

Paradise Lost and Restored: What is Giving/Tithing? (Part 1)

Ricardo Campos, Pastor Grace Chapel, Orange, CA October 12, 2014

I. Introduction

Before God asks for your money, He asks for your heart. If you're willing to give Him your heart, then your giving/tithing will take care of itself. Because when you trust God with your life, He frees you from every worry you may have about giving Him your money. His furious love for you will enable you to see the needs of others the way He does. It will motivate you to fill those needs, even if you have to sell your possessions.

II. How Do You Become a Generous Giver?

Primarily God doesn't want your money...He wants you, when a church brings up the subject of money, some see it as a ploy to get people to give more. Perhaps some churches are after more of your money. But primarily what God wants is not your money; He wants you, all of you, Luke 14:25-33. In order to be someone who's insanely generous with their money, you need to know certain things down to the core of your being. You need to see life and especially God in a very particular way.

What is giving? To give is to sacrifice yourself for someone or something else. The greatest act of giving the world has ever known was done by Jesus Christ, 2 Corinthians 8:9 (Mark 10:45; John 3:16; Galatians 1:4; 2:20; 1 Timothy 2:6).

Why people have a hard time parting with their money, what makes rich folks not part with their money? They're afraid they won't have enough to live comfortably and/or retire comfortably, Luke 12:13-21. What makes poor folks not part with their money? They're afraid they won't have enough to eat or get by, Luke 12:22-30. Whether rich or poor, if you see money as the source of your security, you'll never let it go.

How do you become wildly generous with your giving? It's one thing to pray for someone's financial need. But how do you become someone who'll write a check on the spot when someone needs it? You need to know for certain that God is the One who looks after your needs, all of them, Deuteronomy 15:6, 10, 18.

If you see God this way, you'll notice His concern for your needs everywhere, in the birds He feeds, in the flowers He clothes, all of life will remind you that God is looking out for you. When you see God this way, you'll have no problem even selling your possessions to provide for others, Luke 12:22-33. You'll understand that to put your trust in money is to trust your life with something very unstable. But to entrust God with all your money is to put your money in a Bank that never goes under and always pays the best interest, Luke 12:33-34.

When God's furious love grips you, it will make you insanely generous, it's one thing to read about and "Amen!" the amazing things the Holy Spirit did through the saints mentioned in Scripture. But it's quite another to let the Lord's Spirit into your life and allow Him to do the same with your life, including your money. The early Church saints were willing to lay everything down at the Lord's feet, their money, their possessions, everything, Acts 2:44-45; 4:31-37. Why? Because the truth always sets us free from any worry or concern that we may not have enough if we give ours away.

III. Conclusion

"If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith? And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."