

PETE BUMGARNER MINISTRIES

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THE POWER OF GIVING

STUDY GUIDE



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SCRIPTURE READING

Malachi 3:8-12

“Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, ‘Wherein have we robbed Thee?’ In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith,” saith the Lord of hosts, “if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. 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. “And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land,” saith the Lord of hosts.

Luke 6:38

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.

Acts 20:35

I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

II Corinthians 9:6-11

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: (As it is written, “He hath dispersed abroad; He hath given to the poor: His righteousness remaineth for ever.” 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;) Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

Philippians 4:15-19

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. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God. But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

THEME

It seems that few people have come to know the power of giving. It is imperative that the saints of God learn the principle of giving. We control our prosperity by our giving. Giving includes: time; talents; abilities; and finances. We must learn the principle of giving our gifts as well as our finances, and we must abandon the practice of exploiting our gifts and abilities.

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. There are two categories of people in the world: “givers” and “takers;” everyone fits into one of these categories.
 - 1. These categories are not determined by how much or how little one has to offer.
 - 2. A “giver” constantly thinks of others.
 - 3. A “taker” constantly thinks of himself.
 - 4. “In this world of give and take, few are willing to give what it takes.”
- B. Loving and giving are directly related.
 - 1. Love for someone or something stimulates a desire to give to that person or thing.
 - 2. One can evaluate his love by examining his giving.
 - 3. Love gives; selfishness takes.
- C. The divine nature of God loves and gives.

1. One who has truly been born again has received the divine nature of God; therefore, he should have a loving and giving nature.
2. God so loved the world that He gave; true sons of God will also love so much that they will give.
3. God's love operating within an individual will cause that individual to give himself as well as his finances.
4. Freely we have received; freely we must give.
5. The man whose heart is fixed upon God seeks to give rather than receive.

II. THE BENEFITS OF GIVING THE TITHE AND OFFERING

- A. The word "tithe" is used fourteen times in the Bible (KJV). It is used twelve times in the Old Testament and two times in the New Testament.
- B. The word "tithes" is used twenty-four times in the Bible (KJV). It is used eighteen times in the Old Testament and six times in the New Testament.
- C. The word "tithing" is used two times in the Bible (KJV), both in the Old Testament.
- D. The word "give" is used eight hundred eighty-one times in the Bible (KJV). It is used six hundred eighty-two times in the Old Testament and one hundred ninety-nine times in the New Testament.
- E. The word "giving" is used twenty-nine times in the Bible (KJV). It is used eight times in the Old Testament and twenty-one times in the New Testament.
- F. The word "giver" is used two times in the Bible (KJV). It is used one time in the Old Testament and one time in the New Testament.
- G. Although there are many scriptures that support tithing as a biblical principle, the emphasis of both the Old and New Testaments is on giving. Our giving should be motivated by love, not obligation.

1. God does not want our giving to be stimulated by obligation or fear.
 2. He wants our giving to be stimulated by love and desire.
 3. The Bible does not teach that we should pledge money to God.
 - a. Pledges are obligatory notes or promises.
 - b. They obligate people to keep a promise that, too often, was made as a result of pressure, manipulation, or coercion.
 - c. The emphasis of New Testament giving is desire, not obligation.
- H. The Bible teaches that we should not only tithe, but we also should give offerings.
- I. The tithe, which is ten percent, belongs to God; it is God's property. The tithe should be brought to the house of God for distribution among His ministers, orphans, and widows. (Leviticus 27:30; Numbers 18:24-26; Deuteronomy 12:17; Deuteronomy 14:23; Deuteronomy 14:28-29; II Chronicles 31:5-6; Nehemiah 10:38-39; Matthew 23:23; Luke 11:42)
1. Don't ever be deceived into thinking that you cannot afford to tithe; you cannot afford to steal God's property.
 2. We must learn and teach others the importance of tithing.
 - a. Ministers and churches should set the example of tithing by tithing.
 - b. One who does not tithe cannot realize the benefits of tithing; consequently, he is not in a position to teach tithing.
 3. One who withholds the tithe is actually robbing God. (Malachi 3:8)
 - a. One who does not tithe because he hasn't been taught to tithe is ignorant and must be taught.
 - b. One who does not tithe because of discontentment is rebellious and in need of repentance.

- (1) People who are discontent with the operation of the church often withhold their tithes as a retaliation against the church leadership. They fail to realize that the tithe is God's, not man's.
 - (2) Those who withhold the tithe hurt themselves more than they hurt the church.
4. One who does not give to God what belongs to God actually brings a curse upon himself. (Malachi 3:9)
 5. The tithe belongs to God; the church is an avenue God uses to distribute the tithe.
 6. The tithe is to be presented to the Lord. (Deuteronomy 26:1-15)
- J. Tithe is the seed which God gives to the sower to ensure a harvest. (II Corinthians 9:10)
 - K. The giving of the tithe opens the windows of heaven. (Malachi 3:10)
 - L. The giving of the tithe causes God to rebuke the devourer for the sake of the giver. (Malachi 3:11)
 - M. The giving of the tithe ensures a good harvest. (Malachi 3:11)
 - N. The amount of offering given is determined by the giver, but we must not forget that offerings are also required by God.
 1. The giving of tithes opens the windows of heaven so that one can be blessed. (Malachi 3:10)
 2. The liberality of the offering determines the liberality of the blessing; this truth is a kingdom principle. (Luke 6:38)
 - O. Deuteronomy 26:1-15 teaches a principle for presenting firstfruits and tithe to the Lord.

III. GIVING IS A KINGDOM PRINCIPLE

- A. The kingdom of God has always emphasized giving.
 1. God gave Jesus for the world; Jesus willingly gave of Himself that others might be blessed.

2. Even the “law of Moses” included many provisions for giving.
- B. The blessings of God upon one’s life are directly related to his attitude toward giving.
1. One who withholds from God is in disobedience; disobedience restricts God’s blessing.
 2. In God’s kingdom, giving is the key to receiving.
- C. Luke 6:38 reveals the principle and power of giving.
1. Giving precedes receiving; one who gives shall receive.
 - a. An excellent example of this principle is the widow at Zarephath, who had to be willing to give before she could receive. (I Kings 17:8-16)
 - b. Giving places one in a position for blessing.
 2. The amount received is determined by the amount given.
 - a. The word “amount” must be viewed as percentage rather than quantity. (Luke 21:1-4)
 - b. One should not expect more harvest than the amount of seed sown.
- D. Jesus revealed a powerful truth when He taught that it is more blessed to give than to receive. The blessing is in the giving! (Acts 20:35)
- E. One must learn to give even when he does not have much to give.
1. Giving requires each one to start where he is.
 2. Giving according to God’s principle will take one from the minus side, to even, and ultimately to prosperity.
 3. According to God’s Word, one doesn’t borrow himself out of debt; he **gives** himself out of debt.
 4. Isaac sowed in famine and reaped in the same year an hundredfold return. (Genesis 26:1-14)

5. Provision precedes prosperity. We are responsible for making the provision for prosperity. (Joshua 1:8)
 6. **Giving** out of our need provides a way to **get** out of need. Sowing financial seed is truly a deliverance to those in financial bondage.
 - a. Debt is a temptation that binds those who yield to its invitation.
 - b. I Corinthians 10:13 guarantees an escape for every temptation that comes to man. Sowing is the “escape” from financial bondage; wisdom and self control will keep one financially free.
- F. Giving is a kingdom principle that is designed to benefit the giver; conversely, one who refuses to give hurts himself.
1. Sometimes people withhold their tithe and offering because they don’t like the leadership of the church.
 - a. I may not like the president, but refusing to pay taxes because I don’t like the president will hurt me, not the president.
 - b. One who robs God is both foolish and disobedient; God does not bless foolishness or disobedience.
 - c. Most people would not **dare** to risk the consequences of withholding their tax obligations from the government because of the severe penalties.
 - d. Most people, even Christians who should believe God’s Word, give little thought to the devastating consequences of withholding from God.
 2. Heaven’s budget is met for eternity. There is no deficit there, and God won’t “raise taxes” or increase His “part” for the people who **are** willing to contribute in order to compensate for those who **are not**. (II Samuel 24:20-24)
 3. Unlike the government of men, God’s government will continue to prosper, **with** or **without** the cooperative participation of men.

4. Man's financial stability is **directly** related to his partnership with God. One who follows the principles of giving will enjoy the benefits of giving.
5. We must trust our future to the One Who holds the keys to "heaven's vault."
6. A safety deposit box has two keys, one for the depositor and one for the bank. The kingdom of God is the origin of this principle of partnership. We hold the **keys** of the kingdom, and God holds the **key** that allows us access to the kingdom benefits.

IV. THE AMOUNT OF HARVEST IS DEPENDENT UPON THE AMOUNT OF SEED SOWN

- A. This principle covers all areas of our lives, both spiritually and materially.
- B. One who sows sparingly will reap sparingly. (II Corinthians 9:6)
- C. One who sows generously will reap generously. (II Corinthians 9:6)
- D. Each individual must decide within his own heart the amount he wants to give.
 1. No one should try to coerce another to give. (II Corinthians 9:7)
 2. Giving should be determined by the conscience, not outside influence.
 3. God loves a cheerful giver; a cheerful giver is one who enjoys what he is doing. (II Corinthians 9:7)
- E. According to Galatians 6:7, we reap whatever we sow; this principle includes both type and amount.
- F. Our prosperity is determined by our obedience in giving.

V. GIVING OUR GIFTS AND ABILITIES

- A. Gifts are not to be sold; they are to be given.

1. The gifts that we possess were given unto us so that we could share them with others.
 2. It seems that most people sell their gifts instead of giving them away.
- B. “Gifts” are actually gifted people whom God has chosen to use to bless others.

VI. GIVING PUTS THE ENEMY AT A DISADVANTAGE

- A. Giving has a disarmament effect.
1. According to Proverbs 25:21-22 and Romans 12:20, giving good things to the enemy puts him at a disadvantage.
 2. One who gives without ulterior motives defies and overcomes the flesh.
- B. What one gives cannot be taken away.
1. It is imperative that the children of God’s kingdom learn this principle.
 2. If we would give everything that we own to God, nothing could be stolen from us.
 - a. We must give our families to God.
 - b. We must give our businesses to God.
 - c. We must give ourselves to God—spirit, soul, and body.

VII. SUMMARY

- A. There are two categories of people: givers and takers.
- B. Loving and giving are directly related.
- C. The giving of the tithe and offering results in excellent benefits.
- D. The withholding of the tithe and offering has unfavorable consequences.
- E. Giving is a kingdom principle that must be learned and practiced.

- F. We determine the amount of harvest we receive by the amount of seed we sow.
- G. Giving consists of more than finances; it also includes time, gifts, and abilities.
- H. Giving puts the enemy at a disadvantage.
- I. The greatest blessing is in giving. "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

VIII. CONCLUSION

- A. The Christian walk begins with giving; we must give our hearts to the Lord.
- B. The Christian walk continues with giving as we give our finances, time, gifts, and abilities to the Lord.
- C. The kingdom of God advocates giving; the kingdoms of the world advocate taking.
- D. The old adage "charity begins at home" is a truth that we must practice.
 - 1. The principle found in Acts 1:8 can also apply to giving: Jerusalem first; Judaea; Samaria; then the uttermost parts of the world.
 - 2. Giving must be administered from the proper perspective. Never rob Peter to pay Paul!
- E. Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; render to God the things that are God's.
- F. The true power of giving can be learned only through the practice of giving.

TITHING CONFESSION

Scriptural Foundation - Deuteronomy 26:5-10

Father, I come to You in the name of Jesus. I recognize that I was a sinner, lost and without hope, but through the name of Jesus, I have been saved from sin and given eternal hope. Not only have You saved me from sin, but You have also blessed my life with material blessings. In obedience to You and in appreciation for all that You have done for me, I have come to a place where You have placed Your name, and I have brought my tithe to You. Jesus, You are my High Priest. I present to You this tithe and ask that You receive it. I confess that You are my Lord and Savior—my Strength and my Redeemer—You are my God and in You, I trust. Thank You for receiving from my hand the tithe of what You have graciously given unto me. I know that through my giving, the ministers, the guests, the orphans, and the widows will receive provision as You have ordained. I declare unto You that I have not taken from Your tithe, but I have obeyed Your Word, and I have given unto You, just as You have commanded. Thank You for receiving from my hand that which You have given unto me. I gladly give to You the tithe of my increase.