

GIVING Pt.2: CHEERFUL GIVER, TITHES, OFFERINGS

What if a person thinks they don't really need to give and God's ok with that. Will God bless you if you are not a giver? The short answer is no. He doesn't bless sin.

Even the Pharaoh of Egypt, a pagan nation, required a tithe of 1/5 of all the Egyptians crops. **(Gen.47:24-26)** The God of all creation only requires a tenth of our income today.

raisingZion

Cheerful Giving

LIFE LESSON



It's ok to give in other ways besides your money, however, don't let your giving be done everywhere except God's house.

Giving to food pantries, the homeless or where you see a need does not count toward your tithe. Your tithe belongs in God's house. **(Mal.3:10)** It belongs and goes to the ministry where you are being spiritually fed and growing. If you have a spiritual parent you can also give to them to be a blessing in their lives also. Your tithes and giving can certainly be split between ministries where you are blessed. With giving in general which the Bible calls alms, you can give where God leads you whether it is to food pantries, the homeless etc. When you give, do it in the name of Christ, let it be known that you are doing what you are doing because you are a Christian so that God gets the glory.

Lev.22:24 – Ye shall not offer unto the LORD that which is bruised, or crushed, or broken, or cut; neither shall ye make *any offering thereof* in your land.

God doesn't want your junk, leftovers and scraps. He wants your best!

I notice worldly organizations and those that are serving satan's agenda have no problem asking for support. Wikipedia starts putting feelers out for money each year when it gets close to the Christmas season. Radio stations do give-a-thons especially around Easter and Christmas. Giving Tuesday is a worldly event for giving. People start Go-Fund-Me's at the drop of the hat often times for frivolous things and yet God's House is neglected.

Let's go Old Testament and see how God's House and ministers were to be taken care of. Exodus 30:14-16 talks about the ransom that was to be paid to God for each male child that reached the age of 12 years old.

Exodus 30:16 – Use this money for the care of the Tabernacle. It will bring you, the Israelites, to the Lord's attention, and it will make atonement for your lives.

God used that ransom money as part of the provision used to take care of the Tabernacle and later, the Temple. The tithes and offerings we bring to His house today help in that same way and notice it said that it would bring them to the Lord's attention. They were being faithful and obedient in giving what God required. Also, in paying a ransom for their male children, God was teaching a lesson. When Jesus came and gave His life as a ransom for all, this did away with the law where they paid that ransom to God for their first born males. Today, we don't really understand the freedom they gained back then through what Christ did. It was finished. **(John 19:30)** Jesus fulfilled the law. No more animal sacrifices, no more ransoms to be paid for the males of 12 years old, nor for firstborn males and no more ransoms to be paid for first born donkeys or for first born ritually unclean animals. **(Exodus 13:13, Numbers 18:15-16)**

In The Old Testament, when the people brought their sacrifices and offerings to God's House, they were offered first to God and then portions went to the priests and depending on the type of offering, portions went back to the people. In this way God's House and His ministers were taken care of. But when the people

were in sin and not serving the Lord the system of provision was broken down. There are times in Scripture you read where God's House was neglected and the Levites were out in the fields working because they were not being taken care of. **(Nehemiah 13:10-12)**

There are blessings and protection from God when you honor Him with your substance.

Let's look at a time in The Old Testament when God was about to dwell among His people in The Tabernacle:

Exodus 25:2 - Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take My offering.

The erection of sanctuaries is one of the fittest occasions for man to shew his gratitude to God by giving to Him of His own, largely and liberally.

Of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart.--Heb., *of every man whose heart impels him*. Unless gifts come from the heart, they are an offence to God. He "loveth a cheerful giver." When the time came, a noble and liberal spirit was not wanting. **(Exodus 35:21-29; Exodus 36:3-7)**

God's House, that is His churches today and His ministers are to be taken care of through the tithes and offerings of the people they minister to. Numbers chapter 18 lays this principle out plainly. Let's look at a few verses from Numbers 18. Let's read from the NLT, I think it makes it clearer for us.

Numbers 18:8 – The LORD gave these further instructions to Aaron: "I have put the priests in charge of all the holy gifts that are brought to Me by the people of Israel. I have given these offerings to you and your sons as your regular share.

Numbers 18:20-21 – And the LORD said to Aaron, "You priests will receive no inheritance of land or share of property among the people of Israel. I Am your inheritance and your share. As for the tribe of Levi, your relatives, I will pay them for their service in the Tabernacle with the tithes from the entire land of Israel.

In that same chapter God explains how the Levites would receive the tithes of Israel and they were to give a tenth of the tithes they received, they gave this to God. This was how they paid their tithes because they had no land. Then that portion after being offered to God first was then given to the high priest. So this is how God's House and ministers were taken care of. Today, this has fallen by the wayside, speaking as one of God's ministers.

Pastor Erustus shared on the gift of giving: Paul talks of the gift of giving in Corinthians which God grants to some people . Which means for one to be gifted in giving, God will give them the ability to get wealth. Like in the 3rd letter of John, Gaius was gifted with giving and God gave him wealth which he supported the Apostles. God gifts His people differently in order to build the body of Christ. But the only problem those blessed with wealth have turned to be selfish, lovers of themselves and pleasure, proud, lovers of money and allowed their hearts to be over ruled by the Mammon spirit. Their hearts have turned away from God back to the world.

3rd John is a letter written by Apostle John to the Christian brother, Gaius.

3 John 1-8 – The elder unto the well beloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth. Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers; which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if you bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well: because that for His name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the gentiles. We therefore out to receive such, that we might be fellow-helpers to the truth.

Let's listen to verse 5-8 in the NLT:

Dear friend, you are doing a good work for God when you take care of the traveling teachers who are passing through, even though they are strangers to you. They have told the church here of your friendship and your loving deeds.

You do well to send them on their way in a manner that pleases God. For they are traveling for the Lord and accept nothing from those who are not Christians. So we ourselves should support them so that we may become partners with them for the truth.

God enabled Gaius to be able to support these evangelists – missionaries. I want to share some information from one of my study Bibles on Gaius:

Following his expression of love for Gaius, John assures him of his prayers for his health and voices his joy over Gaius's persistent walk in truth and for the manner in which he shows hospitality and support for missionaries who have come to his church. The phrase "send them on their way" means to provide help for the missionaries' endeavors. Included in this help can be food, money, arrangements for companions, and means of travel. By supporting these people who are ministering for Christ, Gaius has become a fellow worker of the truth.

Early Christian writers believe that the headquarters of John's later ministry was Ephesus and that he evidently commissioned a number of traveling teachers to spread the gospel and to solidify the Asian churches. These teachers were supported by believers who received them into their homes.

Romans 10:14-15 – 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? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Just like Gaius, who helped to send those evangelists on their way by supporting them, those who support this ministry are helping to send us too and do share in our ministry works and in the works of the outreach ministries too.

In The Old Testament the people brought their tithes and they also brought offerings. The tithe is required and when you give above it, or that is in addition to it, that is an offering. Many have made such a financial mess of their lives, living in sin with what God has blessed them with and not honoring Him with it 'til they cannot even give 10%. I teach those in that position that are just learning

about giving, about tithes and offerings to begin somewhere and give steadily and faithfully even if it is only 1 or 2% of their income and to ask God to help them get to where they can give the full 10%. You want God's full blessing over your life and if you are not a giver, you do not have it.

From Leviticus 1:14-17, If the worshipper was too poor to afford a lamb, he could make an offering of a bird. Thus, the offering was scaled according to the economic level of the person. Each was to give to God as he was able. This is the same with us today, we don't all make the same wage but we can still give as God has blessed us, some more and some less.

I want to share something from Heartlight Ministries from years ago and part of the prayer today will be from them also.

1 Timothy 6:7-8 - For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

Thought:

Godliness with contentment is great gain! (see [1 Tim. 6:6](#)) So what does it take for us to be content? Paul reminds Timothy that as long as we have food and clothing, we should be able to be content. It's when our desires get out of that channel, when covetousness and greed take over, that our life gets out of control and we replace God with a hunger for what becomes our idol. God wants us to let him be enough and see the rest as the overflow of his grace!

Col.3:5-6 - Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

We are to put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking in us. That is what mortify your members which are upon the earth means. The things mentioned are sexual sins, impurity, lust and shameful desires. We are not to be greedy for the good things of this life, that is idolatry. God will pour out His wrath on those who are doing these things.

Do not live in greed and covetousness always trying to get more and more money or having money at the center of your life. Or trying to get more money so you can get more stuff. Don't compare your life to anyone else. Have faith in God and trust Him to meet your needs and take care of you, when you honor Him with what He has blessed you with.

When we first started this ministry we decided we were not going to beg, hound and beat people up for money. You've all seen and experienced that I'm sure. The televangelists who serve on satan's altar have no problem begging for money and manipulating people for money. They will say things like the next 100 people to give \$ 1000 dollars, God is going to answer your prayer or He's going to do a miracle, or God will heal you etc. I've seen the offering plate passed twice during the same church service to get more money. People in America are pretty well over it. When you have The Holy Spirit inside of you, He will teach you about giving and give you a desire to be a cheerful giver without anyone having to drag it out of you.

Begging for money is not a good representation of The Lord. Let's read Psalm 37:25 written by King David:

Psalm 37:25 - I have been young, and *now* am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor His seed begging bread.

God will not forsake you when you live a righteous life just as He did not forsake Israel when they served Him faithfully. When we give ourselves and our money to God's work, He multiplies the results beyond the expectations of natural cause and effect. **(Matt.14:14-21)** Giving to support God's work has been tossed aside by many. God's real churches are scraping along while satan's mega churches thrive.

Since we began this ministry in 2014 there has never been a time that we have not needed more provision. Right from the start God connected us with our outreach ministries. Pastor Dalbeer and Sister Sunita are fully devoted to ministry work and do not have any other source of income and now Sourav their eldest

son, is also fulltime ministry. As are Pastor Erustus and Pastor Sarah. I praise God for Scott's job because we could not live solely on what comes in to this ministry.

Just this week Pastor Dalbeer wrote: Additionally, as we prepare to commence a new session at both our school and orphanage, we are faced with many applications from various villages seeking admission. However, we lack the necessary equipment to accommodate these additional students. We ask for your continued prayers for provision in this regard.

I never stop thanking God for His provision and asking for more. There are always more churches to be planted and built, more Christian schools, hostels and orphanages to build. Each of these takes provision, supplies, equipment etc. It takes land to build on. There are always the poor and needy, widows and orphans that we continue to help with clothes, food, and education. We need to make permanent churches in Africa from brick so that they are damaged and rotting from termites. It would be nice to be able to pay all the ministers, let alone the ministers serving under the Pastors, and the teachers also. Last count, Pastor Dalbeer had planted 58 house churches, let alone the hostel house moms who over see the hostel and the teachers in our Christian school there. Pastor Erustus has planted 9 churches and has 3 christian schools with workers in all of them. The cars we were able to buy for the Pastors will eventually wear out and then we will need to help them get something else to drive. The need is never ending.

Together we are doing this great work for God's glory and Kingdom. I am so thankful for those of you who truly stand with this ministry and give cheerfully. You know who you are. I am certainly not expecting you to go beyond the scope of what you can do to make up for the lack of giving on others parts. I want you to know we couldn't do this great work without you. God will surely bless and reward you greatly for supporting His house and His ministers much less the overflow of great works being done. If you are not aware of what we are accomplishing in Africa and India, I encourage you to go to the church website, there is a tab that says Outreaches. Click on that and look at the good works being accomplished for God's glory. Let alone what we are accomplishing here at Three Hearts Church ministry. God has sent us all around this world and He is

helping me to expose the evil works of darkness. He is setting people free through this ministry and the Pastor's ministries of course.

CLOSING

Pastor Erustus shared: People's giving must always be in proportion to the income that God gives or blesses them with. Christians must give willingly, cheerfully, sacrificially, persistently and voluntarily. God never struggled or debated on giving Jesus. Now that God in Trinity lives in us, we are to follow or reflect Christ.

A cheerful giver is not someone who gives now and then but was happy at the time. A cheerful giver gives willingly, cheerfully, sacrificially, persistently and voluntarily. They give continually.

I hope those of you who have lived lives of greed and selfishness, who have neglected God's House and His Kingdom work are feeling the conviction of The Holy Spirit and that you will come to God and ask forgiveness and ask Him to help you to have a giving heart and to be a cheerful giver because those are the ones He loves.

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>