Bible states clearly that Jesus bore our sins, sicknesses, sorrows, pains and shame on the cross. Scripture tells us that we have been "redeemed from the curse of the law".

*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.] **Galatians 3:13 Amp***

Without a doubt, Jesus bore all of those things and more 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**.

*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**. **1 Peter 2:24 KJV***

Past tense – we 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 prophesied and Matthew quoted that Jesus took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.

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

### **The question remains why do we still get sick?**

Why do 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, sick or to live in financial shortages.

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

**I saw and experienced it in my own life!**

As God does not force us to do anything, He always gives us a choice to choose from. This is really profound and I hope you are grasping the importance: God sets before you “**life**” and “**death**” – “**BLESSING**” and “**CURSE**” – you choose.

**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.**  
**Deuteronomy 30:19 KJV**

The ISV translation's last part is: After God set life and death, blessing and curse before us – He also directs us and says: “**Choose life**”

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

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

**Praise God.** As I was writing these truths I was stuck between these two principles - those who believe we can't be cursed and those who believe we can be under a curse. I asked God for understanding and the words to explain the truth and He reminded me of **Ephesians 2:8** “For by **grace are ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (**KJV**) and also of the scripture in Deuteronomy 30 - He is the One who sets the blessing and the curse before you to choose.

Grace alone does not save you – you also need to believe and have faith in His promise. Likewise, God gives us the choice to choose from and will not force anything on us.

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

**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. Malachi 3:11 KJV**

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.



**Important Note:**

**Just one very important point I'd like to stress here: when I refer to giving, firstfruits, and tithing as a law, I am not referring to it as the Messianic Law (the Law of Moses in the Torah of the Old Testament") – but 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 and we clearly see this in Matthews 5:

*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.***  
**Matthew 5:17 KJV**

**HIGHER STANDARD**

Every time Jesus points to an Old Covenant law, He then sets a higher standard under the New Covenant of Grace. **Exodus 20:13** instructed not to commit murder, but in **Matthew 5:22** Jesus said not to be angry with your brother. A higher standard!

The law said not to commit adultery (**Exodus 20:14**), but Jesus said not even to look at a woman lustfully (**Matthew 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 say: "I am not tithing because I am not under the law, but under grace"? By saying that you then have to give according to the law of grace – 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?

*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.] **Galatians 3:13 KJV***

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.

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

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

*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.** **Exodus 13:12 KJV***

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 Exodus 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 down for us in a perfect way – and even He, YEHOUAH, did not, and could not violate His own laws.

***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, ***Yahshua was YEHOUAH's (the Father's) tithe.***

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

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

## THE 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.

***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. Romans 8:29 KJV***

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.

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

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

God even goes further by explaining how His laws of blessing works. Not only does God want the firstfruits, but He says the “first” of the firstfruits belong 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”.***

*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. Proverbs 3:9 KJV*

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?**

In the well-known Malachi 3 God makes it clear that if we keep the tithe to ourselves, we are robbing God. Not only the tithe, but also in offerings, God said.

*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. **Malachi 3:8 KJV***

Many people will reason that it is Old Testament so they don't have to tithe, but in the same chapter God says that "**I am the Lord, I change not!**"

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

Isn't God telling us something that we as New Testament believers are missing? I definitely think so. Why didn't God use the word **steal** from Him, but instead used 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 high in monetary value. 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 says that we are robbing Him, we are taking what belongs to Him with considerable high volume.

- So the Lord says that the **firstborn** belongs to Him – Exodus 13:2
- And the **firstfruits** are His – Exodus 23:19
- And that the **tithe** belongs to Him – Malachi 3:8-9

And as God says "**I do not change**" (Malachi 3:6), when did the requirements supposedly change? Aren't there many other things that were under the law that are still valid under grace for the New Testament believers? As adultery was forbidden under the law, is it 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.

*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: **Genesis 4:4 KJV***

But just look at the previous verse and what it says about the offering Cain brought. In the **process of time** it came to pass that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground **an offering**.

*And in **process of time it came to pass**, that **Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering** unto the LORD. **Genesis 4:3 KJV***

In other words, Cain decided when and what to bring to the Lord (in the process of time). This was not a firstfruits offering, but an offering under Cain's own terms and conditions – therefore God could not accept it.

Why?

Because Yahshua HaMashiach will not ever go against His word. The violation of His own words will cause the destruction of the universe.

***Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; Hebrews 1:3 KJV***

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

*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. **Leviticus 27:30 KJV***

## **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.

*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. **Genesis 14:18 KJV***

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

*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. **Hebrews 5:9***

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.

*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. **Hebrews 7:1-3 KJV**

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

According to Hebrews 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 tithers have their offerings received by the Lord Jesus Himself! WOW!

***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. Hebrews 7:8 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 always comes from the heart – not from a legalistic mind!

*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. **Genesis 28:22***

***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 considered 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

***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. Leviticus 27:30 KJV***

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

*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. Deuteronomy 26:1*

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

*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. Deuteronomy 26:13***

#### **JESUS: "THE TITHE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT"**

When I read Jesus' own words Matthews 23 in King James Version, **I knew without a shadow of a doubt that we as believers have to tithe.**

**"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". Matthew 23:23 ISV**

The TLB translation states – "**Yes, you should tithe**, but you shouldn't leave the more important things undone".

***"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)***

What we have just read is in my opinion one of the most amazing Scriptures on tithing. Yahshua HaMashiach Himself confirms the tithe. I don't know how anyone with a soft heart towards God could negate 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*



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*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 concerned about the people having enough for themselves when he saw how much these people had given.

*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***

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***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." 2 Chronicles 31:4-10 KJV***

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 – Malachi 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.

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

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 as we will come back to the principle of multiplication where this becomes 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).

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Now regarding your question about the money being collected for God's people in Jerusalem. You should follow the same procedure I gave to the churches in Galatia. 2 **On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. Don't wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.**

**Corinthians 16:1-2 NLT**

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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**”.

*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. Exodus 13:14***  
**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 about where to give their tithes. Let's look at what scripture says:

*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.] **Malachi 3:10 AMP***

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 (**2 Chronicles 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!

*During my personal involvement with local churches and even ministries, very few, if any understood or lived by these principles. When you peruse the budgeting and financial statements of these institutions, you soon realise that the vision and the spending patterns do not line up. I honestly believe that it is because those*

who lead do not have a personal testimony of how God supernaturally provides all our needs.

Robert Morris in his book "The Blessed Life" shared many stories of how God miraculously and supernaturally moved in his and other people's lives when they obeyed His instructions. What struck me was when Robert shared, what he believed, the reason was why their church and ministry were so blessed. The Lord led them to bless the Jewish people and the very first cheque each month goes to Jewish evangelism. According to **Romans 11:15** there will be a worldwide revival when the Jewish people accept their Messiah. They take the gospel to the Jews first (**Romans 1:16**) and it is visible in their bank account.

Robert told his business pastor; "On the first day of every month, I want you to write a check to such-and-such Jewish ministry. I want you to do it on January 1<sup>st</sup>, February 1<sup>st</sup>, all through the year. Make sure the very first check we write each month is not to the electric company or even to pay the staff – the first check we write is for Jewish evangelism. Our very first service is for the Jewish people. We give in 42 countries all over the world. We are taking the gospel to everyone, but we're taking it to Jewish people first. This is God's prescribed order. When we give to the Jewish people first, the rest is blessed. I believe that's why God has blessed us as a church. Because we decided to give "to the Jews first".

Many attend churches that aren't "good" because of a lack of options. It would be wrong to tell you to put your tithe into the local church and not

qualify that by saying a good local church one that is meeting the needs of its members.

### **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 a pavement expecting a harvest*). It is wrong to put your money in something you do not agree with. You should tithe where you get spiritually fed.

**We must learn the truth and not support all sorts of false teaching and lies. These people need to make 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 going on 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**

I heard of somebody a few years ago who meditated on Philippians 4 for one year to trust God and to break strongholds in his life.

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

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:

*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. **Philippians 1:3 KJV***

#### 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 gave to Paul in a bigger measure than any other church had. Paul made specific mention of how eager they were to care for him and provide for his needs. They were regular supporters of Paul as he traveled while preaching the Good News.

*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. **Philippians 4:10 KJV***

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.

*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.*

#### **Philippians 4:11-13 KJV**

Paul learned to live a life of abundance. In addition he said that no other churches were giving him financial assistance to help preach the Gospel - only the Philippians! The word Paul used in verse 15 is “**communicated**”, which talks about “**finances**”.

*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. Philippians 4:14-15 KJV***

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

*<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. (TLB)**

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

*<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. (AMPC)***

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

*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. **Philippians 4:16***  
**KJV**

It was not just about Paul - the Philippians were 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.

*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.*  
**2 Corinthians 9:10 KJV**

Reading verse 19 again, Paul speaks of: “**..your need according..**”.

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



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.

*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 swore unto thy fathers, as it is this day. **Deuteronomy 8:18***

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.

*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. **2 Corinthians 9:8***

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.

### **My Test**

*The past 13 months I sat in my office and just studied the Word of God. During this time, I read many books of different authors. At one point I read some astonishing Bible truths written by Andrew Wommack – so I decided to write him an email.*

*To give you some background - since childhood I've had this deep desire to be a pastor. For some reason I never studied theology. In 2000 I clearly heard the Lord's voice calling me into full time ministry. It was around 2010 that we decided to sell everything we owned at that point. During this time, I received a prophecy that told me a buyer is on his way and the money will be for ministry. In*

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*June of 2013, the Lord spoke to me from Deuteronomy Chapter 10. The message was clear: "As the Levites were involved in temple service, so am I calling you to My service. I want you to bless my people to whom I will send you. As the Levites did not own any land, so will you not possess any land again. Be faithful to ME and I will provide in all your needs."*

*So, just after my email to Andrew, it was if God was testing my heart. It was more than once, and more than just a dream, but rather like a vision – I saw how God sold the property and put a substantial amount of money in my hand. He sent me (in this vision) to join the Andrew Wommack Ministry in the USA. When I arrived, Andrew asked me how much money I had and he said; "give it to me". I told my wife the next morning (knowing this was a personal test for me), but struggled to speak as the emotions took over. Imagine, arriving in a foreign country, giving everything away and trusting God to be your provider?*

*It was a hard test for me. It took me a few weeks to clear this issue with the Lord. We need to fully trust God - that He is the only one who can supply in all our needs.*

## **PRINCIPLES OF MULTIPLICATION**

As I mentioned earlier, the concept of multiplication in the Bible has always fascinated me. I didn't fully understand it until I read "The Blessed Life" of Robert Morris. Of all the Kingdom Finance teachings I have read, I would recommend this book above all the others.

### ***Personal Testimony by Robert Morris***

*"It was 1984, and I was a young evangelist. In those days, my wife, Debbie, and I would gladly drive to just about any place that would offer me an opportunity to preach. As a traveling evangelist, all of my income came from the love offerings I received from the churches in which I preached. We had learned to trust God where our finances were concerned. We were diligent tithers. God had spoken clearly to us about the principle of the tithe several years earlier. And ever since we began honouring the lord by giving the first tenth of everything that came in, our needs have always been met – sometimes miraculously. What we did not know was that God was about to take us to the next level.*

*I was scheduled to preach at a church for only one night, and as it turned out, it was the only meeting I was scheduled to preach at all month. From a financial standpoint, that meant having only one opportunity to receive an offering instead of the usual four, five or six. After the service, the pastor approached me with the love offering saying that this is the largest love offering this little church has ever given. When I opened the envelope, I found a check for*

roughly the same amount as our entire monthly budget. In one meeting, God had miraculously provided what it normally took several meetings to produce.

As I stood there, holding the check, basking in the warm glow of gratitude and wonder, the unmistakable voice of the Lord spoke in my heart – I want you to give it away – all of it. In an instant, I went from euphoria to something approximating panic. Lord, that can't be Your voice! I mean ... after all .... I .... You .... You just did a miracle here to meet our needs. Once again, the instruction came through, gently but clearly. I want you to give your offering to the previous speaker. Trust Me, God said.

After a while, going through all the emotions of rationalization, bargaining, and begging – I waved the white flag. I went to the missionary, made sure no one was watching and said: Please do not tell anyone, but I would like you to have this offering.

An hour later, I found myself seated with about 20 members of the church at a pizza place. Across from me sat a well-dressed man I barely knew. After a while, he leaned across the table toward me, looked me straight in the eye, and asked me a shockingly personal question, "How much was your offering tonight?" I told him the amount of the offering. Then came the next question: "Where is the check?" the man spoke with boldness and of authority. Of course, I no longer had the check, but I wasn't about to tell him that. So I said my wife has it. "Go get it. I want to see it" the man said. I stood up, walked to my wife and asked her "how's your pizza?" I replied: "she left it out in the car". Then in a low voice the man

said: "the check is not in the car, Robert". How do you know that, I wanted to know. "Because God told me – and He told me something else."

"God is about to teach you about giving so that you can teach the Body of Christ". Then he slid a folded piece of paper across the table. It was a check. The amount to the penny – 10 times the amount of the one I had given away only an hour or so earlier. Ten times – to the penny. That was the night this journey started."

God is the Master of multiplication – He specialises in it. While the world returns 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, I believe we are missing an important lesson of multiplication!

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.*

**Luke 9:12-17 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 gives us two very important keys. Firstly, 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 broke it in half and handed 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 blessed the food and then gave 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 filled with 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 Romans 11 – if the firstfruits are holy (set apart), then the rest is also holy.

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

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 give the first, our tithe to the Lord, the rest is blessed. When doing so, your money now has the ability 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**

After Jesus blessed the bread, it had the potential to multiply. If at that point they ate the bread themselves, it would have remained five loaves and two fish. It would never have multiplied. They would have had a

couple of bites each instead of having their fill with 12 baskets left over. They had to give it away in order for it to multiply.

**“If God can get money through you, He'll get it to you” and it won't be long before you have plenty left over for yourself**

#### **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 examining scripture, we clearly see that ***tithing is simply returning to God that which He 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. The Lord laid down this principle (law) in the harvest patterns for the traditional Jews during the time of Moses (see a complete discussion of the harvest pattern in the book “Dispensation”).

The Lord gave the Jews specific instructions to harvest their land. Before the main harvest was ready, the Lord requires a first fruit.

*"You are to bring the best of the **first fruits** of your soil to the house of the LORD your God. "You are not to boil a young goat in its mother's milk." **Exodus 23:19***

The firstfruit points to Jesus' coming as a first fruit offering to redeem the rest. Similarly the firstfruits of the harvest were brought to the store house of the Lord to redeem the rest. The ***firstfruit did not belong to***

**the owner** of the field, but all firstfruit belongs to God. Then there is the **main harvest** that belongs to the owner of the field. And the Lord specifically refers to the corners, instructing the owner of the field not to harvest it, but to leave it for the poor.

*Furthermore, when you harvest the produce of your land, you are not to **harvest all the way to the corners** of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and resident alien. I am the LORD your God.*

**Leviticus 23:22**

If the first part is holy then the rest is also holy. When Jesus rose from the dead, He took all the saints captured by Satan as a first fruit to the Father.

*If the first part of the dough is holy, so is the whole batch.  
If the root is holy, so are the branches. **Romans 11:16***

This is illustrated in the Book of John. When Jesus first appeared to Mary, He instructed her not to touch Him because He had not yet ascended to the Father.

*Jesus saith unto her, **Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. John 20:17***

He then took all the saints from the beginning of mankind, ascended to the Father and presented them as firstfruits. Later, Jesus stood between the disciples and told Thomas to touch His wounds and believe.

*Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.*

**John 20:27**

He could now be touched as He already ascended to the Father.

You can't give what doesn't belong to you. The firstfruits are the Lord's, the rest is yours to keep or give as you choose. It is from this portion that you give what the Bible refers to as offerings. Remember Malachi 3 speaks of the **tithes** and **offerings!** Tithing really isn't giving – it's returning. Returning 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 Matthew 25 Jesus tells a parable of three stewards. When the one steward came back with double the amount, the Lord called him a good and faithful servant.

*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*

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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!** **Matthew 25:21-25 ISV**

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

*"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?'  
**Matthew 25:26 KJV***

This is not to say that you are lazy if you only tithe – it only illustrates the point that we are supposed to give over and above our tithe. If you are currently tithing – that's 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 said we are robbing Him, He referred to the tithe and the offerings.

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

God wants your finances to be blessed and 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.**

*Acknowledgement:  
Robert Morris: "The Blessed Life"*

## THE LADDER OF GIVING

In summary - we can unlock our gift of giving, by returning the tithe back to the Lord so that He can bless it for us and redeemed the portion we keep. Secondly, only the part that we give away will be multiplied by God. So, we have tithes 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.

*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.*  
**1 Chronicles 29:10-11 KJV**

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

*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.*  
**1 Chronicles 29:16-17 KJV**

### **ASK ME ANYTHING**

King Solomon sacrificed a 1 000 burnt offerings (only one bull was required according to the law) and that night at Gibeon - God appeared to him and told 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 (**Genesis 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 **1 Chronicles 21:23** (David). A few examples of 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 Samuel 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 first asked what was available. He performed the multiplication miracle with what was available!

**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 the extravagant giving of a widow in Luke 21.

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

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

*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." Luke 21:4*

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

#### THE FATHER'S PAINFUL "GIFT"

Not far from the hill where Abraham offered up his first and only son, Isaac, God Almighty offered His first only and 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**) and in the next chapter (**John 12**), Mary poured out very expensive perfume on His feet and hair.

*Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived in Bethany, where Lazarus lived, the man whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 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. John 12:1-3 KJV***

Isn't it possible that Mary, when Jesus raised her brother from the dead, received a new perspective? If somebody raised your spouse or child from the dead today after they've been dead for four days, wouldn't that change your values and priorities? Maybe material possessions won't seem so precious anymore. Getting a glimpse of what Jesus can do for the people we love has a way of doing that to 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?**

*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. Ephesians 2:4 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?

*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? John 12:4-5 KJV*

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**But Jesus said: “She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying”**

**Mark 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 on the third day and saw the angels who told them that Jesus had risen (**Luke 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 don't 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 said to Mary, Jesus said: “**Why trouble you this woman?**”

*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.***  
**Matthew 26:10-13 KJV**

Jesus went on to say: “**this will make Mary famous one day – they will be talking about this for years**”. Mary did not even realise what she was doing - she was only giving and expressing her love for Him

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and did not expect anything in 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.

*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! **Acts 10:3 AMPC***

The next day, at noon, Peter who was 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.

*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.**" 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. **Acts 10:10-16 ISV**

Peter, the very religious Apostle of Jesus, saw unclean animals and God instructed him in his trance to kill an unclean animal and eat it. Jewish tradition forbade the eating of unclean animals and Peter rebelled and said: "**Absolutely not, Lord – I have never eaten anything that is unclean**". This happened three times and then the sheet quickly moved back into heaven. Peter was still thinking about the vision the Lord gave him when the Spirit suddenly told Peter that there were three men looking for him.

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

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

*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." **Acts 10:5 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 them.

*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 the centurion, who respected the Jewish nation and 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.

*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. **Acts 10:21-24 KJV***

The Jewish people were not allowed to eat unclean food, they were also 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 clean! (*Again the voice came to him a second time, "You must stop calling unclean what God has made clean." **Acts 10:15***).

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, we as gentiles heard the Gospel and received eternal life.

### DO YOU KNOW THE REAL REASON THIS HAPPENED?

Let us 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.**

***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. Acts 10:4 AMPC***

This is so profound. Cornelius' acts of giving and sacrifice came up before the Lord as a **fragrant** (a good) aroma – and God said: **“Cornelius, I saw the precious gifts you gave, I saw your pure heart, I saw you longing for Me. Now because of your act, I, the Lord, is opening the door to bring the Kingdom of God to you and your family and to all the gentiles”.**

But, let's go one step further – in the TLV (Tree of Life) translation we find the word **“tzedakah”**, which brings a deeper understanding of what Cornelius did. Remember, Cornelius was not a Jew, therefore he was not bound by Jewish law and traditions. He was a centurion, a Roman Captain.

*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. (TLV)*

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

***Tzedakah is an obligation*** - though it is a **different concept than 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 a total voluntary gift*), which must be

performed regardless of financial standing and must even be performed by poor people!

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

*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?" **Acts 10:44***

No doubt that Cornelius, a non-Jew, with a loving heart towards God, understood the deep principles of giving (*probably having the gift of giving*). Not giving voluntary but as an obligation, bringing what belongs to God as an offering (**"tzedakah" of Cornelius, a gentile**) – and that **opened up** the door for me and you (**as gentiles**) to come into the Kingdom of God!

Amazing – Profound – Hallelujah!

### **Praise God**

*If you still don't understand the importance of giving and tithing as an obligation, seek God on this matter and ask Him to reveal His truth to you.*

### **GOD'S 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.

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

- Jacob was even more prosperous than Abraham or Isaac.

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

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

*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. **1 Samuel 16:13***

- And David became so wealthy that he gave a \$6 billion offering in one day towards the building of the Temple. **1 Chronicles 29:2-5**
- Solomon became even more prosperous than David.

*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. **1 Kings 1:37***

- 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 a lot of gold.

*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.*

**1 Kings 10:2 KJV**

She wanted to see the wisdom and prosperity of King Solomon for herself.

*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.*

**1 Kings 10:6 KJV**

In today's society, trying to meet with any country's president would be impossible. But, a gift such as the queen of Sheba brought opened the door to let her right in (*120 Talents of Gold is 145 000 ounces of gold @ \$1730 [price of gold] = \$250 million just in gold*).

*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.*

**1 Kings 10:10 KJV**

Getting to see King Solomon, she not only spent time with him, but she also dined with him and saw all the different aspects of his kingdom! Her gift opened a door and brought her before the greatest man of that time. That's the positive power of a gift! King Solomon gave the queen all her desires and he also gave her a royal bounty!

*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.*

**1 Kings 10:13 KJV**

She probably received more from the king than she gave.

- She did not give 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 ended up leaving Jerusalem with all of the bounties Solomon gave her.
- On her return - she still had tremendous wealth - she had wisdom and anointing she could use to build her entire nation!

*Acknowledgement: Andrew Wommack*

## THE HEART OF MARY AND JUDAS

It is interesting that after Judas complained about rather selling the expensive perfume to give the money to the poor, the next verse immediately explains that Judas did not care for the poor. He was a thief and he carried the money bag (he was carrying the tithe of Jesus).

*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. **John 12:5-6 KJV***

What an amazing story and a clear 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 breath-taking 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 was one of His disciples*).

*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. **John 12:6 KJV***

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 through history have imitated. It is the oldest cover-up for selfishness known to man. That's why it all sounds very familiar. It is sad, but is still being done 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 given the responsibility of the money bag, God will give you responsibility in the area of your weakness. Why? God is setting you up not to fail, but to succeed. 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.



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.

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

We all have the ability to resist whatever temptation comes 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 Jesus's own words:

*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? **Luke 16:11-12 KJV***

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 a 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 gives us a deep revelation of how these demonic forces work. 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 the next generation captive (*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 our complete discussion in the book "In Bondage?"*).

### **So, Nebuchadnezzar stole the tithe!**

You have to listen very carefully – Satan is the one who misleads – he darkens understanding through ignorance.

*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***

**KJV**

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

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

**“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”. Colossians 2:8 GNB**

The enemy puts us in bondage by imputing things into our mind, our bodies and what belongs to God!

*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. 1 John 2:16*

**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 steal when you don't tithe. 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

I have done a lot of research, and I am convinced more than ever that the principles explained in this teaching works.

In the book of “The Blessed Life” Robert Morris he says:

***“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. 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. *(and upholding all things by the word of his power Hebrews 1:3b KJV).* When God makes a promise, He will fulfil His promise as we fulfil 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, kind-hearted 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.

## TRUST & OBEY

I'd like to share a similar story with you on how God tested hearts to give everything away. If, and when you reach this point of obedience, God will change your heart for the rest your life. You will never be the same again.

*“One night, a couple came up to me who was seemingly broken before the Lord. They were weeping almost uncontrollably. They said that the Lord had spoken to them about giving away every penny they had. I learned that they had written a check for all the money they had in the world. Now they were bringing me the check, saying, “We’re supposed to give this to you. Do whatever you feel you’re supposed to do with it”. Immediately, I knew what the Lord wanted me to do. When they handed me the check, I asked them, “Are you saying this is mine now, and I can do anything that I want with it?” Through their tears, they nodded and answered yes. So, I said, “Well, I know exactly what the Lord would have me do with this check.” Then I tore it up in front of them. Immediately, they fell to the floor and began to weep uncontrollably. God did a wondrous work in their hearts that night – one that changed them for the rest of their lives. They were never the same. They had passed a major test of obedience. To this day, I don’t know how much money it was, nor do I care. I do know it was enormous in their eyes and precious in the eyes of God. I also know that no amount of money in the world could purchase what God did in that couple’s lives that night.”*

*The Blessed Life: Robert Morris*

## SUMMARY

These truths that I have shared with you has changed my life, and I hope it will also change yours. When you acknowledge these principles, trust God and start to apply it in your life will, I believe with all my heart it will set you and your family free from bondage and slavery.

We have to overcome, as Revelation 15 says: *“And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had **gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God” (Revelation 15:2 KJV)***. Overcome the devil, his image, and his mark. The antichrist of the end times is the spirit of mammon - overcome this spirit as it will not allow you to buy or sell. It is time to destroy and to break the demonic forces of this spirit – the god of riches, the spirit of greed as an evil master that enslaves, the spirit who oversees a cave of worldly wealth, the materialist spirit of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

God gave us *inter alia*, motivational gifts to empower the Body of Christ to help, to assist and to spread and preach the good news of the Gospel over the globe. With boldness, we will take the Kingdom of God violently with force (spiritually – *“And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force” Matthew 11:12*). Stop tolerating the works of the devil and start using your Godly anger to break these forces and lies and deceptions in your life.

We were all born takers, but we are born-again givers. Now it's our responsibility to renew our minds. Let our hearts be transplanted to be generous in our giving, rather than being selfish, thinking that our possessions belong to us and has nothing to do with God. Nothing can or will occur in our lives without faith. Christ cried out on the cross – “it is finished” – “Tetelestai” (**John 19:30**). With this cry, Christ Jesus paid for everything, your salvation, health, wealth, prosperity, joy, peace, self-control etc. His grace stands forever and ever.

BUT grace alone does not save us, grace alone does not keep us in divine health and wealth – No we need to participate and mix our faith with God's grace and then by grace through faith we are saved! (**Ephesians 2:8**). Similarly by grace, through faith we are healed and by God's grace through our faith we prosper! Where unbelief arises above our faith, and we don't mix our faith with God's promises, we are sent back to the wilderness in captivity. That is not God's choice, but the evil spirit of unbelief. Then the word preached to you did not profit you and you will never enter into God's rest.

*For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. 3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. Hebrews 4:2 KJV*

Only acknowledging and hearing these words and truths will not accomplish much. You need to act and implement. Put into practice what you have learned.

*Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to his word; instead, put it into practice. **James 1:22 GNB***

Scripture instructs us in Joshua to meditate on God's words day and night and *TO DO ACCORDING TO ALL THAT IS WRITTEN THEREIN.*

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

**Josua 1:8 KJV**

There is a promise from God that when we do, we shall prosper and we shall have good success.

The law of reciprocity is the exchange of something between people or groups of people, when each person or group gives or allows something to the other. When we give, let us give with good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over.

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

When you walk in a field, picking up grain to feed your family – you would probably have put in a good measure first, then you would press it down to compress the grains together to create more room. Then you would shake it to eliminate any air pockets between the grains and after this you would probably pour in as much grain as you possibly could, heaping it up above the rim until it begins to spill over the sides. The law of reciprocity says that for the very same measure you measure with, it shall also be measured to you again! In other words – in the same measure it will be given back to you. God is saying; **whatever you give is going to be given back to you** in “good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over.

My friend – what is your heart condition today? Do you have the heart of Mary or Cornelius? Or is your heart like Judas - full of selfishness – and instead of overcoming his own weaknesses, he betrayed the Lord and hanged himself. Remember that God always sets us up for success.

*Let us overcome the demonic forces of mammon, the beast, his image and his number and stand on the sea of glass the victorious song of Moses to the Lord!*

**Then I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire. Those who had conquered the beast, its image, and the number of its name were standing on the sea of glass holding God's harps in their hands. 3 They sang the song of God's servant Moses and the song of the lamb: "Your deeds are both spectacular and amazing, Lord God Almighty. Your ways are just and true, King of the nations. Revelation 15:2-3 KJV**

## **A Word from the Author**

This book is not about me, it is all about Yahshua HaMashiach. If not for Him, I wonder what would have happened to me. With His kindness, longsuffering and indescribable love, He constantly drew me closer to Him, taught me how to pitch my tent with Him, as He is pitching His tent with Me. It is only when you allow the Holy Spirit to do His work in you that something significant happens on the inside. The Ruach HaKodesh is a master in heart transplants, in sanctification, purification, holiness and making you whole again. When people the closest to you confesses with great astonishment, that you have changed and transformed for good – that is the final death of the old man and a new life in the spiritual man – then you realise: “How great is our God”. YEHOVAH Elohim took me out of darkness, out of Babylon (sometimes with force), into the light, perfectly orchestrated my life into His image. There are no words in the human vocabulary to express my overwhelming thankfulness, joy, peace and love that I have received from Him. I could not even imagine in my wildest dreams, the good works He had in store for me!

I am only His vessel. Therefore, all the glory to YEHOVAH Elohim, who is the author of this Book!

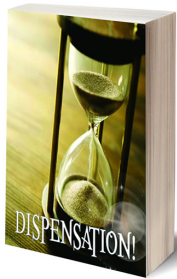
Dr. Anton du Plessis



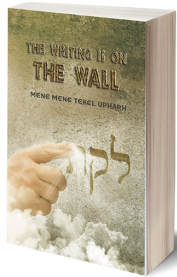
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*"I am the Bright Morning Star -  
Surely I come quickly"  
Rev 22:16, 20*

The most precious gift that the human race on Planet Earth can ever receive, is the free gift of "SALVATION". Unfortunately, there is only one person in the Universe who can give this free gift to you and His name is "YAHSHUA HAMASHIACH", the Son of the Father, "YHWH."

The Father gave His only beloved Son, who willingly destroyed Himself on the Cross as our Passover Lamb. The Father accepted this first fruit offering of the Son and declared that I AM now the way, the Truth and the Life and that no one can come unto the Father but by Me. I am the door, if you accept My precious gift, I will come in and eat with you and I will abide in you and you in ME forever.

This act of both the Father and the Son was a universal declaration of love, demonstrating the pure heart and attitude of Elohim. Likewise, we need to allow the works of the "RUACH HAKODESH" in us, to change and to transform our hearts – a heart transplantation – to have the same heart and attitude of Elohim. Only then can we also "GIVE" unconditionally.

Anton du Plessis

