

# GIVING Pt.1: CHEERFUL GIVER, TITHES and OFFERINGS, GIFTS and TALENTS, SPIRITUAL WARFARE

This is always a hard subject to speak on because people who do not have a heart to give don't want to hear about their sin against God. In almost 10 years of ministry, I have spoken on this subject twice. The links to those sermons on tithes and offerings are in the info. box where you are watching and on my sermon notes. I'm not going to re-teach in depth about tithing because I've already done that. With that said, let's dive in.

**2 Cor.9:6-8** - But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:

Let's read this in the New Living Translation:

## New Living Translation

Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.

You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

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Most of us are not farmers or ranchers today. But the concept is clearly the same and applies to our money the same way. Give a little then you will get a little back. Give more and more will be given back as a blessing.

Don't give grudgingly, as in you really don't want to do it. Don't give because you feel like you have to or you feel pressured into it. That kind of heart and attitude toward giving does not please God. If that's how you feel then you should not give at all. And if you feel like that, either you are not saved or you are a baby Christian who needs to grow.

That end of that verse said that God loves a cheerful giver and when you are a cheerful giver, then He will generously meet all your needs. He will bless you in meeting your needs that you will have more than you need so that He can use you to be a blessing to others. That's what this ministry is all about. When you sow into this ministry, you are helping to support 3 ministries, Three Hearts Church, Pastor Erustus' ministry in Africa and Pastor Dalbeer's ministry in India. Everything you have is from God and belongs to Him. We serve a loving, merciful and generous God. We are to serve Him with what He has blessed us with.



This is Pastor Erustus and his wife Pastor Sarah. Pastor Erustus heads up our outreach ministry in Africa.

Some years back I had a conversation with Pastor Erustus about tithes and offerings. I want to share that now.

Can someone be considered righteous or obedient who has learned about tithing and giving and does not do it? I asked Pastor this question because I was ministering to someone at that time, who was having a struggle in their health. I knew this person was not a giver. When you are struggling with something in your Christian life and you don't see God move or your situation change, you always want to be sure you are doing what God expects of you, that you are living a righteous life. I have sort of a check list of key things you want to be sure you are doing and if so, then you wait on The Lord and trust Him to move in His way and His timing. I will share that list of key things later in this sermon series.

I did not know all about the person but one thing I did know was that they were not a giver. As ministers of God it is not easy to counsel someone and tell them when they are not pleasing God, then they do not have His full protection and blessing on their lives. If you say anything about money, those that are not rooted and grounded in the Word of God just think you want their money. And if that is the case then so be it, I have an obligation to minister the truth.

### **PASTOR ERUSTUS' RESPONSE**

About tithing though it's not mentioned so much in the New Testament, personally I believe it's still a valid principle and requirement for all believers today. We have to see the reason behind God commanding tithes to be paid. It was and still is to support God's work and His ministers in order to help build the Kingdom. The work of God and rather the gospel cannot be preached without believers giving offerings and tithes. There are bills to pay, materials to buy, fuel needed, food, buildings to be built for God's work etc. and all this requires money.

\*I will add there are also websites to pay for, computers, hard drives, software, cameras and video equipment etc. like we use here in this ministry to share the gospel and God's Word to the whole world. Let alone support for God's ministers and their families. For their children's educations and helping orphans and the poor and needy to have an education and help meet their needs.\*

Pastor continued: A righteous person is one who walks right with God. And giving is a principle that God laid both in the Old and New Covenants. There is no one who related with God without God requiring of him/her to give. God Himself is a giver. He gave His only begotten Son, and all we see and own in the world is God given. The believers who came before us obeyed God in giving tithes and offerings

which helped the gospel to reach us. Now it's our time to lay the gospel to move to the next generation but many now want to be selfish, proud, mean, idolize money and allow the Mammon spirit to rule their hearts with an excuse and pretense that giving tithes and offerings was a law only given to the Israelites.

In fact some people are blessed by God beyond measure, such should grow up and give even above 10% on giving gratitude to God for blessing them. By the way Pastor, we are to give until the need is solved or met, that is when we can proudly say we are good givers. Giving carries blessings and those who obey it reap abundantly.

Me: I just shared one way that God blesses us when we are cheerful givers, He meets our needs and blesses us above our needs so we can be a blessing to others.

Pastor said: The issue of giving tithes and offerings is an important principle. God was teaching His people about the stewardship of money and material things which is still applicable to us in the New Testament. The Old Testament is a school master for us today. Everything we own belongs to God, we don't possess anything, we are just God's stewards and He demands us to serve Him with all that He has given us.

**Psalm 50:10** - For every beast of the forest *is* Mine, *and* the cattle upon a thousand hills.

I believe that "hills" is a Mandela Effect and should say mountains.

**Haggai 2:8** - The silver *is* Mine, and the gold *is* Mine, saith the LORD of hosts.

Everything came from God. He created everything and without Jesus nothing was created. **(John 1:1-5)** The parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30 reminds us that The Master, Jesus has entrusted us with our gifts and talents, material possessions and our money to serve Him and further His kingdom until He returns for us. Let's be good stewards of what He has entrusted us with because we will give an account. Let's read part of that parable:

**Matt.25:26-34** - His lord answered and said unto him, *Thou* wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and *then* at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give *it* unto him which hath ten talents. For

unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats: And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

When we don't use what God has given us, it will be taken away. Those that use what God blesses them with, more will be given. Keep in mind Jesus is our Master, we are to serve Him with what He gives us.

I like the pulpit commentary, let's take a look at it:

#### Pulpit Commentary

Verse 30. - **Cast ye the unprofitable servant into [the] outer darkness (Matthew 8:12)**. The parable merges into the real. The matter represented bursts through the veil under which it was delivered, and stands forth plainly and awfully. The command is issued to the ministers of the Lord's vengeance, whether earthly or angelic. The slave was truly unprofitable, as he advanced neither his master's interests nor his own, which were bound up with the other. While the faithful servants enter into the joy of the Lord, he is rejected from his presence, expelled from the kingdom of heaven, banished we know not whither. And why? Not for great ill doing, sacrilege, crime, offence against the common laws of God and man; but for neglect, idleness, omission of duty. This is a very fearful thought. Men endeavour to screen themselves from blame by minimizing their talents, ability, opportunities; this parable unveils the flimsiness of this pretence, shows that all have responsibilities, and are answerable for the use they make of the graces and faculties, be they never so small, which they possess. Spiritual indolence is as serious a sin as active wickedness, and meets with similar punishment. Our Lord's account of the last judgment terribly confirms this truth (vers. 42-45). **There shall be [the] weeping and [the] gnashing of teeth (Matthew 24:51)**. "There," viz. in the outer darkness. The remembrance of lost opportunities, wasted graces, bartered privileges, will fill the mind of the banished with terrible remorse, and make existence a very hell; and what more shall be added?

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The servant who buried the talent / money he was given, was called by his Lord, wicked and slothful and the judgement executed against him was that he was cast away from his Lord into a place of outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. That is a place of torture and torment. Now we see a clear picture of what God thinks about those who do not use what He has given them. Those that are not doing anything for His kingdom. It's not ok to be a servant and do nothing for God's glory. It is a great sin against God.

Back to what Pastor Erustus shared: We must decide to serve God but not Mammon. Greediness is what is making many not to give and hide in Scriptures saying that it's not a New Testament requirement. But I ask, "is giving not a principle in the NT?" Many are just full of greed which according to the New Testament is idolatry, (**Matt.6:24, 1 Tim.6:10**) which then means one is not living a righteous life.

Me: There's the answer to my question. Those who are not giving are not being like Christ and they are living in sin against God.

Pastor continued: The motive behind our giving must be to advance the gospel starting from our own church and throughout the whole world. One cannot say that he/she loves & supports their church, body of Christ, your Pastor and God's work and yet is not ready to give tithes and offerings. Pastor, people must just be told or taught the truth. It's up to them to obey or disobey, they will stand to be judged because they heard the truth but never obeyed it. Don't shut up or compromise Pastor, let's stand and speak the truth.

Listen to what Pastor shared further:

That is why giving is very key in a believer's life. It disconnects what you possess from Satan's kingdom. And God takes the authority over your property.

Me: A lot of people get wrapped up wanting to seem powerful in spiritual warfare saying and making all sorts of declarations. The biggest spiritual warfare you can do, is live a righteous life. Get a hold of what Pastor said, giving is key in a believer's life. It disconnects what you possess from Satan's kingdom. And God takes the authority over your property. Spiritually, when you are a cheerful giver, it brings all that you have under the umbrella of God's protection.

I shared with Pastor Erustus that many people here in America don't want to give. He said, "They have no revelation." The Apostle Paul says the God of this world has blinded them never to see. **(2 Cor.4:4)**

We are to be committed in seeking God in prayer & fasting, studying the Word, fellowship of the saints, praising and worshiping God, giving, ministering or serving in the church/ God's Kingdom at large, living holy, etc. These keep Satan and his demons off our life. Developing a strong relationship with God is very significant. Lastly many take long or are so reluctant in growing in the things of God. They put little effort in growing to mature in the things of God. This makes it hard for them to deal with demons and Satan.

For those that want to argue about tithes and offerings and really don't want to give, there are consequences for not believing God's Word. Unbelief of God's Word is sin.

**1 Sam.15:23** - For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, He hath also rejected thee from *being* king.

God is a loving and giving God. He gave the best when He gave Jesus for our sins. Jesus freely gave Himself so we could be saved. Giving is taught from cover to cover of the Bible. God's ministers, and God's work was always supported by the people who were being ministered to. Today, the church is full of greed living like the world and many of God's ministers are holding down full time jobs to make ends meet. That is not how God intended for it to be.

## **CLOSING**

I want to share something Pastor shared when we were talking about witches and how they work:



They use demonized objects, food, clothes, gifts, money, chanting, dead people's familiar spirits etc. to attack, destroy, kill or impart spirits into others. They are after destroying strong churches, ministers, Christians, families etc. But all in all they can't overcome a true believer who is always prayerful and fasts, looks into God's word always, bold not fearful, full of faith, lives a holy life, covers his life and all things with Jesus' blood, walks with his or her spouse in unity and is a giver on his income (God destroys the devourer on one's finances) and filled by the Holy Spirit always.

You want victory in your life. You want God's full blessing in your life? You want to do real spiritual warfare in your life. Get busy doing these things I just mentioned and your walk with God will change, your life will change. This is real spiritual warfare.

People are being taught by false teachers to speak all kinds of things in so called spiritual warfare that sound good to the ear but have no effect spiritually because the person isn't walking right with God. If anything they are bringing destruction on themselves through spiritual attacks because they don't live obedient lives and the spirit realm knows who lives righteously and who does not. I think the ones who are teaching how to make all those spiritual proclamations serve on satan's altar and one agenda they serve is to get people to follow them as they pretend to do spiritual warfare so they can bring attacks by demons into people's lives. I know a woman who thinks she tells the demons where to go. Only Jesus can pass judgement on them, He has earned that right and He is Sovereign, not us.

One of the things you are to be doing in living a righteous life is giving to God's Kingdom for His Kingdom work, for His glory.

## **PRAYER**



<http://www.threeheartchurch.org/index.php/sermons/sermon/49-tithes-offering-giving>

<http://www.threeheartchurch.org/index.php/sermons/sermon/187-a-worthy-bride-tithing-part-one>

<http://www.threeheartchurch.org/index.php/sermons/sermon/188-a-worthy-bride-tithing-part-two>

<http://www.threeheartchurch.org/index.php/sermons/sermon/189-a-worthy-bride-tithing-part-three>

<http://www.threeheartchurch.org/index.php/sermons/sermon/191-a-worthy-bride-tithing-part-four>

<http://www.threeheartchurch.org/index.php/sermons/sermon/192-a-worthy-bride-tithing-part-five>