

Personal Responsibilities Money and the Love of God

What does money have to do with my Spirituality? Believe it or not, how we use our money demonstrates the reality of our love for God.

- See what John says about us and our money in 1 John 3:16-18; be sure to look at the preceding verse. **“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid his life down for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed nor in truth.”**

2 Cor. 8:1 -15 (NIV/CEV --- The same word used for our fellowship with the Lord is also used in relation to the fellowship of collecting money. Giving is Spiritual.

- Does Romans 12:6-8 suggest to you that giving may actually be a spiritual gift?
- Does Romans 12: 6-8 suggests that leaders should consider themselves at a higher level of SERVICE?
 - NIV/KJV: Diligently and Diligence CEV: Do our best.
 - Leader by def: **somebody whom people follow**

1 Corinthians 16:2 gives us FOUR New Testament Principles on giving. **Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. ² Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come. ³ And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem.**

1. Giving is incumbent (the duty or responsibility) on each person **“let everyone of you”**
2. Giving is to be proportionate – **“in keeping with his income”**
3. Giving is to be in private deposit – **“set aside a sum of money”**
4. Giving should be regular/consistent/steady/reliable – **“on the first day of the week”**

What about the Tithe? What’s going on with that?

- Matthew 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: **these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.**

- Luke 11:42 --- There is LOT going here in LUKE 11!

11 And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

⁵And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;

⁸I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity (**persistence**) he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

⁹And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

¹⁰For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

²³He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth.

³⁷And as he spake, a certain Pharisee besought him to dine with him: and he went in, and sat down to meat. ³⁸And when the Pharisee saw it, he marvelled that he had not first washed before dinner. ³⁹And the Lord said unto him, Now do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness.

⁴⁰Ye fools, did not he that made that which is without make that which is within also? **⁴¹ But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you. ⁴² But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.**

- Luke 18:12 – We ought not give with selfish intentions: ⁹And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ¹⁰Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. ¹¹The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. ¹²I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. ¹³And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Hebrews 7:5-9

7 This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, ²and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, the name Melchizedek means “king of righteousness”; then also, “king of Salem” means “king of peace.” ³Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.

⁴Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder! ⁵Now the law requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people—that is, from their fellow Israelites—even though they also are descended from Abraham. ⁶This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ⁷And without doubt the lesser is blessed by the greater. ⁸In the one case, the tenth is collected by people who die; but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living. ⁹One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham,¹⁰ because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor.

Allow me to share with you six biblical lessons about giving:

1. Giving is a universal practice.

Paul said this was not just for the believers in Corinth, but for the churches of Galatia also! Jesus said in Matthew 10:8, “*Freely you have received, freely give.*” Because every believer has received so much from the Lord, every believer should give back to the work of the Lord.

2. Giving is to be a weekly practice.

Paul said that we are to give on the “*first day of the week.*” Early Jewish believers moved their day of worship from Saturday to Sunday to commemorate the resurrection of the Lord.

Therefore, Paul said to give on that day of the week. We are not to give **spasmodically**, or when we feel that we can *afford* to give. The bible indicates that giving is to be a part of our weekly worship!

3. Giving is to be a personal act.

I Corinthians 16:2 says, “*Let each one of you ...*” Giving is not just for the comfortable and the wealthy—everyone should give—even kids! Why-- Because giving is part of our worship to God?

4. Giving is to be a predetermined plan.

I Corinthians 16:2 says, "*Set aside a sum of money.*" There are many people that give because of emotional appeals or special needs. There are many that give a little week-by-week, almost like tipping the waitress at a restaurant. But God wants us to have a predetermined systematic amount that we intentionally bring to worship to give to the Lord. Waiting until Sunday to see what is left over IS NOT taught in the bible.

5. Giving is to be a proportioned amount.

I Corinthians 16:2 says, "*Set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income.*" We are to give in proportion to what we receive. We are never to give *equal gifts (assessment)*, but we are told in Scripture to make *equal sacrifices!*

6. Giving is to be handled responsibly.

I Corinthians 16:3, Paul says, "*I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem.*" The church at Corinth was to certify trustworthy people to handle the money. We are to give sacrificially, and then we are to handle God's money responsibly and efficiently.

In closing, let us evaluate our lives in the area of our "giving." Ask yourself these questions:

- *Is my giving pleasing to the Lord?*
- *Is He being honored and glorified with my management of His finances?*
- *Do I really believe that God owns it all?*
- *Am I being a good and faithful steward in the areas of my finances?*