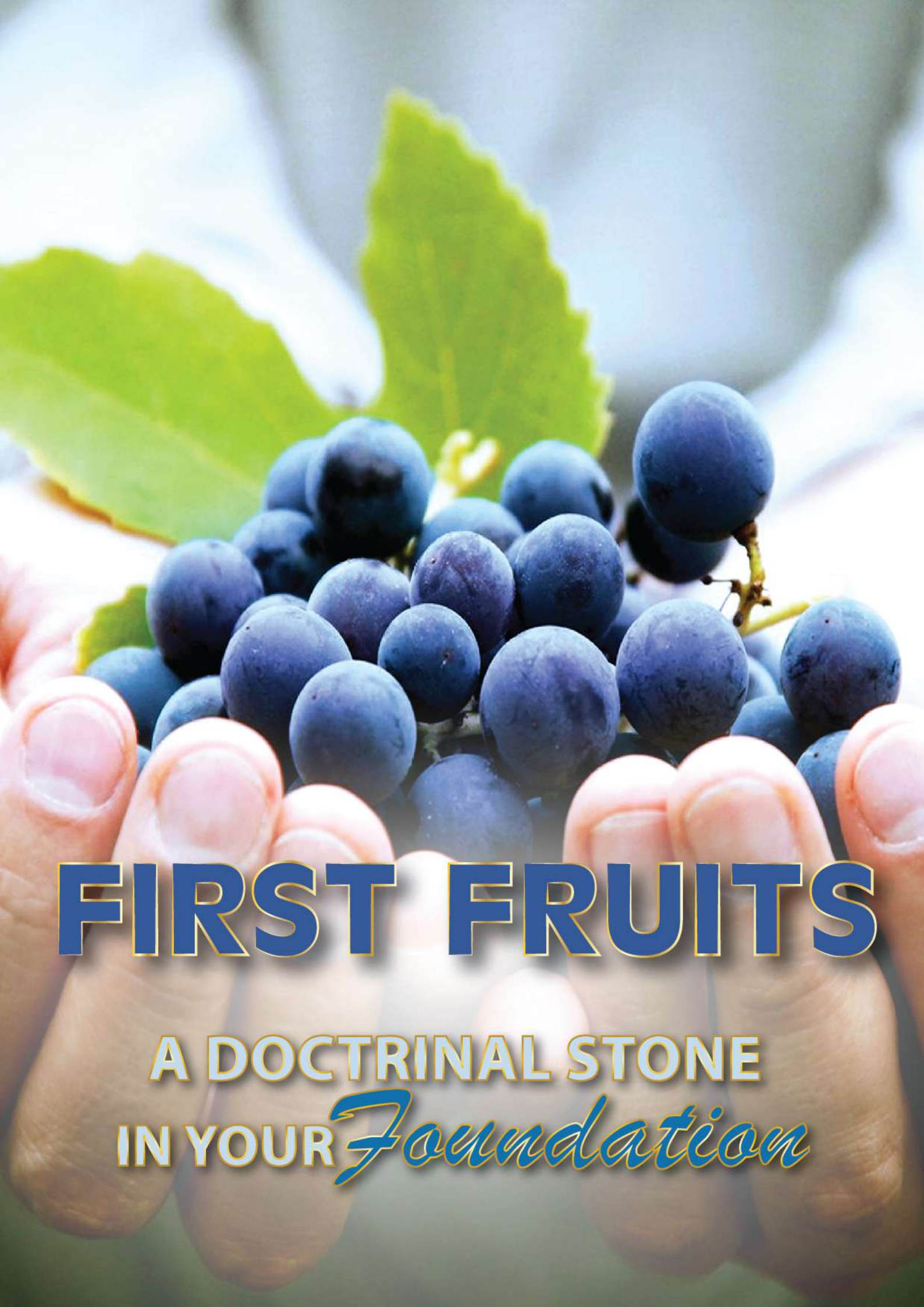




FIRST FRUITS

A DOCTRINAL STONE
IN YOUR *Foundation*

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First Fruits: A Doctrinal Stone in Your Foundation

FOREWORD

Finances are a very controversial topic in the Body of Christ! The reason is that we are being deceived concerning Kingdom finances. Satan brings confusion, division, strife and false doctrines to steal our blessings! This is officially the first time I record my qualifications in a book. The reason is to prove how useless earthly qualifications are for Kingdom finances. I hold a PhD in Agricultural Economics and have world-class financial management knowledge. For many years, I studied the Word of God, seeking wholeheartedly after Kingdom finances, but I could not find a sound Biblical financial doctrine until I recently realised that earthly qualifications and godly financial principles are not related!

To receive blessings from this book, I highly recommend you to put aside all beliefs regarding earthly financial principles and qualifications. It only brings more confusion when you bring it to the table. I am speaking from experience. Forget what you know and open your heart to receive godly revelation knowledge from the Holy Ghost.

I pray that the Holy Spirit will deeply penetrate your innermost being to prepare the soil of your heart to be fertile, so the seeds of revelation will germinate, sprout and bear fruit, more fruit and much fruit.



INTRODUCTION

I recommend reading Part 1 of my book, “The Gift of Giving”, which discusses many aspects of giving. The last part of the book deals with the First Fruits principle. I predominantly use that information to bring under discussion the **doctrinal stone** needed in your **foundation** to live a blessed life. There are six other doctrinal stones in the believer's foundation, discussed in Parts 2 and 3 of “Laying Down the Foundation” and also in my book, “The Doctrine of Christ”.

The primary aim of this book is to help you receive Adonai's blessings on your finances. Adonai is a God of abundance and prosperity, as declared by John. “***Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers***” (3 John 1:2). Yashuah illustrated this truth when He fed the 5 000 and afterwards had 12 baskets of leftovers. Yashuah did not stop when everybody had been fed! He is a God of overflowing goodness! This contradicts the wrong belief that those who wholeheartedly serve the Lord in full-time ministry should live a life of lack and shortages.

There is a huge misinterpretation and misconception about Kingdom wealth and Kingdom finances. Once the enemy darkens our understanding, it is easy to get confused between the Old Testament and New Testament scriptures on this topic.

Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.

Ephesians 4:18 KJV

Satan wants to keep us in captivity. He is the father of all lies and a thief. He has been a murderer since the beginning.

You belong to your father the Devil, and you want to carry out the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and has never stood for

truth, since there is no truth in him. Whenever he tells a lie, he speaks in character, because he is a liar and the father of lies. John 8:44 ISV

I am pleading with you to be teachable as you read this book. Do not allow previous concepts regarding finances to keep you from seeing the truth. The truth will set you free and your life will be changed forever! It is God's desire for you to prosper not only financially, but in all things, even as your soul prospers (3 John 1:2). He wants you to prosper in your health, finances, relationships and even in happiness. Our God wants you to prosper and succeed in everything you put your hands on.

God's blessings will overtake you when you put Him first in all things! Conversely, if you ignore the law of first fruits, you may experience a lack in the areas of your life that concern you the most. The intentional decision to put other things before our relationship with the Lord is affecting families, businesses, personal relationships and corporately, as Christians, our future.



GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOUR MONEY

We often believe that the more spiritual we are, the less important money becomes in our lives. Most believers think that money is too materialistic to fit into the life of a staunch believer. We will need money as long as we have fleshly lives, but yet we wrongly perceive it as having no place in the Kingdom of God.

Money plays a major part in today's culture. It has become the medium of exchange. Even in Biblical times, Yashuah often taught about money and how to not succumb to Mammon.

*They exceeded our expectations by first **dedicating themselves fully to the Lord and then to us, according to God's pleasure.** ⁶ That is why we appealed to Titus, since he was the one who got you started and encouraged you to give, so he could help you complete this generous undertaking on your behalf. ⁷ **You do well and excel in every respect—in unstoppable faith, in powerful preaching, in revelation knowledge, in your passionate devotion, and in sharing the love we have shown to you. So make sure that you also excel in grace-filled generosity.** 2 Corinthians 8:5-7 TPT*

Before we give our money, we first need to give ourselves! In Romans 12:1, Paul says we need to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, *which is* our reasonable service. To the Corinthians, he said they indeed did well and excelled in their faith, in preaching, knowledge, and even in sharing love. Then, Paul encouraged the congregation to excel also in GRACE-filled generosity. The features of **godliness** (the fulfilment of righteousness, as seen in the chapter “Doctrine of Baptisms” in “Laying down the Foundation”) that should be visible in our lives and ministries, are to:

- Excel in everything
- Exhibit unstoppable faith
- Have an anointing of grace to speak the Word

-
- Have revelation knowledge
 - Show passionate devotion
 - Show love
 - Be generous

It is highly recommended to first study the complete teaching of “**Laying Down the Foundation**”. We need to understand the importance of circumcision of our hearts and baptism. This will ensure a change of heart that will make it possible to move to perfection and the fulfilment of righteousness by our acts of generosity.

It is possible to give without loving, but it is impossible to love without giving!

Another important aspect is that giving is a grace-filled generosity and not an obligation. Tithing in the Old Testament was an obligation according to the custom of Jewish law. Saints, God does not need your money. He intends to bless you to be prosperous. Sowing seeds out of coercion (as an act of obligation) will not release any blessings on you. God loves a cheerful giver!

Let giving flow from your heart, not from a sense of religious duty. Let it spring up freely from the joy of giving—all because God loves hilarious generosity!
2 Corinthians 9:7 TPT

Each one, as he purposes in his heart, let him give; not of grief, or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7 MKJV

Confusion regarding this topic, causes us to not sow our seeds according to Adonai’s Biblical principles. That is why we do not see any blessings on our finances and rather quit.

*But we should not lose heart in well-doing, for in due season **we shall reap**, if we do not faint. Galatians 6:9 MKJV*

*And don't allow yourselves to be weary in **planting good seeds**, for the season of **reaping the wonderful harvest you've planted is coming!***

¹⁰ Take advantage of every opportunity to be a blessing to others, especially to our brothers and sisters in the family of faith! Galatians 6:9-10 TPT

The Footnotes in the Passion Bible says the Greek text implies being a blessing to others means giving finances! If we do not get tired of sowing and do not give up, at the right time, we will reap a harvest!

Let's not get tired of doing what is good, for at the right time we will reap a harvest—if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9 ISV

God does not guarantee a harvest when we become impatient, lose faith, or turn away from these principles. We must live and act by faith in every area of our lives. That is why one of the doctrinal stones in our foundation is “faith towards God” (Hebrews 6:1- 3). It is impossible to please God without faith. This is just as much true in our finances.

The life of a believer should be submitted to Adonai in so much that all the areas of our lives are under God's complete control. When sickness, pain or lack (including finances) are present in our lives, it shows that those specific areas of our lives are not yet fully submitted to Adonai. Therefore, if God did not have a plan for our money, then a major part of our lives would not be under His control. That would negatively affect other areas of our lives. How sad that the lives of many Christians are out of order. Those whose lives are out of order do not realise that they s are mostly responsible for it themselves.

Only in exceptional cases are people who come for healing and deliverance aware of the reasons for their lives being out of order. In most cases, they have unknowingly opened the doors for the enemy to kill, steal, and destroy. They listen to the wrong music, watch violent and horror movies, participate in all kinds of immoral lifestyles and wonder why their lives are so chaotic!

Most people become more spiritual as they grow into maturity, but we should at the same time also become more practical. If the management of our money is not under the control of God, then our lives are in jeopardy. It does not matter how spiritual we are in other areas of our lives, we will never know the real blessing and overruling of God until we bring our money in line with the will of God, as revealed in His Word.

As a teacher of God's word, my assignment is to bless God's people. It is my responsibility to share with you God's plan for your money, so every area of your life would be blessed. Paul did not withhold anything to help himself grow. Likewise, you need this Biblical profound truth to help you grow. Then you will receive the financial blessings God intends for you.

And how I kept back nothing that was profitable, but have shown you and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, ²¹ testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 20: 20-21 MKJV

For I did not keep back from declaring to you all the counsel of God. Acts 20: 27 MKJV

The ISV Translation mentions the “**whole plan of God**” and the Passion Translation “**God’s eternal plan**”! (Acts 20:27)

...for I never shrank from telling you the whole plan of God. (ISV)

...because I’ve taught you everything I could about God’s eternal plan and I’ve held nothing back. (TPT)

This means the will and eternal plan of God includes also the management of your money. God’s plan for your complete life is that you would prosper.

Beloved, in regard to all things I pray that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers. 3 John 1:2 MKJV

Prosperity means success. It is God’s eternal plan and will for you to be successful.

Beloved friend, I pray that you are prospering in every way [The Greek word “eudōmai” means “to be brought along to a smooth and prosperous journey” or “to be continually prospered [unto success] in every way”. The Aramaic can be translated as “as much as succeeds you”] and that you continually enjoy good health, just as your soul is prospering. 3 John 1:2 TPT

John was praying for Gaius’ physical health to match his spiritual health. God is concerned for our physical health. That is why He gave us an immune system. He is also concerned for our souls, which include our emotional and spiritual well-being.

If physical health and soul “prosperity” were not the will of God, why would John pray that for Gaius?

We can conclude from this that frustration and poverty are not the will of God. How sad that we believe **we need to be poor to be holy**. This is not a scriptural view. The ever-so-popular **prosperity theology** that teaches we should be financially blessed simply because we believe in Christ is misleading the Body of Christ. When the truth about prosperity manifests because of us obeying specific principles, we reject the revelation.

I cannot over-emphasise the importance of setting aside all preconceived worldly ideas regarding finances. As an Agricultural Economist, that was my exact challenge!

I encourage you to keep reading and receive the blessings of El-Shaddai, our All-Sufficient God.

FIRST, GIVE YOURSELF

Before you give your money to God, give yourself!

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, in order to prove by you what is that good and pleasing and perfect will of God. Romans 12:2 MKJV

The will of God is GOOD, PLEASING and PERFECT. God does not want anything bad for His people. The more we perceive it, the more we would want to embrace it. As we walk on this path, we discover that it is perfect and complete. That means it covers every area of our lives, including our money.

There are two steps to finding God's will for your life.

- **Surrender yourself without reservation to God!** Just as the animals of sacrifice were killed and placed on the altar, likewise should we. We do not have to be physically killed, but should place ourselves on the altar as a living sacrifice. (Romans 12:1)
- **Learn to think God's way!** This means renewing your mind. Change your way of thinking, your values, standards and your priorities. Once your mind has been renewed, you will perceive what God's will for your life is.

Don't underestimate the importance of money. Do not belittle your finances and deny that it is part of your spiritual life. Money represents your time, strength and talents and it may also represent your inheritance, e.g., your house, your land, etc. Therefore, by financially investing in yourself, you bring a harvest of prosperity into your life!

Let us lay down the doctrinal stone in our foundation by giving **first fruits**. If this stone is not embedded in our foundation, we will not receive financial blessings from Adonai.

Paul used the Macedonian churches as an example of generous giving. They first gave themselves to the Lord, before they gave their money. This is extremely important! You cannot buy a good relationship with Adonai!

For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability; they gave willingly; ⁴ with much beseeching, begging us that they might receive of us the grace and the fellowship of the ministry to the saints. ⁵ And not as we hoped, but first they gave themselves to the Lord, and to us through the will of God. 2 Corinthians 8:3-5 MKJV

The very first thing to give is YOURSELF! Don't give your money to God unless you have given yourself! Once you have given yourself completely to Him, by His grace and faith, abundant giving will flow from a thankful heart .

God's will is for you to offer yourself as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1). This includes your money. By making yourself available to His service, your mind will be renewed by the Holy Spirit. You will start thinking in a fresh and different way. You will find God's will for your life and you will know what His good, pleasing and perfect plan is. (Romans 12:2)

Then you need to meet Him on His terms. Once you have successfully given yourself to God, ***the giving of your money can complete and establish your righteousness*** in God forever!

A Revelation

The Baptism in the Name of Jesus, also known as the Believer's Baptism, is to **fulfil all righteousness**, according to Matthew 3:15, which says, "*Allow it now, for it is becoming to us to fulfil all righteousness*". Many wrongly interpret this verse as meaning to receive our right standing.

The revelation is that the Corinthians did well and excelled in every respect, but Paul encouraged them to excel also in their grace-filled generosity. When they gave their money to Adonai, it completed and established their righteousness.

You do well and excel in every respect—in unstoppable faith, in powerful preaching, in revelation knowledge, in your passionate devotion, and in sharing the love we have shown to you. So make sure that you also excel in grace-filled generosity. 2 Corinthians 8:7 TPT

Saints, this is a profound Biblical truth that you need to capture today. YHWH is transferring his perfect righteousness to everyone He called.

Because Yashuah died on the cross, we receive righteousness (that is our right standing before Him), based on what He did and not on what we did! Despite His act of righteousness, many born-again, tongue-speaking Christians are still living in fornication, drunkenness and idolatry! This means many born-again believers are still progressing on the road to sanctification and purification, still growing in their faith, and still receiving revelation knowledge and love for one another. In this process, hearts are being changed as Adonai transfers His righteousness to us. Now, to complete this process of the fulfilment of all righteousness, put God first in your life by demonstrating it with grace-filled generosity! This means bringing your first fruits to the storehouse!

*Having determined our destiny ahead of time, he called us to himself and **transferred his perfect righteousness to everyone he called.** And those who possess his perfect righteousness he co-glorified with his Son!*

Romans 8:30 TPT

Yashuah became poor on the cross. He took all curses on Himself, even the curse of poverty, so that we can become rich in righteousness!

As it is written, "He scatters everywhere and gives to the poor; his righteousness lasts forever." 2 Corinthians 9:9 ISV

Just as the Scriptures say about the one who trusts in him: Because he has sown extravagantly and given to the poor, his kindness and generous deeds will never be forgotten. 2 Corinthians 9:9 TPT

Never stingy and always generous to those in need, they lived lives of influence and honor that will never be forgotten, for they were full of good deeds. Psalm 112:9 TPT

It is said of a person who first gives himself to God and then liberally gives to others that his righteousness endures forever. Giving his money establishes him forever in the righteousness of God.

Hallelujah! How happy is the person who fears the LORD, who truly delights in his commandments. ² His descendants will be powerful in the land, a generation of the upright who will be blessed. ³ Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever. ⁴ A light shines in the darkness for the upright, for the one who is gracious, compassionate, and just.

Psalm 112:1-4 ISV

Listen carefully! In the time of darkness, a light shines for the upright – for the one who is gracious and just!

It is good for the person who lends generously, conducting his affairs with fairness. ⁶ He will never be shaken; the one who is just will always be remembered. Psalm 112:5-6 ISV

The key to never being shaken is to act justly and handle your money wisely!

He need not fear a bad report, for his heart is unshaken, since he trusts in the LORD. ⁸ His heart is steadfast, he will not fear. In the end he will look in triumph over his enemy. ⁹ He gives generously to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn is exalted in honor. Psalm 112:7-9 ISV

The opposite is then true, that if we do not handle our money properly, we will never be established in the righteousness of God. The way in which we manage our money is very important!

The wicked person sees this and flies into a rage; his teeth gnash and wear away. The desire of the wicked will amount to nothing. Psalm 112:10 ISV

Yashuah warns us.

Don't keep hoarding for yourselves earthly treasures that can be stolen by thieves. Material wealth eventually rusts, decays, and loses its value. ²⁰ Instead, stockpile heavenly treasures [Eternal realities, such as loving others and doing good, revealing truth, and bringing Christ's light to the lost. None

of these “treasures” can be stolen or ever lose their value.] *for yourselves that cannot be stolen and will never rust, decay, or lose their value.* ²¹ *For your heart will always pursue what you esteem as your treasure. [“For your thoughts [heart] will always be focused on your treasure.”]*

Matthew 6:19- 21 TPT

Right giving ensures that God will provide for us in this world, but this is not the ultimate. The ultimate is that we lay up treasures in heaven in proportion to what we give on earth. Our provision is on earth, but our treasure is in heaven. Where your treasure is, your heart will also be! Where you invest is where your concern is. If you want to be more concerned for the Kingdom of God, one way to achieve this is to invest in the Kingdom of God.



A DOCTRINAL STONE

Many doctrinal stones in the Old Testament are revealed in the New Testament. I follow this concept in my ministry and receive revelation knowledge daily. To lay down this doctrinal stone in our foundation, we first need to find the Biblical principle in the Old Testament and then search where it is revealed in the New Testament. Once we discover the truth, we can lay down that doctrinal stone in our foundation, apply it, and sit back to receive our financial blessings.

The doctrinal stone is that **GOD MUST BE FIRST**. If not, it means that something else is taking His place in our lives and that is idolatry, which is idol worship.

Let us discover this doctrinal stone concealed in the Old Testament before we move on.

CONSECRATE THE FIRST-BORN TO ADONAI

*Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: “**it is mine**”. Exodus 13:2 KJV*

I wish I could adequately explain to you how emphatic the language used here is in the Hebrew language.

What Jesus means with “It is **mine**” is, “It is my property, it belongs to me, I am the owner.” The firstborn, He says, belongs to Him. It is extremely emphatic. It is very important to understand this to fully comprehend the principle of Firsts.

*That thou shalt set apart unto the LORD all that openeth the matrix, and every firstling that cometh of a beast which thou hast; the males shall be the LORD'S. ¹³ **And every firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb; and if thou wilt not redeem it, then thou shalt break his neck: and all the firstborn of man among thy children shalt thou redeem.** Exodus 13:12-13 KJV*

According to the Old Testament law, the firstborn was to be sacrificed or redeemed! There was no alternative. Every time a firstborn was delivered, it was to be sacrificed. If it was designated unclean, it had to be redeemed with a clean, spotless lamb. It is extremely important to understand this concept before reading any further.

**The clean firstborn had to be sacrificed,
whereas the unclean firstborn had to be redeemed!**

1. The first very important aspect about first fruits is that the **first of everything belongs to Adonai** and “*you shall BRING it to the house.*” (Exodus 23:19)
2. In Exodus 13 we find two important principles.
 - a. If the firstborn animal is a clean animal, like a lamb, it had to be sacrificed unto the Lord. In other words, it belonged to the Lord. It was solely the property of the Almighty God.
 - b. If the firstborn animal was an unclean animal, like a donkey, it had to be redeemed by a clean animal, such as a lamb.

If the owner did not want to redeem an unclean animal, its neck had to be broken, which meant that it was lost for the use of its owner anyway. (Exodus 13:12)

CHRIST, OUR FIRST FRUITS

Christ, being the first fruit offered to God, is a principle concealed in the Old Testament and revealed in the New Testament. When we are born, we are unclean because of the sin that entered humanity through Adam. That is why Yashuah said to Nicodemus that he needed to be born a second time, but this time from above (John 3:3).

Having purified your souls in the obedience of the truth, by the Spirit, in unfeigned brotherly love, love one another with a pure heart fervently, ²³ being

born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which lives and abides for ever. 1 Peter 1:22- 23 JUB

In these Scriptures, Exodus 13 is revealed. Christ, our Redeemer, was born clean to make the ultimate sacrifice to redeem us. He was the firstborn, clean to be sacrificed so that the unclean (humanity) could be redeemed.

The old system of living under the law presented us with only a faint shadow, a crude outline of the reality of the wonderful blessings to come. Even with its steady stream of sacrifices offered year after year, there still was nothing that could make our hearts perfect before God. ²⁻³ For if animal sacrifices could once and for all eliminate sin, they would have ceased to be offered and the worshipers would have clean consciences. Instead, once was not enough so by the repetitive sacrifices year after year, the worshipers were continually reminded of their sins, with their hearts still impure. ⁴ For what power does the blood of bulls and goats have to remove sin's guilt? ⁵ So when Jesus the Messiah came into the world he said, "Since your ultimate desire was not another animal sacrifice, you have clothed me with a body that I might offer myself instead! ⁶ Multiple burnt offerings and sin-offerings cannot satisfy your justice. ⁷ So I said to you, 'God— I will be the One to go and do your will, to fulfill all that is written of me in your Word!' " ⁸ First he said, "Multiple burnt-offerings and sin-offerings cannot satisfy your justice" (even though the law required them to be offered). ⁹ And then he said, "God, I will be the One to go and do your will." So by being the sacrifice that removes sin, he abolishes animal sacrifices and replaces that entire system with the new covenant. ¹⁰ By God's will we have been purified and made holy once and for all through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus, the Messiah! ¹¹ Yet every day priests still serve, ritually offering the same sacrifices again and again—sacrifices that can never take away sin's guilt. ¹² But when this Priest had offered the one supreme sacrifice for sin for all time he sat down on a throne at the right hand of God, ¹³ waiting until all his whispering enemies are subdued and turn into

his footstool. ¹⁴ And by his one perfect sacrifice he made us perfectly holy and complete for all time! Hebrews 10:1-14 TPT

Jesus was God's firstborn. He was clean, perfect, and unblemished in every sense of the word. In contrast to Jesus, every one of us was born unclean. We are sinners with a fully active sinful nature. Keep in mind the law God gave in Exodus 13, namely that if the firstborn animal was clean, it was to be sacrificed, but if the firstborn was unclean, it was to be redeemed by a clean animal. God perfectly laid everything down for us and even He could not violate His laws.

Jesus Christ, the Firstborn of God the Father, was born a pure and spotless lamb and was sacrificed to redeem us.

When He redeemed us by His sacrifice, He bought us back for God. He was the First Fruit Offering. ***Yashuah was the Father's tithe.*** God gave His ***tithe*** in faith before any of us ever believed.

*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.** Romans 5:8 KJV*

This is a law, a statute, a principle, that God laid down. He followed His own laws and laid them down for our benefit so we could be blessed!

But the truth is, Christ is risen from the dead, as the firstfruit of a great resurrection harvest of those who have died. ²¹ For since death came through a man, Adam, it is fitting that the resurrection of the dead has also come through a man, Christ. ²² Even as all who are in Adam die, so also all who are in Christ will be made alive. ²³ But each one in his proper order: Christ, the firstfruits, then those who belong to Christ in his presence. 1 Corinthians 15:20- 23 TPT

Yashuah HaMashiach is indeed the First Fruit of the great resurrection harvest. The rest that belongs to Him has already been redeemed. They are protected from the devourer (satan), who only comes to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10).

SPIRITUAL FIRST FRUITS

Believers are the "first fruits" of God. They are a kind of first fruit of all He created (James 1:18). Spiritual first fruits could also be the first converts in a specific area (Romans 16:5). As first fruits, believers are a testimony of God's powerful salvation. They are His firstborn, redeemed by Christ's Blood. Believers are God's first fruits, holy to the Lord and the first fruits of His harvest" (Jeremiah 2:3). God's people are therefore to present themselves as holy first fruits to God, as *"living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God"* (Romans 12:1).

As "first fruits of the Spirit", the Spirit in effect works the present redemption of their souls and believers are given the guarantee that they will have the future redemption of their bodies at the Second Coming of Christ (Romans 8:23). In 1 Corinthians 15:20 and 23, Paul teaches that Christ, in His bodily resurrection, is the **"first fruits of those who have fallen asleep"**. As such, He is the guarantee that all those who belong to Him will also be raised from the dead at his Second Coming.

In the natural world, the first sheaf of the crop was to be brought to God (Leviticus 23:10; Leviticus 23:11; Leviticus 23:17) as a guarantee that the rest of the harvest would be redeemed. So, too, it is in God's redemption harvest. Christ, as the **First Fruits**, triumphed in His resurrection. Now, the rest of His "crop", the redeemed, will be raised triumphantly at His Second Coming (1 Corinthians 15:23).

Considering this, God's people, as His first fruits, are to have a sanctifying effect on others (1 Corinthians 5:6-7) just as Abraham and the patriarchs had a sanctifying effect on the disobedient Israel (Romans 11:14-16). Believers are to be true followers of the Lamb, just as the saints in the Second Coming, described as holy in life, were *"purchased from among men and offered as first fruits to God and to the Lamb"* (Revelation 14:4).

(Acknowledgment W. Harold Mare)

THE TITHE

This principle of first fruits offering is also known as the “**tithe**”. It is vital to understand what the word means. It is much deeper than just an Old Testament principle of giving God a **tenth of your income**. It is a principle of “**first fruits offering**”. Just as God the Father gave Jesus as His “**tithe**”, so need we to give our tithe to the Lord! God gave Jesus in faith so that His Son could be the firstborn among many brethren.

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Romans 8:29 KJV

In this sense, Jesus is God’s tithe. God gave Jesus first, in faith, even when we were yet sinners who mocked Him and spat in His face. God didn’t wait to see if we would change, repent, or make ourselves worthy. He knew the principle of first things first. God, the Father, by faith, made the offer to redeem the rest, which is us. He paid the price in full. Even so, there are many who do not accept this precious gift of eternal life.

All the firstborns of Egypt died in the final plague, as described in Exodus. God had the legal right to take every firstborn, because all firstborns of Egypt and Israel belonged to Him. The firstborn of Israel didn’t die that night, however, because a spotless, perfect lamb took their place and was sacrificed to redeem them. God instructed Moses to apply the blood of that sacrificed lamb to the doorposts of each home (Exodus 12:7).

This is how we were saved. God redeemed us in the same way by giving His Firstborn Son as a sacrifice. The principle of the first fruits is extremely powerful.

**Any first thing given is never lost,
and any first thing not given is always lost.**

What we give to God we won't lose, because God redeems it for us. But what we withhold from God, we will lose.

Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 16:25 ISV

Tithing is giving our first to God! We find this principle throughout the Bible.

When you tithe, you are giving God the “**first**” and are trusting Him to redeem the rest. This always requires “**faith**”! Give Him the first of your flock and then trust Him that there will be enough. It means giving to God even **before** you know if you are going to have enough left.

By tithing, we say to God, “**I recognise You first. I am putting You first and I trust You to take care of everything else in my life.**” That's why tithing is so important. It is the primary way we acknowledge God first, above all else. The first portion is the redemptive portion. When the first portion is given to God, the rest is redeemed.

Lay down this Biblical Foundation and apply it to your modern-day life and your finances. You will reap the harvest!

Right living will always accompany right doctrine.

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FIRST OF THE FIRST

Not only does the firstborn belong to God, but the first fruits belong to Him as well.

The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the LORD thy God. Exodus 23:19 KJV

God explains how His laws of blessing work. Not only does God want the first fruits, but He says the “first” of the first fruits belongs to Him. **That means the last of your first fruits isn’t acceptable. It’s not the tenth portion of your first fruits, but the first portion of your first fruits that He wants. Also, this first of the first fruits belongs to the “House of the Lord”.**

*Honour the LORD with thy substance and with the **firstfruits of all thine increase**: ¹⁰ So shall thy **barns be filled with plenty**, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. Proverbs 3:9-10 KJV*

When the Lord commanded the Israelites to take over Jericho, He declared that all the spoils from Jericho belonged to Him. All the silver and gold had to be given to the Lord’s house, because Jericho was the **first** city conquered in the Promised Land. It took faith for them to do so, and so does tithing.

Jericho was the first fruits. The spoils of the cities they would still conquer could be kept.

There was also a man named Achan who took some of the spoil for himself and became accursed. Joshua 22:20

We are consecrated or cursed! That’s what the tithing principle is about. The tithe is consecrated to the Lord and for the Lord’s House, but if we take it for ourselves, as Achan did, it becomes a curse because it is stolen from God. This is applicable not only to the tithe but also to offerings.

*Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say Wherein have we robbed thee? **In tithes and offerings.** ⁹ Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Malachi 3:8-9 KJV*

Many people will reason that this is Old Testament scriptures and therefore they don't have to tithe, but in the same chapter God says, "For I am the LORD, I change not." (Malachi 3:6a KJV)

Are we as New Testament believers not missing something? I think so.

Why didn't God use the word **steal**, but "**rob**"? "**Rob**" is used in the sense of '**taken from**'. "**Steal**" is used in the sense of '**lift**'. This is the fundamental difference between the two words. The word **rob** is used with **thefts that are considered high in volume**. The loss in a robbery is usually high in monetary value.

The word **steal is used with minor thefts of lesser volume**. This is another important difference between the two words. When God says we are robbing Him, He means we are taking something of considerable high volume from Him.

The Lord clearly states what belongs to Him.

- The **firstborn** belongs to Him – Exodus 13:2
- The **first fruits** are His – Exodus 23:19
- The **tithe** belongs to Him – Malachi 3:8-9

If God says, "**I do not change**" (Malachi 3:6), when then did the requirements supposedly change? Aren't there many other things that were under the Law that are still valid under grace for the New Testament believers? Adultery was forbidden under the Law. Is it acceptable under grace? There are principles with eternal value throughout the Word of God and tithing is one of them.

The "**first fruits**", the "**firstborn**" and the "**tithe**" belong to God!

Dr Henry Wright wrote in his book, “A More Excellent Way – Be in Health”, that the 12th of the 33 spiritual blocks to divine health is robbing Adonai in tithes and offerings.

The twelfth block to healing is in Malachi 3:8-11 and deals with robbing God in our tithes and offerings.

(Henry Wright. A More Excellent Way (Kindle Locations 5040-5041). Kindle Edition.)



TRUSTING GOD WITH YOUR FINANCES IS FOUNDATIONAL

Many believe money is simply about giving. But the attitude and intentions of our hearts are far more important. Giving with the right attitude and knowing that God is your source will prosper you. We need to learn to fully trust in the Lord!

Trust in Jehovah with all your heart, and lean not to your own understanding.

⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6 MKJV

These verses are not only about trusting the Lord. When we read on, we see that we must honour the Lord with the first fruits of our income.

Honor Jehovah with your substance, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; ¹⁰ and your barns shall be filled with plenty, and your presses shall burst with new wine. Proverbs 3:9- 10 MKJV

If you do not honour Jehovah in the first fruits, then you are not trusting the Lord in all your ways. You are not honouring Him! These are hard words, but this is what the Word of God is teaching us. Most people spend the majority of their time at work, trying to make a living. Yet, they do not trust God with their finances. They trust God with only a tiny portion of their life!

God is not looking for a Bride who rushes through the week doing her own selfish thing and then, on Sundays, she gives Him one hour of her life while daydreaming in church! Others soothe their consciences by spending an hour each day reading their Bibles and saying a prayer, but hardly give any thought to Yehôvâh Elohim for the rest of the day. God wants to be part of our complete lives. Once we learn to give ourselves, we will fully submit to God and trust Him as our source.

GOD IS OUR SOURCE

How do you make Adonai your source when you are spending most of your time working and fulfilling responsibilities? According to the Scriptures, it is simple - give Him your first fruits!

“The way you act on your faith and make God your source is by giving — **by tithing and making offerings** — because if you didn’t believe God was going to bless you back, it would be crazy to give away your livelihood. Unless you factor faith in God into the equation, it makes no sense that giving would lead to prosperity. Taking ten percent of what you make and giving it away seems foolish to the natural mind—and that is exactly why God asks us to do it! God isn’t broke!”

(Wommack, Andrew. Financial Stewardship: Experience the Freedom of Turning Your Finances Over to God. Harrison House Publishers. Kindle Edition.)

God does not need anyone’s money. Giving is a way of demonstrating that we are part of God’s economy and not of the world’s. Remember that first fruits and offerings are not about receiving billions back from God, but about trusting Adonai! The Lord set up the system of tithes and offerings for our benefit, not His. You need to plant a seed for yourself, not because anyone or any ministry needs money. Giving is about recognising Adonai as your source and trusting Him!

“It’s difficult for the natural mind to take a portion of what we have and give it away. It seems like we are moving away from our goals by tithing, and we would be if God hadn’t promised to give back to us abundantly. Giving is about trusting God in this area that consumes more of our time and energy than any other part of our lives. We get there by taking a portion of what God gives us and giving it back to Him.”

(Wommack, Andrew. Financial Stewardship: Experience the Freedom of Turning Your Finances Over to God. Harrison House Publishers. Kindle Edition.)

According to Proverbs 3, our barns (our bank accounts) are going to burst when we honour the Lord with our first fruits and not be greedy by hoarding! We often eat the seed God gives us to sow! When you take a portion of what you have and trust God with it, then it becomes a seed that yields a greater increase in the future.

“You can get strength and sustenance by eating seeds, but you also need enough wisdom to set aside a portion of those seeds for planting. You can’t eat those seeds, even when you’re hungry, because eating all of your seed now means starving tomorrow. Planting seed ensures that you have a crop in the future to feed your family and provide for your needs. Most people are short-term thinkers. They don’t see the wisdom in giving because the natural mind can’t understand the things of the spirit (1 Corinthians 2:14).”

(Wommack, Andrew. Financial Stewardship: Experience the Freedom of Turning Your Finances Over to God. Harrison House Publishers. Kindle Edition.)

Many believers are struggling financially, but their natural minds cannot see how they can save any of their income for giving. The mind sees that there isn’t enough and they conclude they need to keep everything, but the Word of God says honour the Lord with the first fruits of your substance and your bank accounts will burst forth with finances!

Giving is really about trusting God and acting on your faith.

Faith without works is dead (James 2:26). Act on your faith! Give a step of faith that turns your focus to Adonai and moves you into a position to receive from Him! God’s Kingdom works in opposition to the earthly system. In the world economy, we need to save and hold back to accumulate wealth. But God is saying that “**generosity brings prosperity, but withholding from charity brings poverty**” (Proverbs 11:24 TPT).

The human mind cannot understand the things of the spirit. This is where trusting the Lord comes in. The world prospers by hoarding, but the way to supernatural prosperity is by giving. When you do not tithe or give because you think you need to keep

everything, you are “*withholding more than is meet*” and it leads to poverty (Proverbs 11:24). If you want to prosper, take a step of faith and start giving!

Giving is the route to prosperity!

Those who live to bless others will have blessings heaped upon them, and the one who pours out his life to pour out blessings will be saturated with favor. Proverbs 11:25 TPT

Adonai will always give money to people who are going to sow into His Kingdom, not to people who are going to keep it all for themselves. Proverbs 11:25 (KJV) says, “*It is the liberal soul that shall be made fat*”. This means when you are a giver, you will have more money than you need. You will reap what you sow (Galatians 6:7).

(Wommack, Andrew. Financial Stewardship: Experience the Freedom of Turning Your Finances Over to God. Harrison House Publishers. Kindle Edition.)

FAITHFUL IN THE LEAST

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. Luke 16:10 KJV

You must be faithful in the small things first, before then the Lord will entrust you with much. That is applicable to all areas of your life. As you become faithful in doing the small things, God will increase your leadership responsibilities. The above scripture can be used to demonstrate this truth. But Jesus is also speaking about finances here.

The context of a scripture determines its main application, and the context of this scripture is the steward who had wasted his master’s money.

Jesus explains that money is “the least” in which we should be faithful.

What an incredible statement! It is also completely contrary to the way most believers reason. Many think money is something for mature Christians to deal with and salvation and living a holy life are simple things. But finances are the least in which we should trust God! It’s the starting place.

If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? ¹² And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own? ¹³ No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Luke 16:11–13 KJV

Trusting God with your finances is the least in which to trust God.

It's the least use of your faith.

When Jesus said in Luke 16:10, "He that is faithful in that which is least," He was calling money "that which is least."

If you do not trust God with your finances, you are deceiving yourself when you believe you are trusting Him with your eternal salvation, or with any other area of your life. This is profound! If you do not see greater things coming to pass in your life, the reason may very well be that you are not trusting God with "that which is least"!

Believing for your family to be restored, for healing to manifest in your body, or for mental and emotional healing are all infinitely greater than believing for finances.

How can you trust God to give you eternal life, but not to provide for your physical needs? Clinging to money out of fear that God won't provide for you, but believing Him for healing or restoration is like saying, "I cannot jump three feet, but I'm going to jump across the Grand Canyon!" This does not make sense at all!

A testimony by Andrew Wommack

"I taught this same message at a church in California one time, and God used it to really touch people's hearts. After I taught, I received an offering to give them an opportunity to act on what they had learned. I didn't want them to think I was doing it for selfish reasons, so I gave the entire offering to the pastor of the church. As

they were passing the buckets, the Lord spoke to me and said, **“Watch what happens now that these people have started trusting me with their finances.”** When the offering was finished I stood up to pray and miracles started happening! People started receiving the healing power of God. It was such a dramatic demonstration of God’s power that people were running to the front asking what they needed to do to be saved. I saw with my own eyes that the reason some of those people hadn’t been healed was because they had never fully trusted God in the area of finances. I know that a lot of ministers don’t see things this way. They want to just preach about salvation and leave Christians to try to figure out finances on their own, but that isn’t what Scripture teaches. Jesus said that trusting God with our finances is foundational. Please don’t misunderstand me. I’m not saying that if you just give money then you will receive a miracle. You can’t buy healing or any other blessing of God. You can only receive from God by faith. Faith is the only thing that makes anything God has done for us manifest in our lives. What I am saying is that using your faith for finances is the least use of faith, and if you haven’t done that which is least, then you won’t be able to do greater things.”

(Wommack, Andrew. Financial Stewardship: Experience the Freedom of Turning Your Finances Over to God. Harrison House Publishers. Kindle Edition.)

I have never heard Dr Henry Wright, author of the book, “A More Excellent Way – Be in Health”, mention anything about money or finances, but he too discovered the importance of tithing and giving, because one of the 33 spiritual blocks **to divine health** that he listed, is robbing Adonai in tithes and offerings, as mentioned in Malachi 3:8-11.

(Henry Wright. A More Excellent Way (Kindle Locations 5040-5041). Kindle Edition.)

**FAITH FOR FINANCES IS THE LEAST USE OF FAITH, AND IF YOU
HAVEN’T DONE THAT WHICH IS THE LEAST, YOU WON’T BE ABLE TO DO
GREATER THINGS!**

SEE YOUR MONEY AS HOLY

In the past I did not regard money as something holy, nor did I honour it as something valuable. But if something is not valuable to us, we will not handle it with the due respect. We will never discover God's plan for our money if we do not surrender without reservation and renew our minds, according to Romans 12:2. This is the key to apprehend God's plan for your money. Without it, you may hear, but cannot apprehend it. God will withhold this deep Biblical truth from you until you meet these two conditions, namely surrendering and renewing your mind. Our attitude towards money reveals our attitude towards Adonai Himself.

I also did not fully comprehend what it meant that I could not serve both Adonai and Mammon. I convinced myself that I was not serving Mammon. I never allowed Mammon to prescribe to me what to buy or what not. (The concept of serving Mammon will be discussed in more detail later.) But I missed the true revelation. The reason was that I did not value money, nor considered it holy. .

From the beginning, Adonai commanded people to bring Him offerings. They could not approach Him without first bringing an offering.

Every male must appear in the presence of the LORD your God three times a year at the place where he will choose: for the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Seven Weeks, and the Feast of Tents. He must not appear in the LORD's presence empty-handed. Deuteronomy 16:16 ISV

What is the reason for God saying this? It is because He brought them out of Egypt!

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Exodus 20:2 NKJV

This statement is a golden wire throughout the Bible. Adonai is a jealous God, and only HE can ever take the glory for deliverance. Aaron stole God's glory when he made two golden calves and honoured them as the gods who brought Israel out of Egypt.

Then Aaron took the gold, melted it down, and molded it into the shape of a calf. When the people saw it, they exclaimed, "O Israel, these are the gods who brought you out of the land of Egypt!" Exodus 32:4 NLT

Jeroboam, the king of Israel, did likewise.

So on the advice of his counselors, the king made two gold calves. He said to the people, "It is too much trouble for you to worship in Jerusalem. Look, Israel, these are the gods who brought you out of Egypt!" 1 Kings 12:28 NLT

That was an abomination before the Lord. YHWH delivers us from bondage and slavery. He is our Provider and Mammon cannot take His place.

YHWH declares we cannot appear before Him in His Courts without an offering!

Give to Jehovah the glory due to His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts. O worship Jehovah in the beauty of holiness; fear before Him, all the earth. Psalm 96:8 MKJV

It brings glory to God when we bring Him an offering. It gives us access to His Courts. Our worshipping the Lord is not complete unless we bring our offering! When we give our money to God, we give a very important part of our life. We give him our time, strength and talents and in the process we offer ourselves to God. Paul says in Romans 12:1 that we should offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to Adonai. Offering our complete life to Him is our living sacrifice to God!

God stipulated the required offerings to the 12 tribes of Israel.

And the rulers offered for the dedication of the altar in the day that it was anointed, even the rulers offered their offering before the altar. ¹¹ And Jehovah said to Moses, They shall offer their offering, each ruler on his day, for the dedication of the altar. ¹² And he that offered his offering the first day was Nahshon the son of Amminadab, of the tribe of Judah. ¹³ And his offering was one silver dish, and its weight a hundred and thirty shekels; one silver basin of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary; both of them full

of fine flour mixed with oil for a food offering; ¹⁴ one golden pan of ten shekels full of incense; ¹⁵ one young bull, one ram, one lamb of the first year for a burnt offering; ¹⁶ one male of the goats for a sin offering; ¹⁷ and for a sacrifice of peace offerings, two oxen, five rams, five male goats, five lambs of the first year. This was the offering of Nahshon the son of Amminadab.
Numbers 7:10- 17 MKJV

Notice that God kept account of everything offered to Him. Because He kept a record of all tithes and offerings, He declared to Israel and also now to us that we are robbing Him in our tithes and offerings.

Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me. But you say, In what have we robbed You? In the tithe and the offering! Malachi 3:8 KJV

Jesus was and still is very much interested in our offerings. This is confirmed in the Gospel of Mark when a widow put her offering in the box.

And sitting down opposite the treasury, Jesus watched how the people threw copper coins into the treasury. And many rich ones threw in much. ⁴² And a certain poor widow came, and she threw in two lepta, which is a kodrantes. ⁴³ And He called His disciples and said to them, Truly I say to you that this poor widow has cast in more than all those who have cast into the treasury. ⁴⁴ For all cast in from their abundance. But she, out of her poverty, has cast in all that she had, all her livelihood. Mark 12:41-44 MKJV

From this scripture, we learn that Jesus does not look at the true monetary value of the offering, but He measures what we give by what we keep. The one who puts in the least, gives the most if it is all he has!

YASHUAH MEASURES WHAT WE GIVE BY THE AMOUNT WE KEEP!

One day we will give account to the Lord according to Romans 14:12, which says, “**So then each one of us will give account concerning himself to God**”. The Greek for **account** is “**logo**” and it refers exclusively to giving account of our offerings!

CAIN AND ABEL

Have you ever wondered why Cain and Abel brought offerings to the Lord? Who told them to do so?

After God had expelled Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, He still ministered to them and their children. God instructed Cain and Abel about their lives and laid down the principle of offerings. When Cain and Abel brought their offerings before the Lord, God wanted to accept Cain's offering, but He could not! ***The reason may come as a surprise to you!*** It was because Cain did not apply God's principle of first fruits. Let's explore this statement in scripture.

*And Abel, he also brought of **the firstlings of his flock** and of the fat thereof.*

And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering. Genesis 4:4 KJV

Let us look at the previous verse to see what it says about the offering Cain brought.

And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. Genesis 4:3 KJV

Cain decided for himself what to bring to the Lord, and when ("*in the process of time*"). His was not a first fruits offering, but an offering under his own terms and conditions. Therefore, God could not accept it. He will never go against His word. The violation of His own words will destroy the universe.

*Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and **upholding all things by the word of his power**, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; Hebrews 1:3 KJV*

*And all the **tithe of the land**, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, **is the LORD'S**: it is holy unto the LORD. Leviticus 27:30 KJV*

THE TITHE IS OUR FIRST FRUIT AND MUST BE GIVEN FIRST!

ABRAHAM AND MELCHIZEDEK

A full 430 years before tithing became a part of the Mosaic law, Abraham tithed to Melchizedek. Abraham is our spiritual father and Melchizedek is a type of Jesus Christ. Melchizedek's titles were "**king of righteousness**" and "**king of peace**" and, of course, Jesus is the true King of righteousness and peace.

*And **Melchizedek** king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the **priest of the most high God**. ¹⁹ And he blessed him, and said, Blessed, be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: ²⁰ And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all. Genesis 14:18-20 KJV*

And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; ¹⁰ Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec. Hebrews 5:9-10 KJV

Jesus is the fulfilment of all the types and shadows embodied in Melchizedek. Hebrews 7 gives particular attention to the fact that Abraham tithed to Melchizedek.

For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; ² To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; ³ Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually. Hebrews 7:1-3 KJV

Abraham, as our spiritual father, tithed to Melchizedek, who was possibly either Jesus Christ Himself or a symbolic representation of Christ. All this occurred 430 years before the Law was given! According to Hebrews 7:8, Jesus receives tithes in heaven. When you return your tithe to the Lord, you may think that you are giving it to your local church, but in a very real, spiritual sense, the Lord Jesus Himself receives those tithes. This is amazing!

In the case of the priests the tenth is collected by men who die; but as for Melchizedek the tenth was collected by one who lived, as the scripture says.

Hebrews 7:8 GNB

What a privilege! What a holy thing!

And what a loss for us if we never take the step of faith to tithe!

JACOB

Jacob's vow to tithe came straight from his grateful heart. True tithing always comes from the heart, not from a legalistic mind!

And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

Genesis 28:22 KJV

Note that Jacob's promise also came 400 years before the Law. Like his grandfather Abraham, Jacob wanted to give God the first of his first fruits, the first 10%. Having experienced the sweetness of God's presence and the goodness of His favour, Jacob wanted to bless Him. It was an act from his heart. We all need to reach that point where tithing becomes life to us and not just a law. That will result in one of the greatest joys of our lives!

TO PROSPER

In Leviticus, God considered the tithe as "holy". The word "holy" simply means "**set apart**". The first 10% is to be separated and set apart for the Lord!

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD. Leviticus 27:30 KJV

It is not for us to determine what to do with our tithes. It belongs to God!

And it shall be, when thou art come in unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance, and possessest it, and dwellest therein; ² That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt put it in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name there. Deuteronomy 26:1-2 KJV

When we understand that the tithe is holy, we would not want it in our houses any longer! We would want to get it to the house of God, where it belongs. We would no longer want to use it for vacation or school tuition because it is exclusively set apart for God.

*Then thou shalt say before the LORD thy God, **I have brought away the hallowed things out of mine house**, and also have given them unto the Levite, and unto the stranger, to the fatherless, and to the widow, according to all thy commandments which thou hast commanded me: I have not transgressed thy commandments, neither have I forgotten them: ¹⁴ I have not eaten thereof in my mourning, neither have I taken away ought thereof for any unclean use, nor given ought thereof for the dead: but I have hearkened to the voice of the LORD my God, and have done according to all that thou hast commanded me. Deuteronomy 26:13-14 KJV*



JESUS: THE TITHE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Jesus' words in Matthew 23:23 (KJV), should convince us, **as believers, to tithe!** Let us also consider the ISV translation.

*How terrible it will be for you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You **give a tenth** of your mint, dill, and cummin, but have neglected the more important matters of the Law: justice, mercy, and faithfulness. **These are the things you should have practiced, without neglecting the others.***
Matthew 23:23 ISV

The phrase, “**These are the things you should have practiced**”, refers to justice, mercy and faithfulness. “**Without neglecting the others**” refers to “**give a tenth**”. The scribes and Pharisees were eager to give tithes, but their hearts were loveless.

The TLB translation states, “**Yes, you should tithe**, but you shouldn't leave the more important things undone”. This clearly states that tithing, justice, mercy, and faithfulness are equally important to God. The original text in the Greek language is very specific that Jesus was indeed talking about the tithe.

*Yes, woe upon you, Pharisees, and you other religious leaders— hypocrites! For you tithe down to the last mint leaf in your garden, but ignore the important things—justice and mercy and faith. **Yes, you should tithe**, but you shouldn't leave the more important things undone. ²⁴ Blind guides! You strain out a gnat and swallow a camel. Matthew 23:23- 24 TLB*

The above verse is one of the most amazing Scriptures on tithing. No one with a receptive heart towards God could negate this. Of course, tithing should not be a grim duty. It isn't a dry religious exercise or punishment. It is an amazing opportunity to honour God and it brings tremendous benefits to the tither.

BLESSED

An amazing testimony of the benefits of tithing is when the people brought their tithes to the House of the Lord in the time of Hezekiah. When he saw how much those people gave, he was concerned they might not have enough left for themselves.

*Hezekiah also directed the people who lived in Jerusalem to give what was due to the priests and descendants of Levi, so they could be strengthened in the LORD's Law. ⁵ As the word spread around, the people of Israel gave generously for the **first fruits of grain, wine, oil, honey, and all of the produce of the fields.** They **generously gave a tithe of everything.** ⁶ The descendants of Israel and Judah who lived throughout the cities of Judah also brought **tithes of cattle and sheep**, as well as **tithes of gifts that had been dedicated to the LORD their God.** As these gifts were given, they were laid in piles. ⁷ They began to make these piles of gifts during the third month, and it took them until the seventh month to finish. ⁸ **When Hezekiah and the officials arrived and saw the piles of gifts, they blessed the LORD and his people Israel,** ⁹ **and Hezekiah quizzed the priests and the descendants of Levi about the piles of gifts.** ¹⁰ Azariah replied, "Since they began to bring their gifts into the LORD's Temple, we have eaten and have been satisfied. Now we still have plenty left, because the LORD has blessed his people so that we have all of this leftover."*

2 Chronicles 31:4- 10 ISV

King Hezekiah commanded the people to bring the tithes so the priests might devote themselves to studying the Word of God.

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house.

Malachi 3:10 NIV

The priest informed the king that since they had started to tithe, the Lord had been blessing the people so much that they had enough left over for themselves. Not only had it blessed God's people, but it also brought provision to God's house.

FIRST FRUITS MUST BE FIRST

Is it possible to give 10% (or even more) of your income and still not be tithing according to God's principle?

Absolutely!

If your tithe is not the first part that you give, God can't accept it as a tithe, as with Cain. To make it practical, let's assume you receive 10 x R100. Let's agree on a 10% tithe. Now the question is which of the R10 notes would be the tithe?

The answer will probably be: The first one!

But which is the first one?

The tithe is the first one of the ten notes to leave your hand. The first one that you spend or give away. The first money you spend represents your **first fruits**. This is where the act of faith comes in. Tithing the last R100 note, after you have paid all your bills and provided for yourself, is not faith at all. The first portion you spend, the first amount leaving your account, should be the tithe paid to God. That is the first fruit. The first portion is the redemptive portion. The first portion has the power to redeem the rest. This is the essence of Paul's message in Romans 11.

For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. Romans 11:16 KJV

There are so many blessings going along with tithing, but it is the principle of putting **God first** and the principle of **faith** that initiate the blessings.

These two principles are the triggers.

The first portion carries the blessing.

Many Christians respect the bank manager more than they fear and respect God. They pay the first portion of their income to the mortgage company, instead of to God. The devoted thither would say, **“Yes, I have a stack of bills here, but I’m going to give to God first and trust Him to bless the rest of the lump.”**

When Abraham offered his firstborn son, Isaac, there was more at stake than money. God asked Abraham to offer his first and only son as an act of faith. When God asked for the firstborn lamb, the owner had to give it in faith, with the promise and hope that the ewe would produce more. **This is the same faith God is asking of us.** In faith, give God the first! It is easy to say yes to putting God first, but giving your tithe is how it is demonstrated as sincere. What we say is not our testimony of faith, but what we do!

If God is first, there will be order in your marriage, your health, your finances, your family, your job, your career, and your ministry. The expenses reflected in your bank account will prove who is first in your life! If it is indeed God, you can say with confidence to the accuser, “I am a tither, and God's Word says He will rebuke the devourer for my sake. God is first in my life, and God is going to redeem and protect everything else in my life! Amen!”

It is because of our lack of understanding that we fail to receive God's blessings. Paul instructed the Corinthians to give on the first day of every week as they prospered (NLT says *“in relation to what you have earned”*).

*Now regarding your question about the money being collected for God’s people in Jerusalem. You should follow the same procedure I gave to the churches in Galatia. ² **On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned.** Don’t wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 NLT*

In other words, we should give to God in direct proportion to the size of our paychecks. Because believers neglect bringing God's tithe to the storehouse, many special offerings and fundraising activities must be organised.

PASSING DOWN THE PRINCIPLE

God instructed Israel to pass the principle of the firstborn down to future generations. When they sacrificed the firstborn lamb and their children would ask about the sacrifice, they would sit with their children and say, “***Let me tell you how we were delivered from Egypt...***”

“Let me show you the scars on my back. Let me describe what it’s like to be a slave in bondage. But God delivered us by His mighty hand! Because He set us free, we keep this sacred covenant we made with God by putting Him first in our lives. That is why we gladly give Him the first of our increase.”

*And it shall be when thy son asketh thee in time to come, **What is this?** that thou shalt say unto him, By strength of hand the **LORD brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage:** ¹⁵ And it came to pass, when **Pharaoh would hardly let us go**, that the LORD slew all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man, and the firstborn of beast: **therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all that openeth the matrix, being males; but all the firstborn of my children I redeem.** Exodus 13:14-15 KJV*

It is not about where we currently are, but where we come from! I have come a long way. Although I have been serving the Lord my entire life, many hidden sins kept me in captivity. I was in bondage and had to be delivered out of Egypt.

Yashuah HaMashiach saved me with His mighty right hand and my whole life changed for the better! My heart towards God changed, and He revealed truths to me. I now gladly give God the first of everything He blesses me with. I give Him my very first

thought, my very first act, my very first words. He now comes first in my daily walk and I gladly hand over my first fruits to Him!

Maybe you have not been delivered by Him yet. Maybe you are still standing in front of the Red Sea with mighty warrior soldiers following you and no natural means of escape. Maybe you have not yet experience God parting the mighty waters of the Red Sea so you could walk through on dry land! Maybe you have not yet seen your enemies being destroyed!

This could be the reason why you do not yet consider these profound, deep Biblical truths about tithing!

See my personal “New Song” of victory in the book, “Dispensation”, and also now attached to Part 1 of “Laying Down the Foundation”.

We do not give to God out of duty or compulsion. No, we gladly give our tithes because we want to let Him know He is first in our lives. And because we give our first to the Lord, He blesses us, protects us, and provides for us. We must live out these truths and pass them down to our children.

(Acknowledgement: Robert Morris)



HOW TO PUT GOD FIRST

We must first seek God's Kingdom above all else and then He will give us everything we need (Matthew 6:33 NLT). Seeking His Kingdom involves honouring Him with our wealth and the first fruits of ALL our crops. The Amplified Bible defines crops as our income.

Honor the Lord with your wealth And with the first fruits of all your crops (income) Proverbs 3:9 AMP

The Amplified Classic Translation says, "*Honor the Lord with your capital and sufficiency [from righteous labors] and with the firstfruits of all your income.*" I find the translation in the Message Bible very interesting.

Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. **Don't assume that you know it all.** Run to God! Run from evil! Your body will glow with health, your very bones will vibrate with life! Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best. Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over. But don't, dear friend, resent God's discipline; don't sulk under his loving correction. It's the child he loves that God corrects; a father's delight is behind all this. Proverbs 3:5-12 MSG

This is faith! Don't assume that you know it all, but obey and trust Him by giving Him the first and the best! Then your barns will burst and your income will brim over. Setting aside the first 10% of your income is to honour Him with your wealth. The word tithe in the old King James is a 10th. Honour Him by giving Him your first 10%. You are laying down the foundation by honouring God with your money.

As already mentioned, this principle goes back to Abraham, even 400 years before the Law of Moses.

And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. ¹⁹ And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: ²⁰ And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all. Genesis 14:18-20 KJV

In the New Testament, Abraham is presented as a father and as a pattern to all believers (Romans 4:11-12). Therefore, we need to handle our money as Abraham did.

Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all. Romans 4:16 KJV

After Abraham, Jacob made a vow to Adonai.

And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, ²¹ So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: ²² And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee. Genesis 28:20-22 KJV

In faith, Jacob declared to Adonai that he would honour Him in his wealth. Jacob had a testimony 20 years later. He returned with tremendous wealth!

*Then Jacob prayed, "O God of my father Abraham, O God of my father Isaac, O LORD, you who told me, 'Return to your country and to your relatives and I'll cause things to go well for you.' ¹⁰ **I'm unworthy of all your gracious love, your faithfulness, and everything that you've done for your servant.** When I first crossed over this Jordan River, I had only my staff. But now I've become two groups. Genesis 32:9-10 KJV*

THE TITHE BELONGS TO GOD

It cannot be overemphasised that the tithe belongs to the Lord and we merely return what already belongs to Him. That is why the Lord told Israel in Malachi that they were robbing Him, not only in their tithes but also in their offerings.

And all the tithe of the land, of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is Jehovah's. It is holy to Jehovah. Leviticus 27:30 MKJV

And concerning the tithe of the cows or of the sheep, even of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth shall be holiness unto the LORD. Leviticus 27:32 KJV

The tithe is holy, which means it is set aside.

Thou shalt without fail tithe all the increase of thy seed that thy field brings forth each year. Deuteronomy 14:22 KJV

TITHING REAPPEARS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT IN JESUS, OUR HIGH PRIEST

Which we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters even into that which is within the veil, ²⁰ where our precursor, Jesus, has entered for us and is made high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. Hebrews 6:19-20 JUB

Now consider how great this one was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils. ⁵ And verily those that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they also have come out of the loins of Abraham; ⁶ but he whose descent is not counted in those took tithes from Abraham and blessed him that had the promises. ⁷ And without any contradiction the less is blessed of the better. ⁸ In the same

manner, here men that die take tithes; but there he received them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives. Hebrews 7:4-8 JUB

Take note that Melchizedec died, but Jesus still lives! In His priesthood, He still receives our tithes. Jesus made an astonishing announcement to the Pharisees.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin and have omitted that which is more important of the law: judgment, mercy, and faith; these were expedient for ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Matthew 23:23 KJV

Luke recorded the same.

But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs and pass over the judgment and the charity of God; these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Luke 11:42 KJV

Many believers are still trying to avoid this Biblical principle of tithing, just as the Pharisees did. The concept of the first fruits is to consecrate (set apart) the first 10% of your income to the Lord to redeem the rest.

For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. Romans 11:16 KJV

Matthew 23:23, Luke 11:42 and Romans 11:16 are New Testament scriptures that nail the fact that we need to both pay our tithes and walk in mercy and faith. Many people may say that they are putting God first, but their bank statements will demonstrate if it is indeed true or not!



WHERE TO GIVE

Many believers do not know where to give their tithes. Let's look at what scripture says.

*Bring all the tithes (the whole tenth of your income) **into the storehouse**, that there may be food in My house, and prove Me now by it, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not **open the windows of heaven for you and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.***

Malachi 3:10 AMPC

In the Old Testament, the tithe was either given towards the work of God or brought directly to the Temple. The tithe was directed to the ministers.

2 Chronicles 31:4b says to give to the **priests and descendants of Levi** what was due, so they could be **strengthened in the LORD's Law**. That was how God supported the ministers who were doing His work. Most pastors teach that the storehouse is your local church or even other spiritual institutions meant to be supported by offerings and not by tithes. Offerings are not first fruits, but are given **over and above** the tithe!

TITHE WHERE YOU ARE BEING FED

Technically, a storehouse is where food is being stored so people can be fed. That means we should give our tithes where we are being spiritually fed, whether it is our local church or not.

THE LOCAL CHURCH

We must realise that churches do much more than merely teach the Word. They also foster the community and play an important part in our spiritual growth. We need the supportive fellowship with other believers. The local church offers one-on-one counselling, including marriage counselling. Local pastors help their members deal with

grief and inspire them to persevere during hard times. The local church offers much more than a TV preacher or travelling minister ever could. If you are currently a member of a good local church that is preaching the true Word, helping widows and orphans and meeting the needs of its members, then you should pay your tithe to that church. No question about it!

ANOTHER OPTION

Many churches, however, do not preach the true Gospel anymore and do not honour God above all.

How would you know if your local church puts God first? Have a look at their bank account and financial statements and see what they spend their money on!

During my involvement with local churches and ministries, I realised very few understood or applied spiritual financial principles. When you peruse the budgets and financial statements of these institutions, the vision and the patterns of spending do not line up. I believe it is because those who lead the congregation do not have any personal testimonies of God supernaturally providing for all their needs.

Robert Morris shared many stories in his book, “The Blessed Life”, of how God miraculously and supernaturally moved in his own and other people’s lives when they obeyed His instructions. What struck me was Robert’s opinion on why their church and ministry are so blessed. The Lord led them to bless the Jewish people and the very first cheque each month goes to Jewish evangelism. They bring the gospel to the Jews first (**Romans 1:16**) and the result is visible in their bank account! According to **Romans 11:15**, there will be a worldwide revival when the Jewish people accept their Messiah!

Robert instructed his business pastor, “On the first day of every month, I want you to write a cheque to such-and-such Jewish ministry. I want you to do it on January 1st, February 1st, all through the year. Make sure the very first cheque we write each month

is not to the electrical company or even to pay the staff, but to Jewish evangelism. Our very first service is to the Jewish people.” Robert gives to 42 countries all over the world. They are taking the gospel to everyone, but to the Jewish people first. This is God’s prescribed order. “When we give to the Jewish people first, the rest will be blessed. I believe that is why God has blessed us as a church so much. We have decided to give to the Jews first!”

IT MATTERS WHERE YOU PLANT YOUR SEED!

Because God sees our hearts when we give, people believe they will reap a benefit from their giving, regardless of how the church applies their money. But that is NOT true! This mindset would make a farmer very poor! Imagine him casting a seed on the pavement, and expecting a harvest! It is wrong to put your money into something you do not agree with. Your return is going to depend, to a degree, on how fruitful the soil is that you are sowing in. You should tithe where you receive spiritual nourishment.

We must learn the truth and not support any false teachings and lies.

We need to promote the truth!

There are too many leaders begging for money, or some sort of emotional coercion going on in the Body of Christ. The Body of Christ empowers such preachers and perpetuates all their manipulation when supporting them financially.



PARTNERSHIP

I heard of someone who meditated on Philippians 4 for a full year, learning to trust God and breaking strongholds in his life.

BUT MY GOD SHALL SUPPLY ALL YOUR NEEDS ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES IN GLORY BY CHRIST JESUS. Philippians 4:19 KJV

But we need to look at the complete chapter to discover the deeper meaning of Paul's word. He addressed people who partnered with him in spreading the Gospel. He was blessing them for their loyal support of his ministry.

*I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, ⁵ For your **fellowship** in the gospel from the first day until now.* Philippians 1:3-5 KJV

Fellowship

koinōnia

key-nohn-ee'-ah

From G2844; partnership, that is, (literally) participation, or (social) intercourse, or (pecuniary) benefaction: - (to) communicate (-ation), communion, (contri-), distribution, fellowship.

Fellowship in this context means “**koinonia**” which is **partnership**. Paul was thanking the Philippians for their partnership in spreading the Gospel. They gave to Paul in a bigger measure than any other church. Paul made specific mention of how eager they were to care for him and provide for his needs. They were regular supporters of Paul as he travelled while preaching the Good News.

*But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your **care of me hath flourished again**; wherein ye **were also careful**, but ye lacked opportunity.* Philippians 4:10 KJV

They were helping him carry the Gospel to other areas of the world. They did not always know where to send their money. His location constantly changed for about three years as he moved from being imprisoned in Jerusalem to being shipwrecked on his way to Rome. The moment they heard Paul was in Rome, they sent him clothes, finances, and supplies. They were eager to help him, and Paul lived a life of abundance!

Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. ¹² I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need: ¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Philippians 4:11- 13 KJV

No other church but the Philippians supplied financial assistance to help Paul preach the Gospel. The word Paul used in verse 15 is "**communicated**", which talks about **finances**.

*Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. ¹⁵ 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.** Philippians 4:14-15 KJV*

The Living Bible (TLB) states the Philippians became partners in giving and receiving.

*As you well know, when I first brought the Gospel to you and then went on my way, leaving Macedonia, **only you Philippians became my partners in giving and receiving. No other church did this.** Philippians 4:15 TLB*

The Amplified version talks about the opening of an account in giving and receiving.

Many other churches fed and helped him, but as soon as he left their town, he was on his own again. Only the Philippians blessed Paul even after he had left.

*For even in **Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.** ¹⁷ Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. Philippians 4:16-17 KJV*

It was not just about benefitting Paul. The Philippians were helping to establish God's Kingdom. Paul rejoiced because he knew God gave prosperity to help establish His covenant. He understood that their giving would result in a supernatural return because God always provides seed to the sower.

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.

2 Corinthians 9:10 KJV

*But my God shall supply all **your need** according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.* Philippians 4:19 KJV

Many misquote this verse by saying that “God will supply all **MY** needs”, which He indeed does, but in this context, it is all about **partnering** with somebody to spread the gospel. When you support someone’s ministry by supplying their needs, *God will in return supply **YOUR** needs!* The Lord wants to bless all! He sends the sun and rain on the just and the unjust alike (*Psalms 35:27; Matthew 5:45; 3 John 2*)! But we must understand that Philippians 4:19 talks about people who partnered with Paul in sharing the Gospel and who were helping to establish God's covenant upon the earth. They gave to Paul not only because they received spiritual food from him, but because they wanted to share in spreading the Gospel. If you want to be blessed, partner with a ministry that has a big vision and does a great job of spreading the Gospel.

Money passes through the hands of the partners first and there will be plenty left for yourself. The best way to prosper is to partner with a ministry that is powerfully anointed by God. God can cause a supernatural flow of finances to go your way when you identify yourself as a giver. If you say, "I want to help someone to go around the world and spread the gospel," then God can prosper you to do just that. God gives money to people He can trust to advance the Kingdom.

*But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee **power to get wealth**, that he may establish his covenant which he swore unto thy fathers, as it is this day.* Deuteronomy 8:18 KJV

He gives more than enough, so there is always plenty left for the giver. When you partner with a ministry and give deliberately, you can partake in the blessing of that ministry. It is not about giving and receiving only, but also about bringing you where you want to go. Partnering starts a supernatural flow of God's finances toward you, so you will be able to both meet your own needs and also abound unto every good work.

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.

2 Corinthians 9:8 KJV

Remember that the heart's motives are more important than the gift itself. When your heart is right, partnering with a ministry to help share the Gospel is going to open doors for you and cause you to prosper. GIVING is a powerful part of tapping into God's prosperity. We can't prosper in God's economy unless we start sowing in His Kingdom.

MY PERSONAL TEST

For the past few years, I've been studying the Word of God. I have read many books by different authors. At one point, I read some astonishing Bible truths about first fruits, written by Andrew Wommack.

To give you some background, I've had this deep desire to be a pastor since childhood. For some reason, though, I never studied theology. In the year 2000, I heard the Lord's voice calling me into full-time ministry. Around 2010, my family and I sold everything we owned. I received a prophecy that a buyer was on his way and the money he would pay was to be used for the ministry. In June 2013, the Lord spoke to me from Deuteronomy Chapter 10. The message was simple: "As the Levites were involved in temple service, so am I calling you to My service. I want you to bless my people to whom I will send you. As the Levites did not own any land, so you will not possess any land again. Be faithful to ME and I will provide for all your needs."

*After reading Andrew Wommack's book, it was as if God was testing my heart. I had more than one dream (actually, more like visions) that God sold the property and put a substantial amount of money in my hand. In the vision, he sent me to join the Andrew Wommack Ministry in the USA. When I arrived there, Andrew asked me how much money I had and said, "**Give it to me.**" In the vision, I experienced it as a hard test for me. Imagine arriving in a foreign country, giving everything away, and trusting God to be your provider.*

I shared the vision with my wife the next morning, but struggled to speak as the emotions took over. I knew this was a personal test for me and it took me a few weeks to clear this issue with the Lord. We need to fully trust that God is the only one who can supply all our needs!"

A TWO-WAY RELATIONSHIP

Grace comes only through Jesus and His cross. It is received by faith only and this faith must work through LOVE. Whatever we give establishes our righteousness forever, according to Psalm 112. There is a two-way relationship between God and the Giver! Giving is proof of our love for Yehôvâh Elohim.

But even as you abound in everything, in faith, and in word, and in knowledge, and in all earnestness, and in your love to us; you should abound in this grace also. ⁸ I do not speak according to command, but through the eagerness of others, and testing the trueness of your love. 2 Corinthians 8:7-8 MKJV

Now as you abound and excel and are at the front in everything—in faith, in expressing yourselves, in knowledge, in all zeal, and your love for us—[see to it that you come to the front now and] abound and excel in this gracious work [of almsgiving] also. ⁸ I give this not as an order [to dictate to you], but to prove, by [pointing out] the zeal of others, the sincerity of your [own] love also. 2 Corinthians 8:7-8 TPT

The ISV states that Paul was testing the genuineness of their love for one another.

I am not commanding you but testing the genuineness of your love by the enthusiasm of others. 2 Corinthians 8:8 ISV

We must excel in the grace of GIVING! To us, as New Testament believers, giving is not an obligation according to the law, but it is grace. Paul did not command, order or dictate to them, but tested them to see if they would also give to the same degree as the congregations of Macedonia, who gave out of their poverty with love towards God.

Therefore, demonstrate to the churches that you love them and show them publicly why we boast about you. 2 Corinthians 8:24 ISV

Show to these men, therefore, in the sight of the churches, the reality and plain truth of your love (your affection, goodwill, and benevolence) and what [good reasons] I had for boasting about and being proud of you.

2 Corinthians 8:24 AMPC

Paul said to give so everybody could see it. Many gave in secret, perhaps because they were embarrassed about the small amount they could give. We should, however, allow everyone to see our commitment to God, which proves our love in this vital matter and also proves our love for other believers. Jesus laid down His life for us, and likewise, we need to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters by helping them.

*This is how we have come to know love: the Messiah gave his life for us. We, too, ought to give our lives for our brothers. ¹⁷ Whoever has earthly possessions and notices a brother in need and yet withholds his compassion from him, how can the love of God be present in him? ¹⁸ **Little children, we must stop expressing love merely by our words and manner of speech; we must love also in action and in truth** [Put your money where your mouth is] ¹⁹ this [the act of giving money] is how we will know that we belong to the truth and how we will be able to keep ourselves strong in his presence. ²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts and knows everything.*

1 John 3:16-20 ISV

John gave us revelation knowledge by saying if our hearts are condemned we could set it right with God by our generosity. It should be accompanied by LOVE, either by words or actions, and in truth.

What we do with our finances proves who we obey. Right giving is the core of God's special love for us. God loves when we give generously and happily. Do you want God to love your giving? Then give cheerfully!!

Each of you must give what you have decided in your heart, not with regret or under compulsion, since God loves a cheerful [hilarious] giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7 ISV

G2431 (Strong's)

ἰλαρός

hilaros

hil-ar-os'

From the same as G2436; propitious or merry ("hilarious"), that is, prompt or willing: - cheerful.

Hilarious can be defined as "*she told hilarious stories about her friends: very funny, extremely amusing, hysterically funny, too funny for words; humorous, entertaining, comic.*"

When we give cheerfully and hilariously, we become supernaturally happy. It brings God's favour upon us. It releases us from the slavery of Mammon, which enslaves us with earthly possessions. When we give freely, we confirm that Mammon does not dictate to us how to spend our finances.



PRINCIPLES OF MULTIPLICATION

The Biblical concept of multiplication has always fascinated me. I didn't fully understand it until I read "The Blessed Life" by Robert Morris. Of all the teachings I have read about Kingdom Finances, this is the book I would recommend above all others.

A PERSONAL TESTIMONY BY ROBERT MORRIS

"It was 1984, and I was a young evangelist. In those days, my wife, Debbie, and I would gladly drive to just about any place that would offer me an opportunity to preach. As a travelling evangelist, all of my income came from the love offerings I received from the churches in which I preached. We had learned to trust God where our finances were concerned. We were diligent tithers. God had spoken clearly to us about the principle of the tithe several years earlier. And ever since we began honouring the lord by giving the first tenth of everything that came in, our needs have always been met – sometimes miraculously. What we did not know was that God was about to take us to the next level."

"I was scheduled to preach at a church for only one night, and as it turned out, it was the only meeting I was scheduled to preach at all month. From a financial standpoint, that meant having only one opportunity to receive an offering instead of the usual four, five or six. After the service, the pastor approached me with the love offering, saying that this was the largest love offering this little church had ever given. When I opened the envelope, I found a check for roughly the same amount as our entire monthly budget. In one meeting, God had miraculously provided what it normally took several meetings to produce."

"As I stood there, holding the check, basking in the warm glow of gratitude and wonder, the unmistakable voice of the Lord spoke in my heart, "I want you to give it away – all of it." In an instant, I went from euphoria to something approximating

panic. “Lord, that can’t be Your voice! I mean ... after all IYou You just did a miracle here to meet our needs.” Once again, the instruction came through, gently but clearly. “I want you to give your offering to the previous speaker. Trust Me”, God said. After a while, going through all the emotions of rationalization, bargaining, and begging – I waved the white flag. I went to the missionary, made sure no one was watching and said, “Please do not tell anyone, but I would like you to have this offering.”.

“An hour later, I found myself seated with about 20 members of the church at a pizza place. Across from me sat a well-dressed man I barely knew. After a while, he leaned across the table toward me, looked me straight in the eye, and asked me a shockingly personal question, “How much was your offering tonight?” I told him the amount of the offering. Then came the next question. “Where is the cheque?” The man spoke with boldness and authority. Of course, I no longer had the check, but I wasn’t about to tell him that. So I said my wife has it. “Go get it. I want to see it”, the man said. I stood up, walked to my wife and asked her, “How’s your pizza?” Then I replied to him, “She left it out in the car”. Then in a low voice, the man said, “The cheque is not in the car, Robert”. “How do you know that?”, I wanted to know. “Because God told me – and He told me something else. God is about to teach you about giving so that you can teach the Body of Christ”. Then he slid a folded piece of paper across the table. It was a cheque. The amount, to the penny, was 10 times the amount of the one I had given away only an hour or so earlier.”

“Ten times – to the penny! That was the night this journey started.”

(Acknowledgement: Robert Morris)

God is the Master of multiplication. He specialises in it. While the world returns interest, the Lord is multiplying 30, 60, 90 and 100-fold. Although we know the story of the multiplication of the two fish and five loaves of bread, I believe we are missing an important lesson about multiplication!

*As the day was drawing to a close, the Twelve came to him and said, "Send the crowd away to the neighboring villages and farms so they can rest and get some food because we are here in a deserted place."¹³ But he told them, "You give them something to eat." They replied, **"We have nothing more than five loaves of bread and two fish—unless we go and buy food for all these people."**¹⁴ Now there were about 5,000 men. So he told his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about 50."¹⁵ They did this and got all of them seated.¹⁶ Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he **looked up to heaven and blessed them. Then he broke the loaves in pieces and kept giving them to the disciples to pass on to the crowd.**¹⁷ All of them ate and were filled. When they collected the leftover pieces, there were twelve baskets. Luke 9:12-17 ISV*

When His disciples interrupted Him, saying that the people needed to rest and get something to eat, Jesus responded, **"You give them something to eat"**. Reading this in depth, I realised that Jesus was trying to teach His disciples something. He wanted them to meet the needs of the people by tapping into the supernatural realm. Unfortunately, they were slow to consider it. Does this sound familiar? We are very slow to even consider the supernatural, let alone apply the technique of multiplication. They hoped Jesus would dismiss the people, but He told them to split them into groups of 50. They were probably trying to figure out how Jesus was going to provide for 5 000 households, which was more than 15 000 people, wives and children included. That's our tendency too! We want to use our human reasoning to figure out how God will provide. We are usually wrong.

KEYS TO MULTIPLICATION

Luke 9:16 gives us two very important keys. First, Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish, **looked up to heaven and blessed them**. Jesus **broke them in half**, then **in smaller pieces**, and **handed them to the disciples to pass on to the crowd**. **The miracle didn't happen in the Master's hands, but in the hands of His disciples!** The outcome was that all the people were fed! There were twelve big baskets of leftovers, and the disciples each received a "doggy bag" to take home!

Principle 1: Something must be blessed before it can multiply.

Principle 2: Only what is given away can multiply.

BEFORE YOUR MONEY CAN MULTIPLY, IT HAS TO BE BLESSED

*For if the **firstfruit be holy**, the **lump is also holy**: and if the root be holy, so are the branches.* Romans 11:16 KJV

It is the principles of faith and of putting God first that initiates the blessing. The first portion carries the blessing. When we give our tithe to the Lord, the rest is blessed. Our money can now multiply. Jesus, the One who receives our tithes, is the only One who has the power to bless it so it can multiply. That's the first principle of multiplication.

ONLY WHAT IS GIVEN AWAY CAN MULTIPLY

After Jesus had blessed the bread, it had the potential to multiply. If, at that point, they had eaten the bread themselves, it would have remained five loaves and two fish. It would never have multiplied. They would have had a couple of bites each instead of 12 baskets of leftovers. They had to give it away for it to multiply.

"If God can get money through you, He'll get it to you."

It won't be long before you will have plenty left over for yourself!

GIVING

This brings us to the next important part of the gift of giving! There is a difference between “**tithe**” and “**giving**”. Tithing is not a form of giving! When examining the scriptures, we see that **tithing is simply returning to God that which is His**. The Word says to bring all the tithes into the storehouse. Giving our first fruits to the Lord, our first 10%, results in what is left for ourselves to be blessed. The Lord laid down this principle (law) in the harvest patterns for the traditional Jews during the time of Moses. *(See a complete discussion of the harvest patterns in the book, “Dispensation”).*

The Lord gave the Jews specific instructions to harvest their land. Before the main harvest was ready, the Lord required a first fruit.

*You are to bring the best of the **first fruits** of your soil to the house of the LORD your God. Exodus 23:19 ISV*

The first fruit points to Jesus being the first fruit offering to redeem the rest. Similarly, the first fruits of the harvest were brought to the storehouse of the Lord to redeem the rest. The **first fruit did not belong to the owner** of the field, but to God. Then there was the **main harvest** that belonged to the owner of the field. The Lord also specifically referred to the **corners**, instructing the owner of the field to not harvest it but leave it for the poor.

*Furthermore, when you harvest the produce of your land, you are not to **harvest all the way to the corners** of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and resident alien. I am the LORD your God. Leviticus 23:22 ISV*

If the first part is holy, then the rest is also holy. When Jesus rose from the dead, He took all the saints captured by satan as a first fruit to the Father.

If the first part of the dough is holy, so is the whole batch. If the root is holy, so are the branches. Romans 11:16 ISV

This is illustrated in the Book of John. When Jesus first appeared to Mary, He instructed her to not touch Him because He had not yet ascended to the Father.

Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. John 20:17 KJV

He then gathered all the saints since the beginning of mankind, ascended to the Father with them and presented them as first fruits. Later, Jesus stood between the disciples and told Thomas to touch His wounds and believe. Jesus could then be touched as He had already ascended to the Father!

Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. John 20:27 KJV

You can't give away what doesn't belong to you. The first fruits are the Lord's, the rest is yours to keep or give away as you choose. It is the portion that you give that the Bible refers to as offerings. Malachi 3 speaks of the **tithes** and **offerings**! Tithing isn't giving. It is returning to the Lord what already belongs to Him. Thus, the second principle of multiplication is that finances over and above the tithe must be shared before they can multiply. In Matthew 25 Jesus tells a parable of three stewards. One steward doubled the amount entrusted to him, and the Lord called him a good and faithful servant.

*His master told him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy servant! Since you have been **trustworthy with a small amount**, I will put you in **charge of a large amount**. Come and share your master's joy!' ²² "The one with two talents also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two talents. See, I've earned two more talents.' ²³ His master told him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy servant! Since you have been trustworthy with a small amount, I will put you in charge of a large amount. Come and share your master's joy!' ²⁴ "Then the one who had received one talent came forward and said, 'Master,*

*I knew that you were a hard man, harvesting where you haven't planted and gathering where you haven't scattered any seed. ²⁵ Being **afraid, I went off and hid your talent in the ground.** Here, take what is yours!'*

Matthew 25:21- 25 ISV

The last servant only returned to the Lord what was already His, and the Lord called him wicked and lazy.

His master answered him, 'You evil and lazy servant! So you knew that I harvested where I haven't planted and gathered where I haven't scattered any seed? Matthew 25:26 KJV

It does not mean that you are lazy if you only tithe, but it illustrates the point that we are supposed to give over and above our tithe. If you are currently tithing, that's the right place to start! Tithing breaks the curse and brings the blessing to the balance of our finances. Tithing inspires God to rebuke the devourer and open the windows of heaven. It is the foundation on which giving is built. When God said we were robbing Him, He referred to the tithes and the offerings.

*Will a person rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' **By the tithe and the offering.** Malachi 3:8 KJV*

God wants your finances to be blessed and multiplied. It is vital to understand that you will never see the multiplication of your finances until you understand these two principles of tithing and giving.

**WE GIVE TO THE LORD FIRST SO OUR FINANCES ARE BLESSED.
WE GIVE OVER AND ABOVE OUR TITHES,
BECAUSE ONLY THAT WHICH IS SHARED CAN BE MULTIPLIED.**

(Acknowledgement: Robert Morris: "The Blessed Life")



THE LADDER OF GIVING

In summary, we can unlock our gift of giving by first returning the **tithe** to the Lord so He can bless it and redeem the portion we keep. Second, we need to **give** away a certain part, which will be multiplied by God. This is the difference between tithing and giving.

PAINFUL GIVING

There is also a third level of giving, called a “**painful offering**”, which is extravagant giving! Let’s see what scripture says.

King David gave an extravagant offering for the building of the temple. Even knowing that not he, but Solomon, would be the one to build it, David still gave extravagantly. He gave the equivalent of \$36 billion in gold and \$14 billion in silver. He then made one last offering before handing the project over to Solomon. This time it was 110 tons of gold and 260 tons of silver (1 Chronicles 29:3-5). After that, all the leaders of the tribes caught the spirit of giving and began donating enormous sums of money. In a single day, they gave 190 tons of gold, and 375 tons of silver. Combined, this had a value of \$17 billion.

Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel our father, for ever and ever.

¹¹ Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

1 Chronicles 29:10-11 KJV

David gave God the credit for being the source of all his riches.

O LORD our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own: ¹⁷ I know also,

my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee. 1 Chronicles 29:16-17 KJV

ASK ME ANYTHING

King Solomon sacrificed 1 000 burnt offerings, although only one bull was required according to the law. That night at Gibeon, God appeared to him and said,

“Ask me anything”! 1 Kings 3:4-5

No coincidence that God appeared to him on the same night he had offered this enormous sacrifice.

When Abraham was ready to sacrifice his son, Isaac, the Bible God swore upon Himself an oath to confirm to Abraham the promises He had given him earlier (Genesis 22:16-18).

There is power in painful, extravagant giving as a sacrifice to God!

A sacrificial seed will cost you! Following are a few Biblical examples of people who sowed a sacrificial seed of faith.

- The **poor widow** who put all she had into the treasury – **Mark 12:42-44**
- **Hannah** promised to give God her son if only God would allow her to conceive - **1 Samuel 1:11**
- **The widow of Zarephath** gave away the last plate of food she and her son had before they would die from starvation. She miraculously survived the terrible famine – **1 Kings 17:7-16**
- **King David** gave an offering on the threshing floor of Ornan and stopped the plague from killing people in the land – **1 Chronicles 21:23**

You may think that all these people were royal and rich, but notice the extravagant gift of the poor widow.

Then he saw a destitute widow drop in two small copper coins. Luke 21:2 ISV

It took much more faith for her, because she sacrificed all she had! According to Jesus that was a painful offering.

Because all the others contributed to the offering out of their surplus, but she, in her poverty, dropped in everything she had to live on. Luke 21:4 ISV

It is not about the amount you give but about the attitude of your heart!

When Jesus multiplied the bread and fish to feed thousands of people, He first asked what they had available. He performed the multiplication miracle with the food available!

You can use what you have to get what you don't have!

When you are stuck in a crisis, take an inventory of what you have.

It can bail you out if you sow it in faith!

A HEART TRANSPLANT IS NEEDED

From the beginning, YHWH ordained circumcision to be a token of the covenant between Him and His people. Circumcision is not merely that of the flesh of the foreskin (Genesis 17:11), but also that of the foreskin of our hearts (Deuteronomy 10:16).

And Jehovah your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your seed, to love Jehovah your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live. Deuteronomy 30:6 MKJV

YHWH circumcises our hearts so we can receive a new heart, not of stone, but of flesh!

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of

flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. Ezekiel 36:26-27 KJV

A heart transplant enables us to love. It is possible to give without love, but it is impossible to love without giving! When circumcision of the heart happens, love enters and our hands and wallets open! That is when we start giving!

A GOOD MEASURE, PRESSED DOWN, SHAKEN TOGETHER

In the Gospel of Luke, we find a passage that we should take note of and allow to transform us to fully understand the Kingdom principles to receive our blessings.

Give, and it shall be given to you, good measure pressed down and shaken together and running over, they shall give into your bosom. For with the same measure that you measure, it shall be measured to you again. Luke 6:38 MKJV

This verse implies much more than money. It becomes clear when you look at the larger context of the verse. For this purpose, we need to go back to the previous verse.

Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you shall be forgiven. Luke 6:37 MKJV

Yashuah is talking about the broader principle of giving. Whatever you give, you will receive back in “*good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over*”! These are farming terms that need to be discussed. In the Old Testament, farmers in Israel were to leave the grain in the corners of their fields for the poor.

“Thus, each year at harvesttime, there were two sets of harvesters in the field: the primary harvesters in the middle of the field who were being paid to bring in the crop and the poor people in the corners who were harvesting the crop to feed themselves and their families. Primary harvesters out in the middle of the field would fill up their baskets and then carry them over to the barn or wagon. They

would then dump them out and go back to the field to begin filling the baskets once again. To these workers, it didn't matter how full their baskets were. They were being paid by the hour, so they didn't care. They just needed to stay busy and keep working until all the grain was in the barn.

This was not the case, however, for the poor people working in the corners of the field. That field was probably nowhere near their homes. They had probably walked several miles to get there. However much food they could get in their baskets would be the amount of food available to their families. They had a life-and-death incentive to get as much into those baskets as possible.”

“If you were in that position, you would make sure to put in a good measure—not just a partial measure or a half measure!”

“Then you would press it down to compress the grains together to create more room. After topping the basket off again, you would then shake it to eliminate any air spaces between the grains. Having done all that, you would then pour in as much grain as you possibly could, heaping it up above the rim until it began to spill over the sides. It is one thing to receive a basket of free grain. It is a far better thing to receive a good measured, pressed-down, shaken together, and running-over basket of free grain. That's why the Lord chose to use these terms. He knew His listeners in Israel would instantly connect with the point He was trying to make. What He communicated was that whatever you give, **you're going to get a lot more of the same in return. This is a universal principle with God.** You always receive back more than you give. When you give away an apple seed by planting it, you don't just get back an apple seed. In time, you actually get back a whole apple tree, and on that tree are many apples, and each apple has many seeds. You get back so much more than you actually give.”

(Acknowledgement: Morris, Robert. The Blessed Life: Unlocking the Rewards of Generous Living (pp. 97-99). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.)

This principle of “*give and it shall be given to you*” is not to motivate believers to give, but a principle of reward! That’s why Jesus preceded this promise by saying:

Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Luke 6:37

This context puts the promise in a very sobering light. If you give **judgment**, judgment will be given back to you in good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over. If you give **condemnation**, condemnation will be given back to you in a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over. It works both ways!

Now, the good news is that if you give **forgiveness**, an abundance of forgiveness will be given back to you. If you sow **love**, you will receive an overflowing harvest of love. This is a fundamental principle in the Kingdom of God. We call this the law of **reciprocity**. But approaching it in a balanced way is very much a matter of the heart. The principle of reciprocity applies just as fully to money as it does to judgment and forgiveness. **But Scripture does not say we should make personal gain our motive for giving.**

God does not want His people to get excited about giving for His Kingdom’s purposes only because they are promised a quick return on what they give. It is not about giving to receive more possessions. He wants us to follow the vision of giving, and as we do, we will receive much more in return. God does not have any problem with the desires of your heart. He is a God of blessings and He wants to see you live a blessed life. But our motives are everything!

All a man’s ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the Lord.
Proverbs 16:2 NIV

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. James 4:3 NIV

GIVE!

It is always preferable to read at least an entire chapter to discover the contents of the scripture and to receive revelation knowledge. What is Yashuah teaching us in this chapter of Luke? **The message of His sermon is “Give”!**

Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back. ³¹ And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. ³² “But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.” Luke 6:30–35 NKJV

Give to those who ask of you. Give to those who can't pay you back. Give love to those who don't deserve it. Give mercy to those who wrong you. Give the treatment you would hope to receive from others. Then your heavenly Father will make sure you get much more in return.

Yehôvâh Elohim is a giver and when we give, He will give back to us. But receiving should not be our motive for giving. It's our hearts the Lord is concerned for. A circumcised heart is more excited about giving than about receiving! When we give just to give, the Lord is going to reward us by giving back to us in a much greater measure!

The reward follows because we have allowed Adonai to work in our hearts in giving, not in receiving. When we become cheerful and willing givers, we become more and more like our heavenly Father. God wants to do a work in us and He wants to purify our hearts. God gives us a better understanding of the heart of our Father, by giving us His only begotten Son, Yashuah HaMashiach, demanding nothing back! He paid the

price, which was a painful gift! (Read this profound message in my book, "The Gift of Giving", available for free on the website. www.berashithministry.co.za)

THE FATHER'S PAINFUL GIFT

Near the hill where Abraham offered his first and only son, Isaac, God Almighty offered His first and only Son as a sacrifice for our freedom and our lives. This is the ultimate painful and extravagant gift! God is generous. He wants to do a work in our hearts to make us more generous, like Him, and Mary who poured very expensive perfume on Jesus' feet and hair.

Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived in Bethany, where Lazarus lived, the man whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ³ Mary took a pound of very expensive perfume made of pure nard and anointed Jesus' feet. She wiped his feet with her hair, and the house became filled with the fragrance of the perfume. John 12:1-3 KJV

Is it possible that Mary, after Jesus had miraculously raised her brother, Lazarus, from the dead (John 11), got a new perspective, a change of values and priorities? Maybe money and possessions didn't seem so precious to her anymore. Perhaps our perspectives and priorities need to change as well. After all, if you have been redeemed by Jesus, you've been raised from the dead yourself!

*But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love for us ⁵ even when we **were dead because of our offenses, made us alive together with the Messiah** (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ **raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavenly realm in the Messiah Jesus.** Ephesians 2:4-6 ISV*

MARY ANOINTED HIS BODY

When Mary anointed Jesus' feet and hair with the expensive perfume, Judas complained and reasoned that they could have sold it and given the money to the poor.

Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, ⁵ Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? John 12 4- 5 KJV

She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying. Mark 14:8 KJV

Isn't this profound? After Jesus' death, there was no time to anoint His body with perfumed oils or spices as they normally would do in those days. Mary anointed Jesus before His death.

Intending to anoint the body of Jesus, some women went to His grave on the third day, but they were too late, for He had already risen (Luke 24:1-5). The only person who received the privilege of anointing Jesus' body specifically for burial was indeed Mary. She didn't realise that until Jesus said, "*She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial*" (Mark 14:8). Sometimes we don't have any idea how significant our extravagant gift could be. But God knows, and He has a purpose for every gift!

*When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, **Why trouble ye the woman?** for she hath wrought a good work upon me. ¹¹ For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always. ¹² For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial. ¹³ Verily I say unto you, Whosoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, **that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.*** Matthew 26:10-13 KJV

Jesus said Mary would **forever be recognised for this memorial act**. Mary did not even realise what she was doing. She was only expressing her love for Him and expected nothing in return. Generosity doesn't give, hoping to receive something back,

although it is indeed always rewarded by God! When you give, God is going to bless you. No power on earth can stop it! Like any good parent, God desires to reward His children.

CORNELIUS' GIFT

I want to share a profound truth with you. It is a revelation from Heaven that God Almighty revealed to me in the spirit. Acts 10 tells of a centurion, a captain of the Italian Regiment, named Cornelius, who lived at Caesarea (Acts 10:1). He was not a Jew and the gospel hadn't been spread to the Gentiles yet. Cornelius was a devout man and gave much to the poor.

A devout man who venerated God and treated Him with reverential obedience, as did all his household; and he gave much alms to the people and prayed continually to God. Acts 10:2 AMPC

Cornelius saw a clear vision one day at 3 pm.

About the ninth hour (about 3:00 p.m.) of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God entering and saying to him, Cornelius! Acts 10:3 AMPC

During this vision, an angel of God told Cornelius to send men to Joppa and call for Peter who was staying with Simon the leatherworker (a tanner).

Send men now to Joppa and summon Simon, who is called Peter. ⁶ He is a guest of Simon, a leatherworker, whose house is by the sea. Acts 10:5-6 KJV

At the same time Cornelius was having the vision, Peter was staying in Joppa at the house of Simon, the tanner. The day following Cornelius' vision, Peter went up to the roof and fell into a trance, while waiting for his lunch to be prepared.

He became very hungry and wanted to eat, and while the food was being prepared, he fell into a trance ¹¹ and saw heaven open and something like a large linen sheet coming down, being lowered by its four corners to the

ground. ¹² In it were all kinds of **four-footed animals, reptiles, and birds of the air.** ¹³ Then a voice told him, "**Get up, Peter! Kill something and eat it.**" ¹⁴ But Peter said, "**Absolutely not, Lord, for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean!**" ¹⁵ Again the voice came to him a second time, "You must stop calling unclean what God has made clean." ¹⁶ This happened three times. Then the sheet was quickly taken back into heaven.
Acts 10:10- 16 ISV

Peter, the very religious apostle of Jesus, saw unclean animals in a sheet. God instructed him, to kill an unclean animal and eat it. Because Jewish tradition forbade the eating of unclean animals, Peter rebelled and said, "**Absolutely not, Lord. I have never eaten anything that is unclean.**" God repeated the command three times and then the sheet quickly moved back into heaven.

Peter was still pondering about the vision when the Spirit told him that three men were looking for him (Acts 10:19).

Get up, go downstairs, and don't hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them. Acts 10:20 ISV

They told Peter about Cornelius' vision and that he respected the Jewish nation. They invited him to come and preach the good news of the Gospel in Caesarea. The next day, Peter arrived and met with Cornelius, who was expecting him. Cornelius and his family were hungry for the Word of God.

So Peter went to the men and said, "I'm the man you're looking for. Why are you here?" ²² *The men replied, "Cornelius, a centurion and an upright and God-fearing man who is respected by the whole Jewish nation, was instructed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his home to hear what you have to say."* ²³ *So Peter welcomed them as his guests. The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa went along with him.* ²⁴ *The next day they arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called his relatives and close friends together.* Acts 10:21-24 KJV

The Jewish people were not allowed to eat unclean food. They were also not allowed to enter the house of a gentile. By doing so they would become unclean. But the Holy Spirit came to Peter and told him that whatever God declares clean is clean indeed!

Again the voice came to him a second time, "You must stop calling unclean what God has made clean." Acts 10:15 ISV

Those words prepared Peter's heart to bring the Gospel to Cornelius, a gentile. Isn't this good news? Because of this act, the Gentiles (you and me), share in the Gospel and receive eternal life!

WHY DID GOD BRING THE GOSPEL TO CORNELIUS?

Cornelius' acts of giving and sacrifice came up before the Lord as a **fragrant** aroma and God said, "**Cornelius, I saw the precious gifts you gave. I saw your pure heart, I saw your longing for Me. Because of your act, I, the Lord, am opening the door to bring the Kingdom of God to you and your family and all the Gentiles.**" This is profound!

And he, gazing intently at him, became frightened and said, What is it, Lord? And the angel said to him, Your prayers and your [generous] gifts to the poor have come up [as a sacrifice] to God and have been remembered by Him. Acts 10:4 AMPC

The TLV (Tree of Life) translation uses the word "**tzedakah**", which brings a deeper understanding of what Cornelius did. Cornelius was not a Jew, therefore, he was not bound by Jewish law and traditions. He was a centurion, a Roman Captain.

*He stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" The angel said to him, "Your prayers and **tzedakah** have gone up as a memorial offering before God. Acts 10:4 TLV*

THE MEANING OF THE WORD “TZEDAKAH”

Tzedakah is an obligation. It is a **different concept than charity** because *charity is typically understood as a **spontaneous act of goodwill and a marker of generosity**.*

Tzedakah is based on the Hebrew word *Tzedek*, meaning *righteousness, fairness or justice*, and it is related to the Hebrew word *Tzadik* meaning *righteous*, as an adjective. In Judaism, *tzedakah* refers to the **religious obligation** to do what is right and just, which Judaism emphasises as an important part of living a spiritual life.

Maimonides, a Jewish philosopher, said that, while the second highest form of *tzedakah* is to give **donations anonymously to unknown recipients**, the **highest form is to give a gift, loan, or partnership** that will result in the **recipient supporting himself instead of living upon others**.

Unlike philanthropy or **charity**, which is completely **voluntary**, **tzedakah is seen as a religious obligation, which must be performed regardless of financial standing**, and must even be performed by poor people.

(<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tzedakah>)

We can assume that Cornelius was most probably tithing! We can see that the word “*tzedakah*” meant an obligation, which had to be performed, regardless of financial standing. It even had to be performed by poor people, in contrast with a charity which was a voluntary gift.

While Peter was preaching to Cornelius and his household, the Holy Spirit fell on all of them who were listening. Peter was amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on GENTILES even before they were baptised in water, resulting in them all starting to speak in tongues.

While Peter was still making this statement, the Holy Spirit fell on all the people who were listening to his message. ⁴⁵ Then the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the gentiles, too. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ "No one can stop us from using water to baptize these people who have received the Holy Spirit in the same way that we did, can they?" Acts 10:44-47 ISV

Cornelius, a **non-Jew** with a loving heart towards God, understood the deep principles of giving. He probably had the gift of giving. Cornelius did not give voluntarily but as an obligation. As a gentile, he brought what belonged to God as an offering and it **opened** the door for me and you, **as gentiles**, to enter into the Kingdom of God! Amazing! Profound! Hallelujah! **Praise God!**



GOD DESIRES TO BLESS US

There are quite a few examples of God's blessings in the Bible.

- **Isaac** was so prosperous that King Abimelech asked him to leave the land because it couldn't sustain his wealth.

And Abimelech said unto Isaac, Go from us; for thou art much mightier than we. Genesis 26:16 KJV

- **Jacob** was even more prosperous than Abraham or Isaac.

And the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses. Genesis 30:43 KJV

- **David**, who was herding his father's sheep, was anointed as the future king of Israel.

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up and went to Ramah. 1 Samuel 16:13 KJV

- **David** became so wealthy that he gave a \$6 billion offering in one day towards the building of the Temple (1 Chronicles 29:2-5).
- **Solomon** became even more prosperous than David.

As the LORD hath been with my lord the king, even so, be he with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord king David. 1 Kings 1:37 KJV

Gifts have an effect on the spiritual realm. When you give, it opens doors for blessings!

Gifts can create opportunities and bring you before powerful people.

QUEEN OF SHEBA

The Queen of Sheba, from Ethiopia, went to visit King Solomon. She brought spices, precious stones and a lot of gold.

And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart.

1 Kings 10:2 KJV

She wanted to see the wisdom and prosperity of King Solomon.

And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. ⁷ Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard. 1 Kings 10:6 KJV

In today's society, it would be nearly impossible to meet a country's president. But bringing a gift such as the Queen of Sheba did, allowed her right in!

And she gave the king an hundred and twenty talents of gold, and of spices very great store, and precious stones: there came no more such abundance of spices as these which the queen of Sheba gave to king Solomon.

1 Kings 10:10 KJV

(120 Talents of gold is 145 000 ounces of gold @ \$1730 [price of gold] = \$250 million in gold).

The Queen of Sheba not only spent time with King Solomon, but she also dined with him and saw all the different aspects of his kingdom! Her gift brought her right into the presence of the greatest man of that time. That is the positive power of a gift! King Solomon gave the queen all her desires and he also gave her a royal bounty!

And king Solomon gave unto the queen of Sheba all her desire, whatsoever she asked, beside that which Solomon gave her of his royal bounty. So she turned and went to her own country, she and her servants. 1 Kings 10:13 KJV

The Queen probably received more from the king than she had offered him.

- She did not give the amount of gold to King Solomon only to bless him, but to also benefit from it herself!
- She used it to gain entry and to partake of Solomon's wisdom, favour and anointing.
- She ended up leaving Jerusalem with all of the bounties Solomon gave her.
- On her return, she had the wisdom and anointing needed to build her entire nation, although she still had tremendous wealth left at home.

(Acknowledgement: Andrew Wommack)

THE HEARTS OF MARY AND JUDAS

Judas complained that the expensive perfume Mary had poured over Jesus could have been sold, and the money given to the poor. But the next verse proves that He did not care for the poor. Although he carried the money bag containing the tithe of Jesus, he was unreliable.

Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? ⁶ This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein. John 12:5-6 KJV

Three hundred pence was a year's wages. Imagine spending a year's income on perfumed oil and pouring it over someone's feet and hair. Mary did it because Jesus had raised her brother, Lazarus, from the dead. That incident changed her attitude and perspective for the rest of her life. But why did her generous act bother Judas so much? There was a breath-taking selfishness at work in Judas' heart and it manifested in his comments about Mary's offering. Judas did not care for the poor, but he complained about the expensive oil because he was a thief. Amazingly, he was chosen as a disciple of Jesus despite his character!

This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein. John 12:6 KJV

What a clear contrast of two hearts displayed in one incident!

The heart of Mary – a heart of generosity.
The heart of Judas – a heart of selfishness.

Judas pretended to care about others, while he was thinking of no one but himself. This is a tactic that many use.

- “Instead of driving such an expensive car, the money could support others.”
- “She could have helped many people, but she spent her money on a coat.”
- “I can sure do a lot of good with the money others spend on luxuries.”

Such remarks are selfishness and jealousy dressed up as religious superiority. This is what Judas did that day. He saw a year’s wages being “**wasted**” instead of passing through his money box so he could pilfer a good chunk of it. That’s basically how Judas viewed a grateful woman’s beautiful act of sacrificial worship — a waste!

At that stage, Judas had possibly already worked in the background with the religious officials who wanted Jesus dead. He possibly knew Jesus would be killed soon. If so, Judas might have assumed that all the money in the box would ultimately be his to control as he pleased.

The “**bag**” verse 6 refers to was the money box, which was like the offering boxes we use today. This bag held the offerings people gave to support Jesus’ ministry. In turn, Jesus would use the money to bless other people, but Judas stole from it. We can’t imagine that anyone would have the audacity to steal from Jesus! But consider the following scripture.

Will a person rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' By the tithe and the offering. Malachi 3:8 ISV

Is it possible that we, just as Judas robbed the Lord by taking from the offering box, are guilty of robbing Him by failing to put into the offering box what is rightfully His in the first place?

I know these are hard words, but it is not to condemn you! It is to bring you the truth to set you free. It is no coincidence that you are reading this book. Jesus wants to bless you far more than you can imagine, dream, hope for, pray or have a desire for. You only need to mix your faith with His promises, obey His Word and walk out in freedom!

Judas was hanging out with Jesus based on the “***what’s in it for me***” principle. As soon as it became clear to Judas that Jesus would not come through in the way he had hoped, he betrayed Him. This is not too different from what many people do today. They follow God out of the “***what’s in it for me***” principle, instead of being focused on what they can do for Him. As soon as He “disappoints” them and doesn’t come through for them in the way they want, they get upset and quit giving tithes and offerings. Selfishness cares about nothing and no one but the self. A selfish person will sell out friends if doing so would help him get what he wants. A selfish person will always find good reasons to not be generous, as Judas did when he said that the expensive perfume used to anoint Jesus could have been **turned into cash and given to the poor**. Selfishness turns the focus on the “***extravagance***” of others. Selfishness criticises other people’s blessings and perceives them as being unfair towards himself.

YOUR WEAKNESSES

Jesus knew Judas was a thief taking money from Him. Why then did He give him the responsibility of carrying the bag? **We will always be tempted in the area of our weakness**. Just as Judas, with a weakness for money and prestige, was given the responsibility for the money bag, God will give you responsibility in the area of your weakness. **Why?** God is setting you up, not to fail, but to succeed. **The only way we can truly succeed is by confronting our weaknesses and overcoming them.**

When God gives you a responsibility in the area of your weakness, He is taking you through a growth process necessary for your success.

*No **temptation has overtaken** you that is unusual for human beings. But **God is faithful**, and he will not allow you to be tempted beyond your strength. Instead, along with the temptation **he will also provide a way out**, so that you may be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13 ISV*

We can resist whatever temptation comes our way. God wants to help us turn the area of greatest potential for defeat into an area of greatest victory. Thus, Jesus gives a thief responsibility for the money and, by doing so, allows him to overcome his selfishness and greed. Judas, however, did not use the opportunity.

God is using the unrighteous Mammon to teach us righteousness!

Money is a bigger test than you think. You are being tested right now! responsibility you will have in the Kingdom is directly proportional to how you handle money.

*So if you haven't been **faithful with unrighteous wealth**, who will trust you with true wealth? ¹² And if you haven't been faithful with what belongs to foreigners, who will give you what is your own? Luke 16:11-12 KJV*

The prize for passing the test is true riches. True riches are the souls of people. True riches are to minister to people by words of knowledge, gifts of healing, faith, and miracles. It is helping those who have spent their entire lives in bondage and oppression to experience freedom for the first time. That is why the spiritual act of giving is so important! When you give, people get saved. God takes what the unrighteous Mammon used for his intent and redeems it when you give the first to Him. As you give offerings, He turns them into true riches, namely people. There is a battle going on inside each of us – a battle between selfishness and generosity. Who is going to win?

(Acknowledgement: Robert Morris)



GOD AND MAMMON

YHWH is very clear that we cannot serve two masters.

No man can serve two master: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Matthew 6:24 KJV

G3126 (Strong's)

μαμμωνᾶς

mammōnas

mam-mo-nas'

Of Chaldean origin (*confidence*, that is, figuratively *wealth*, personified); *mammonas*, that is, *avarice* (deified): - mammon.

Most believers, including myself until recently, wrongly believed that Mammon is money. This is far from the truth. According to the Strong's, it refers to the Chaldean origin. The Chaldeans were a small hasty nation in the Old Testament that conquered Israel at each battle.

*For lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, the bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land to possess homes not their own.⁷ He is terrible and fearful; his judgment and his majesty comes forth from Himself.⁸ His horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves. And their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from afar. They shall fly like the eagle hurrying to eat.⁹ All of him shall come for violence; the gathering of their faces is forward; **and they gather captives like the sand.**¹⁰ And they shall scoff at the kings, and the rulers shall be a scorn to them. They shall laugh at every stronghold, for he shall heap up dust and capture it.¹¹ Then he sweeps on like a wind, and he transgresses and is guilty, crediting his power to his god. Habakkuk 1:6- 11 MKJV*

The Chaldeans refer to demonic forces that enslaved God's people and put them into captivity. That is exactly what Mammon is – a demonic stronghold that enslaves God's people in debt and financial shortages.

MAMMON

Mammon is an evil spiritual power that grips man and enslaves him through money. It is a spiritual power working in the lives of millions of people through their attitude towards money. We cannot serve both! We cannot serve Adonai and Mammon. In other words, we cannot be financially enslaved and in bondage and at the same time freely serve God.

If you love Mammon, you hate God, but if you love God you will despise Mammon. It is not money itself that enslaves men, but the satanic force behind money. There is no room for any neutrality and therefore you need to choose either God or Mammon! You need to get your priorities in order!

DEMONIC FORCES

Mammon can be defined as follows.

- Money, wealth, or possessions. Also meaning "**that in which one trusts**".
- The god of riches, and wealth.
- Greed, as an evil master that **enslaves**.
- Riches are called by the name of a devil.
- ***Mammon is the name of a devil.***
- Mammon is the name of a **demon**.
- An idol worshipped as the god of riches.
- Mammon oversees a cave of worldly wealth.
- A fallen angel who values earthly treasure over all other things.

- The materialistic spirit of the 19th century.

Mammon is a demonic force ruled by satan to enslave the believer. Studying the kings in the Old Testament gives us a deep revelation of how these demonic forces work.

Nebuchadnezzar took the children of Israel into captivity. **He enslaved them!** He also **took the gold and silver** and brought it into the house of his gods. He took the whole next generation captive, not only the children of Israel. He took good-looking, intelligent men and trained them. That is how Daniel and his friends ended up under Nebuchadnezzar's control. (See the complete discussion in the book, "In Bondage?")

NEBUCHADNEZZAR STOLE THE TITHE!

Satan misleads us and darkens our understanding through ignorance.

Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.

Ephesians 4:18 KJV

Satan steals the **tithe** and the next **generation** to keep us in bondage. He teaches us to speak the tongue of Babylon. **He influences God's people in every way possible to not pay what belongs to God and to not study the Word of God.**

You are enslaved when you heed to worthless deceit of human wisdom, and teachings by human beings and from ruling spirits.

See to it, then, that no one enslaves you by means of the worthless deceit of human wisdom, which comes from the teachings handed down by human beings and from the ruling spirits of the universe, and not from Christ.

Colossians 2:8 GNB

These words are profound! The enemy puts us in bondage by imputing deceitful things into our minds and bodies!

*For all that is in the **world**, the **lust of the flesh**, and the **lust of the eyes**, and the **pride of life**, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 1 John 2:16 KJV*

- **Lust of the flesh:** What you offer your body to fulfil its selfish needs. What you do with your body.
- **Lust of the eyes:** What you look at is what enters and controls your mind.
- **Pride of life:** When you do not tithe, you steal from God and you are arrogant and full of pride. You believe you can make it on your own.

When you do not tithe, you open a door for demons to enter!

Satan is a thief! You allow him to steal when you don't tithe. He will try to influence you to steal from God what belongs to Him! These serious words are not to condemn you, but to help you close the door to demons in your life! Many believers seek money first and then the Kingdom. We are putting our jobs and businesses before God. When we first seek the Kingdom and not pursue money, money will pursue us. Andrew Wommack has a saying that will stay with me forever. **"If God can bring money through you, He will get money to you, and there will be sufficient left over for you to prosper!"**

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. Matthew 6:33 ESV

Let us therefore not pursue money, but the Kingdom of God! Let us put God first and then money will pursue us!

Glorify God with all your wealth, honoring him with your firstfruits, with every increase that comes to you. ¹⁰ Then every dimension of your life will overflow with blessings from an uncontainable source of inner joy! ¹¹ My child, when the Lord God speaks to you, never take his words lightly, and never be upset when he corrects you. ¹² For the Father's discipline comes only from his passionate love and pleasure for you. Even when it seems like his correction

is harsh, it's still better than any father on earth gives to his child.

Proverbs 3:9- 12 TPT

Honor Jehovah with your substance, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; ¹⁰ and your barns shall be filled with plenty, and your presses shall burst with new wine. ¹¹ My son, do not despise the chastening of Jehovah; nor be weary with His correction; ¹² for whom Jehovah loves He corrects, even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights. Proverbs 3:9-12 MKJV

With our MONEY we either honour or dishonour God. God does not want our leftovers. It is an insult to Him. Prioritising our money above God is idolatry.

*Live as one who has died to every form of sexual sin and impurity. Live as one who has died to the desires for forbidden things, [magic] **including the desire for wealth, which is the essence of idol worship.** ⁶ When you live in these vices you ignite the anger of God against these acts of disobedience. [The Greek states “the sons of disobedience,” but it is the “deeds” which are punished as seen in verses 7-9.]* Colossians 3:5-6 TPT

When you seek money first, money is your “God” and that is idolatry, according to the above scripture. No congregation will approve and tolerate the sin of fornication and sexual immorality, yet we tolerate the idol worship of covetousness.

*Therefor, put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, **which is idolatry.*** Colossians 3:5 NKJV

But those who crave the wealth of this world slip into spiritual snares. They become trapped by the troubles that come through their foolish and harmful desires, driven by greed and drowning in their own sinful pleasures. And they take others down with them into their corruption and eventual destruction. ¹⁰ Loving money [“insatiable greed for money.”] is a root of all evils. Some people run after it so much that they have given up their faith. Craving more

money pushes them away from the faith into error, compounding misery in their lives! 1 Timothy 6:9-10 TPT

PAUL'S FINAL EXHORTATION TO TIMOTHY

Timothy, you are God's man, so run from all these errors. Instead, chase after true holiness, justice, faithfulness, love, hope, [patience] and tender humility.

[But you, O man of God, flee these things and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness. MKJV].

¹² So fight with faith for the winner's prize! Lay your hands upon eternal life, to which you were called and about which you made the good confession before the multitude of witnesses. 1 Timothy 6:11-12 TPT

IT TAKES FAITH TO BREAK THE CONTROL OF MAMMON!



GLOBAL STRATEGY CONFERENCE IN HELL

I would like to share something I read many years ago about the strategy of satan to keep humanity, even believers, in bondage!

About 100 years ago, Satan gathered all the demons and announced that he was looking for a new strategy by which he could enslave nations and generations to himself. The spirit of MAMMON (Matthew 6:24) raised his hand and stated that he had a plan.

Mammon began: "I think we can use a principle I have learned from the Bible. Proverbs 22:7 says that the borrower is a slave to the lender. I already have many institutions and individuals that I control from hell. They are completely dedicated to serving me, and I control them through their love of money. So we could use these institutions and individuals to make money available to others to borrow at interest rates. Those who borrow money will then become slaves to the lenders, whom we will control."

Satan then asked: "But how do we force people to borrow?"

"No, we don't force them at all", smirked **Mammon**. "People will voluntarily borrow the money!"

"WHAT?", railed **Satan**. "Do you think people will voluntarily agree to be slaves to institutions and individuals we already control from hell? They won't do that!"

"Maybe not many, at first", said **Mammon**. "But we will continue to deceive people and get them accustomed to the idea. So, at first, there will only be a few. But after a few short decades, I think **we will have almost the entire society acclimated to the idea of debt and they will be our slaves.**"

Satan then said: "But I wanted a strategy that would affect the Christians too. I don't think this will work with them."

"Sure it will", said **Mammon**. They will do the same as everyone else!"

"You mean to tell me that those in a relationship with God and filled with the Holy Spirit will voluntarily bow down and become slaves of institutions and individuals that we control from hell? They'll never do that! They're not that stupid!", replied **Satan**.

Again, **Mammon** countered: "Maybe not at first, but after some time, more and more **will be deceived and accept the concept as normal**. Eventually, we will even get their pastors and leaders to borrow money to improve their church buildings and thus subject themselves to be our slaves. We will make the concept of debt **seem so completely normal** that after several decades, families, companies, churches, cities and even nations will become our slaves through debt. Let's just introduce the concept and see what happens over time."

Satan mused for a few moments and barked: "Okay, Mammon, go ahead with our plan. We will see if our deception is really strong enough that people will voluntarily submit themselves to be our slaves through debt. It is hard to believe that people would be so foolish and short-sighted, but perhaps you are right. Soon we will see!"

Looking at the current state of the financial world, it is clear that Mammon's plan to enslave humanity has indeed been successful! Satan and his seducing and misleading demonic spirits supernaturally deceive humanity as the son of Satan, Mammon, convinces us that we need more and more to be happy and successful! Our Provider, Yehôvâh Jireh, on the other hand, is able to simply use what we have available to offer, as we see in the miracle of the multiplication of the bread and fish in John 6:4-14.

Our Father in heaven specialises in filling up all our empty needs, as He did for the widow in 2 Kings 4:1-7

GUARANTEED RESULTS

I have done a lot of research and am convinced more than ever that the principles explained in this teaching do work very effectively.

In his book, “**The Blessed Life**”, Robert Morris says:

“I can tell you without hesitation that if you will apply these principles, you will get remarkable, positive financial results – guaranteed!” The reason I can say that is because God is faithful. His past performance is an indicator of future results. As we’ve seen repeatedly, whenever God’s people are obedient and faithful, God blesses. Giving is important because it does supernatural work in our hearts, and that’s what God is after – our hearts. God is not after our money. He doesn’t need it! But our treasure is tied to our hearts. Thus, God uses our treasure to get to our hearts. That’s why I can promise you “guaranteed financial results. When you give with a heart transformed by God, the results are guaranteed. God will back up His word. *“God is not a man, that He could lie”, **Numbers 23:19***. He simply cannot violate His very nature, which holds the universe together. (...and upholding all things by the word of his power. Hebrews 1:3b KJV).”

“When God makes a promise, He will fulfil His promise as we fulfil the conditions of that promise. We were all born to be takers, but we are born-again givers. Now it’s our responsibility to renew our minds to become generous, gracious, kind-hearted and compassionate, as God wants us to be. When God does that work in our hearts and when we begin to give simply because we want to, we will actually be rewarded so that we can give even more to the kingdom of God.”

(Acknowledgement: Robert Morris: “The Blessed Life”)



GOD CHALLENGES US

For I am Jehovah, I change not. Because of this you sons of Jacob are not destroyed. ⁷ From the days of your fathers, you have turned aside from My statutes, and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you, says Jehovah of Hosts. But you say. In what way shall we return?

Malachi 3:6-7 MKJV

*Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me. But you say, In what have we robbed You? In the tithe and the offering! ⁹ You are cursed with a curse; for you are robbing Me, the nation, all of it. ¹⁰ Bring all the tithe into the **storehouse**, so that there may be food in My house. And test Me now with this, says Jehovah of Hosts, to see if I will not open the windows of Heaven for you, and pour out a blessing for you, until there is not enough room. ¹¹ **And I will rebuke your devourer, and he shall not decay the fruit of your ground against you;** nor shall your vine miscarry against you in the field, says Jehovah of Hosts. Malachi 3:8-11 MKJV*

God challenges us in our tithes and offerings. It is crucial to understand that we are under a financial curse because of the devourer. The only way to break the curse is by tithing. That is to bring the first fruits to the storehouse. When the first fruits are in the storehouse, the Lord promises HE will rebuke the devourer, Satan, who comes to kill, steal and destroy.

"I will rebuke the devouring pest for you, so it will not destroy the fruit of your land, nor will your vine be barren in the field," Adonai-Tzva'ot says.

Malachi 3:11 TLV

Jehovah of Hosts is Adonai-Tzva'ot. This refers to a military commander. YHWH is saying that when you bring your first fruits to His storehouse, He, your El-Gibbor¹, will fight the battle for you, including the battle for your finances.

And all nations shall call you blessed; for you shall be a delightful land, says Jehovah of Hosts". Malachi 3:12 MKJV

God keeps a record of our tithes and offerings and now God is saying to Israel that they, and by implication us, are robbing Him.

- We are behind in our tithes and offerings.
- Withholding our tithes and offerings will bring a curse on us.
- Releasing the tithe and offering will bring a blessing.
- It has to be done with faith.
- We need to bring the whole tithe to the storehouse.

As already mentioned, the storehouse is where you eat and receive your seed for sowing. The ideal is to bring it to your local church. Unfortunately, most local churches today are not fertile soil and your seed might not bring in a harvest acceptable to our Lord. Also, many members are not part of a local church anymore, because of various reasons. Therefore, find a place where you will be fed spiritually and plant a seed of faith there with an expectation to receive a harvest in due time.

For too long have I wrongly believed that when you tithe all is fine, but I have discovered lately that tithing is not the end of giving but the beginning. Tithing only lays down a foundation for consistently giving to God. We do not offer our tithes to God, because it is His legal portion. What we give to Him above our tithes is our offering.

¹ The name, El Gibbor, "Mighty God," points to the day when all of God's enemies, physical and spiritual, will be vanquished and all of creation will bow at the feet of Jesus, the "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Can you think of any greater comfort and confidence as we engage in the battles of our daily lives?

And there you shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and heave offering of your hand, and your vows, and your free-will offerings, and the first-born of your herds and of your flocks.

Deuteronomy 12:6 MKJV

In this passage, we find six different offerings besides our tithes.

- Burnt offerings
- Sacrifices
- Special Gifts
- Vows
- Free-will offerings
- First-born of herds and flocks

The Bible also talks about alms, known as charity. That is not what we give to God, but to men in need.

Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell what you have and give alms. Make for yourselves purses which do not become old, an unfailing treasure in Heaven, where no thief comes nor moth corrupts. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Luke 12:32-34 MKJV

You will put your money where your heart is. If your heart is set on earthly possessions, your heart will be there. But if your heart is set on the Kingdom, you will invest in the Kingdom. I discovered that investing in people is to invest in the Kingdom where moth and rust cannot corrupt and where thieves do not break through or steal. (Matthews 6:20) We need to act as children of the King! He gave us generous hearts!

Giving is an assurance in bad times! It is to cast your bread upon the waters.

Cast your bread on the waters; for you shall find it after many days. ² Give a share to seven, and also to eight; for you know not what evil shall be on the earth. Ecclesiastics 11:1- 2 MKJV

GIVING IS SOWING A SEED

A farmer can't harvest 10 tons of maize when he has sown only 1500 seeds per hectare. For a farmer to expect a 10-ton harvest, he needs to plant at least 3 500 to 4 000 seeds per hectare. This principle is the same in the Kingdom of Finances. It is impossible to expect a harvest of R100 000 if you only plant a seed of R1. Paul explained this to the Corinthians.

The Cheerful Giver

*Remember this: The person who **sows sparingly will also reap sparingly**, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you must **give what you have decided in your heart, not with regret or under compulsion**, since God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 ISV*

*[Remember] this: he who sows sparingly and grudgingly will also reap sparingly and grudgingly, and he who sows generously that blessings may come to someone] will also reap generously and with blessings. ⁷ **Let each one [give] as he has made up his own mind and purposed in his heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves (He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful (joyous, “prompt to do it”) giver [whose heart is in his giving].** 2 Corinthians 9:6- 7 TPT*

If we follow the law of agriculture, we can expect an increase only in proportion to what we sow. A farmer needs to follow some basic rules, namely:

- Preparing the soil.
- Sowing in good, suitable soil.
- Planting the right crops.
- Taking care of the crop as it grows.

These rules are just as applicable to the Kingdom of Finances. Many believers are casting away their seeds, ignorant about where they fall and without taking care of the crop. As a result, they do not receive an increase and then blame God for it.

Consider the following questions regarding where you sow your seed.

- Is the ministry anointed and fruitful?
- Is it bringing forth real fruit for the Kingdom?
- Is the way they appeal for money ethical and are they handling their money wisely?
- Are they good stewards of the money?
- Do they operate in line with Scripture? Are they obeying Scripture?
- Are they prayerful and efficient?

God hates sloppiness. He hates waste. No ministry should spend finances on worldly extravagance to promote themselves. Rather invest your money where the minister gives good advice, brings healing and deliverance, teaches the truth with authority and demonstrates the power of the Word of God.

Be prayerful before you give. Avoid impulsive, emotional giving. Maintain contact with the place of worship you are supporting and pay attention to what fruits that ministry delivers.

Stay within the proportion of your faith!

This is extremely important. Not all believers have the same faith. Robert Morris and Andrew Wommack (to mention only two names) testified to their growth in faith over time to get to a point where they could give away automobiles and property. I investigated the fruit of these two ministries and noticed that God had increased their territory in ministry because of their faithful act of tithing and giving. They are on a different level of faith when it comes to tithing and giving. Therefore, allow God also to

increase your faith when you tithe. When you currently have faith to tithe 5%, trust Him to let it grow to 10% and even more.

The faith to give grows over time.

Let us review what Paul said to the Corinthians.

*Now he who **supplies seed** to the farmer and bread to eat will also supply you with **seed** and **multiply** it and enlarge the harvest that **results from your righteousness**. ¹¹ In every way you will grow richer and become even more generous, and this will cause others to give thanks to God because of us ¹² because this ministry you render is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, it is also overflowing with more and more prayers of thanksgiving to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10-12 ISV*

According to this passage, sowing delivers four results.

- It supplies bread to your house and you will receive all you need for your life.
- You will receive more seed to sow back into His harvest field.
- Your barn will overflow and you will receive an increase for sowing again.
- Your harvest will increase, meaning that your bank account will overflow.

This can only be achieved by faith. Without faith and action, this will never come to pass. If you seek HIS counsel, He will make you a successful investor. God provides is in abundance. Yashuah multiplied the two fish and five loaves of bread, with 12 baskets of leftovers. This is a demonstration of His extravagant and generous giving in abundance!

This is the King whom we serve! Everything belongs to Him and He is not poor at all!

TRUST AND OBEY

Robert Morris shares a precious testimony.

“I’d like to share a (similar) story with you on how God tested hearts to see if they would give everything away. If you reach this point of obedience, God will change your heart for the rest of your life. You will never be the same again. One night, a couple who was seemingly broken before the Lord came up to me. They were weeping almost uncontrollably. They said that the Lord had spoken to them about giving away every penny they had. I learned that they had written a cheque for all the money they had. They were bringing me the cheque, saying, “We’re supposed to give this to you. Do whatever you feel you’re supposed to do with it”. Immediately, I knew what the Lord wanted me to do. When they handed me the check, I asked them: **“Are you saying this is mine now, and I can do with it whatever I want?”** Through their tears, they nodded and answered: “Yes.” So, I said: “Well, I know exactly what the Lord would have me do with this check.” Then I tore it up in front of them. Immediately, they fell to the floor and began to weep uncontrollably. God did a wondrous work in their hearts that night – one that changed them for the rest of their lives. They would never be the same again. They had passed a major test of obedience. To this day, I don’t know how much money it was, nor do I care to know. I do know it was enormous in their eyes and precious in the eyes of God. I also know that no amount of money in the world could purchase what God did in that couple’s lives that night.”

(Acknowledgement: Robert Morris: "The Blessed Life")

THE GRACE OF GIVING

When we deal righteously with our money, it brings us blessings. The opposite is also true. When we neglect to do so, it brings a curse. Tithing is only the foundation on which various kinds of offerings, over and above the tithe, are built. Apart from tithing and offerings, we need to contribute by giving alms, which is charity to the poor. Proper giving of our money is an assurance in evil times. If we deal faithfully with our money, God will protect us during difficult times and will watch over us and our families because we commit our finances to him.

Giving is acceptable to God when we give out of grace and not by law.

*But even as you abound in everything, in faith, and in word, and in knowledge, and in all earnestness, and in your love to us; you should abound in this **grace** also. 2 Corinthians 8:7 MKJV*

*You do well and excel in every respect—in unstoppable faith, in powerful preaching, in revelation knowledge, in your passionate devotion, and in sharing the love we have shown to you. So make sure that you also excel in **grace-filled generosity**. 2 Corinthians 8:7 TPT*

Do not miss out on the grace of giving. Grace needs to motivate giving. The Law was external and written in stone. The old nature of humanity resists what is written in stone. Grace is internal. It works within us and is written on the heart by the Holy Spirit.

For the Law came through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1:17

This grace was made available only through the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and it is also true in the area of finances.

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, for your sakes He became poor, in order that you might be made rich through His poverty. 2 Corinthians 8:9 MKJV

Grace was manifested by the exchange made by Yashuah HaMashiach. He became poor but broke the law of poverty, so that, through grace, we now receive the wealth of the Kingdom. It can only be received through faith. Nothing we do can deserve the grace of God!

For by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9 MKJV

We can only receive by grace through faith! This is not a plan to earn any money or to manipulate God with your money.

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any strength, but faith working through love. Galatians 5:6 MKJV

THE SPIRITUAL KEY FOR RIGHT GIVING IS NOT BY LAW, BUT GRACE RECEIVED THROUGH JESUS AND THE CROSS, AND WORKING BY FAITH AND LOVE.

Faith urges us to act. Without action, there can be no harvest. A farmer must act by planting a seed by faith, trusting in the Lord that sufficient rain will fall to bring in a harvest to cover all the expenses, leaving him and his household with enough profit to make a living. Likewise, the believer must act by GIVING. We give before we receive. The natural world says we can't afford to give, but the Kingdom law says we can't afford NOT to give!

That is the key to receiving!

Give, and it shall be given to you, good measure pressed down and shaken together and running over, they shall give into your bosom. For with the same measure that you measure, it shall be measured to you again.

Luke 6:38 MKJV

Give First!

Scriptures are very clear! What measure you give will be given back to you. To the proportion you give, you will receive. We need to act in FAITH with our finances, according to God's plan. Then our finances become God's responsibility.

God's Standard is Abundance

YHWH is a God of abundance! We see this principle throughout scripture.

Besides, God is able to make every blessing of yours overflow for you, so that in every situation you will always have all you need for any good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8 ISV

*And God is able to make **all grace abound** toward you, that in everything, always having all self-sufficiency, you may abound to every good work;*

2 Corinthians 9:8 MKJV

It is by **grace** and not by Law!

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus, the Messiah. Although he was rich, for your sakes he became poor, so that you, **through his poverty, might become rich.*** 2 Corinthians 8:9 ISV

In these verses, we find “abound” twice and “all” five times. It speaks of the level of provision. All grace, at all times, so you can have all you need for every good work!

His grace for abundance is for us to contribute to ALL and EVERY GOOD WORK. How sad that in my own life, I took His abundant outpouring and spent it on my own needs. Let us not fall into this trap! After discovering these Biblical truths, let us contribute to good works when we receive from our heavenly Father in abundance.

Abundance implies:

- Overflowing provision.
- No abundance, unless it overflows.
- When your heart overflows, it overflows from your mouth.

We have more than enough for ourselves. What we receive is for all good works and not for the selfish flesh. It is more blessed to give than to receive. To receive is a blessing, but to give is an even greater blessing. We can only contribute by giving when He has made available his abundance to us.

WARNING

Do not read this book merely to broaden your knowledge, but act on what is revealed to you! You must express your faith in action! You need to express this teaching in your actions. Faith without deeds is dead and we need to add actions to our faith!

To receive this kind of abundance from Yehôvâh Elohim, you need to act in faith and give first. Give and it will be given to you, shaken down unto a good measure. The measure you use will be measured to you. **That is faith!**

When we are not willing to act in faith, we cannot set into action that which brings abundance. Sowing and reaping in the Kingdom are the same as sowing and reaping demonstrated by agricultural law. The seed must first go into the ground and die before there can be any harvest.

But we should not lose heart in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not faint. Galatians 6:9 MKJV

Let's not get tired of doing what is good, for at the right time we will reap a harvest—if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9 ISV

At the right time, we will reap the harvest. Many believers are missing out because they are not waiting for the harvest or they do not apply these principles correctly and then give up before the harvest comes. God does not guarantee the harvest when we become impatient and lose faith or turn away from these principles. We must live and act in faith in every area of our lives. **This is also true in the area of our finances!**



CLOSING NOTES

Adonai most definitely has a plan for your money. If the management of your money is not under His control, then your whole life will be jeopardised. Paul held nothing back when he taught the non-Jews the importance of repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. These are the first two doctrinal stones in the foundation.

Paul never shrank from telling us the whole plan of God. (Acts 20:20-21, 27).

Neither do I, El-Azar, shrink from telling you the whole truth so you can receive spiritual blessings, including financial prosperity.

*You do well and excel in every respect—in unstoppable faith, in powerful preaching, in revelation knowledge, in your passionate devotion, and in sharing the love we have shown to you. So make sure that you also excel in **grace-filled generosity**. 2 Corinthians 8:7 TPT*

LET US RECAP A FEW IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

Surrender First Before Giving Your Money

Finding the entire plan for God's will starts with two very important aspects. Before you can give your money to Adonai, you must:

- Surrender yourself to God without reservation.
- Learn to think God's way. Have your mind renewed. Change your way of thinking, your values, standards, your priorities.
- Once your mind has been renewed, you will perceive with your new mind what God's will is.

First, Give Yourself

God does not need your money. He put in place a doctrinal stone of first fruit to bless you financially. Giving your money without giving yourself first, violates this principle. You cannot buy God's favour, nor give your money to become a millionaire.

*That in much testing of trouble, the overflowing of their joy, and the depth of their poverty, abounded to the riches of their generosity. ³ For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability; they gave willingly; ⁴ with much beseeching, begging us that they might receive of us the grace and the fellowship of the ministry to the saints. ⁵ And not as we hoped, **but first they gave themselves to the Lord**, and to us through the will of God.*

2 Corinthians 8:2-5 MKJV

The congregations in Macedonia first gave themselves to the Lord before they excelled in generosity. When we become a living sacrifice to our Lord, Yashuah, our hearts change. A circumcised heart will automatically become a giving heart. Glory to God!

Mammon

Once we reach the point of full surrender without reservation, and think like Yehôvâh Elohim, then we need to make up our minds about who we are going to serve - God or Mammon! Realising that Mammon is not money, but a demonic stronghold and force which enslaves believers and keeps them in bondage, enables us to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all things shall be added to us (Matthew 6:33).

Scriptures are very clear that we should *"honor God with your substance (your income) and with the first fruits of all your increase and your barns shall be filled with plenty, and your presses shall burst with new wine"* (Proverbs 3:9-10).

Live now as one who has died to every form of sexual sin and impurity. Live as one who has died to the desires for forbidden things, including the desire for WEALTH, which is the essence of idol worship. Colossians 3:5 TPT

When we desire wealth, we put Mammon first and should call it what it is - idol worship! No congregation will tolerate members living in sexual sin and impurity, but they tolerate members desiring wealth!

Put God First

Putting Adonai first is the doctrinal stone in your foundation for financial success and blessings. How do we put God first? **By honouring Him with your first fruits (Proverbs 3:9).**

Yehôvâh Elohim is a jealous God. He is the only God worthy to be glorified and receive the honour for bringing us out of Egypt (Genesis 14:18). God is asking us to return what belongs to Him – the first fruits.

*And all the tithe of the land, of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is Jehovah's. **It is holy to Jehovah.** ³² And concerning the tithe of the cows or of the sheep, even of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth shall be holiness unto the LORD. Leviticus 27:31-32 MKJV*

Saints, holy means set apart! You need to set apart your first fruits to Yehôvâh Elohim. This is foundational for financial success.

Perceive your Money as Holy

Most believers do not see money as something holy. Adonai declared, *“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage”* (Exodus 20:2). Now He asks us to not appear in His presence empty-handed.

Every male must appear in the presence of the LORD your God three times a year at the place where he will choose: for the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Seven Weeks, and the Feast of Tents. He must not appear in the LORD's presence empty-handed. Deuteronomy 16:16 ISV

Even when we approach Him in His courts, He asks us to bring an offering!

Give to Jehovah the glory due to His name; bring an offering and come into His courts. O worship Jehovah in the beauty of holiness; fear before Him, all the earth. Psalm 96:8 MKJV

Bringing an offering brings glory to Adonai. Worship to the Lord is not complete until we bring our offering to Him.

God Keeps a Record

Let us remind ourselves that God keeps a record of our tithes and offerings. Because of this, He declared to Israel after 1 400 years that they were robbing Him in their tithes and offerings.

Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me. But you say, In what have we robbed You? In the tithe and the offering! Malachi 3:8 MKJV

Dear reader, Adonai keeps a record of your tithes and offerings, and that is why He declares you are behind on your tithes and offerings. By withholding it, you bring a curse over your finances. When you bring your tithe, He will rebuke the devourer!

And I will rebuke your devourer, and he shall not decay the fruit of your ground against you; nor shall your vine miscarry against you in the field, says Jehovah of Hosts. Malachi 3:8-11 MKJV

Bringing your tithe to the storehouse brings a blessing, but it has to be done in faith. Your tithe is not the end but the beginning of financial success. Your tithe redeems the

rest of your income and stops the devourer from stealing, killing and destroying your finances.

Jesus was and still is very much interested in our offerings, as discussed earlier.

And sitting down opposite the treasury, Jesus watched how the people threw copper coins into the treasury. And many rich ones threw in much. ⁴² And a certain poor widow came, and she threw in two lepta, which is a kodrantes. ⁴³ And He called His disciples and said to them, Truly I say to you that this poor widow has cast in more than all those who have cast into the treasury.

Mark 12:41-43 MKJV

The Grace of Giving

We are currently living under the new covenant, (dispensation of grace), and not under the Law. Therefore, we must realise that we are not giving by law but out of grace.

*You do well and excel in every respect—in unstoppable faith, in powerful preaching, in revelation knowledge, in your passionate devotion, and in sharing the love we have shown to you. **So make sure that you also excel in grace-filled generosity.*** 2 Corinthians 8:7 TPT

We should also excel in grace-filled generosity! Grace needs to motivate giving. The Law came through Moses, but grace and truth through Jesus Christ.

The spiritual key for right giving is not LAW, but GRACE received through JESUS and the CROSS and working by FAITH and LOVE.

A Two-Way Relationship

Bringing first fruits and offerings to Adonai is about a two-way relationship. Adonai declared, “***I am the God who brought you out of Egypt***” (Exodus 20:2; Exodus 32:4). In return, we honour Him in our first fruits. This way, we receive financial blessings.

Yashuah laid down His life for us and now He is asking us to do the same for our brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus!

This is how we have come to know love: the Messiah gave his life for us. We, too, ought to give our lives for our brothers. ¹⁷ Whoever has earthly possessions and notices a brother in need and yet withholds his compassion from him, how can the love of God be present in him? ¹⁸ Little children, we must stop expressing love merely by our words and manner of speech; we must love also in action and in truth [Put your money where your mouth is] ¹⁹ This [the act of giving money] is how we will know that we belong to the truth and how we will be able to keep ourselves strong in his presence. ²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts and knows everything.

1 John 3:16- 20 ISV

Our love for Adonai and our brothers and sisters is expressed by our generous giving!

Giving is Sowing

When you give, you sow a seed. A farmer, sowing a seed, expects a harvest, but he needs to follow certain agriculture laws to prepare the soil, plant a seed and nurture it throughout the growing period until the harvest is ready.

Remember this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you must give what you have decided in your heart, not with regret or under compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 ISV

Many believers are casting away their seeds. They do not care what the condition of the soil is and do not nurture the crop. As a result, they do not receive an increase and then blame God. Just like the farmer, we need to follow protocol. Adonai commanded us to bring the first fruits and offerings to the storehouse.

The condition of the heart matters! We should not give under compulsion or regret what we gave! **If we sow sparingly, we will also reap sparingly!**

God's Standard is Abundance

Yehôvâh Elohim is a God of abundance. When He multiplied the two fish and five loaves of bread, He did not stop when all the people had eaten enough. He always supplies abundantly more!

Besides, God is able to make every blessing of yours overflow for you, so that in every situation you will always have all you need for any good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8 ISV

According to this verse, His abundance is not only for our benefit but also so we can contribute to any GOOD WORKS! Many receive God's abundance but keep it for themselves and do not necessarily contribute to good works.

But we should not lose heart in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not faint. Galatians 6:9 MKJV

Let's not get tired of doing what is good, for at the right time we will reap a harvest—if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9 ISV

At the right time, we will reap a harvest - IF we do not give up! Becoming impatience and turning away from these principles prevent us from receiving the harvest.

We must act in faith in every area of our lives.

Don't give up! Don't lose heart! Stay obedient!

The time will come to reap a plentiful harvest!



SUMMARY

The truths I have shared with you changed my life. I hope it will also change yours. Acknowledge these principles, trust God, and apply them to your life. I believe with all my heart that it will set you and your family free from bondage and slavery, so you can overcome!

*And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had **gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name**, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. Revelation 15:2 KJV*

We must overcome the devil, his image, and his mark. The Antichrist of the end times is the spirit of Mammon. We cannot serve God and Mammon simultaneously (Matthew 6:24). We must overcome this spirit, as it will not allow us **to buy or sell**. It is time to destroy the demonic forces of this spirit, which is the god of riches, the spirit of greed and an evil master that enslaves. It is the spirit that oversees a cave of worldly wealth and it is the materialistic spirit of the 21st century.

Mammon, or Babylon, has the human race in a firm grip. We have been captured and enslaved by a world system that makes us believe our image and survival depend on finances and possessions – the car we drive, the clothes we wear, and the image our friends have in society. Yashuah and the Antichrist will soon put us to the test. This will be the ultimate test before the wrath of God will judge the earth. The outcome of that test may greatly disappoint us if the level of our commitment to Yashuah is not up to standard. Those who love the worldly system and accordingly serve it, will be invited by the Antichrist to continue reaping the benefits the system offers, but those who love the heavenly Kingdom will abruptly and mercilessly be kicked out and denied access to its benefits – **no buying or selling!** No airline tickets to visit your families, unless you obey the rules and requirements of the world system. No medical aid and no petrol for those who do

not comply with these new world rules. Soon, the bank system will shut down – no bank accounts, no payments to be made, no electronic transfers, and buying and selling will only be possible with the microchip implanted into the human race.

What will we choose?

Will we accept the vaccine to stay in the temporary world system?

Or will we choose the eternal heavenly system, no matter the cost?

Soon, we all will be confronted by this choice.

God gave us motivational gifts to help spread the good news of the Gospel over the globe. With boldness, we will spiritually take the Kingdom of God violently by force. Stop tolerating the works of the devil and start using your Godly anger to break these forces, lies and deceptions in your life.

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. Matthew 11:12 KJV

We were born as “takers”, but now we are born-again “givers”. It is our responsibility to renew our minds to become generous in giving, rather than being selfish and claiming that our possessions belong to us and not to God. Nothing can or will occur in our lives without faith!

Christ cried out on the cross, “It is finished!” “Tetelestai!” (John 19:30).

**By uttering these words, He declared He had paid for everything
- our salvation, health, wealth, prosperity, joy, peace, self-control, etc.**

His grace stands firmly forever and ever!

BUT grace alone does not save us. Grace alone does not keep us in divine health and wealth. We need to participate in God's plan and mix our faith with God's grace. Then, by grace and through faith, we are saved! (Ephesians 2:8). Similarly, by grace and through faith we are healed, and by God's grace, through faith, we prosper! When unbelief arises above faith and we don't mix our faith with God's promises, we are sent back into the captivity of the wilderness. That is not God's choice, but the result of

unbelief. If this happens, it implies that the word preached to us did not profit us and we will not enter God's rest.

For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

³ For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. Hebrews 4:2-3 KJV

Acknowledging these truths will not accomplish much unless you act on them and implement these principles. Put into practice what you have learned!

Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to his word; instead, put it into practice. James 1:22 GNB

The Scriptures instruct us to meditate on God's words day and night and *TO DO ACCORDING TO ALL THAT IS WRITTEN THEREIN.*

*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt **meditate therein day and night**, that thou mayest **observe to do according to all that is written therein**: for then thou shalt **make thy way prosperous**, and then thou shalt have good success. Joshua 1:8 KJV*

God promises that when we do so, we shall prosper and have success. The law of reciprocity is the exchange of possessions between people or groups of people where each person or group gives or allows something to the other. When we give, let us give with good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over.

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.

Luke 6:38 KJV

When you pick up grain to feed your family, you would probably fill the sack with a good measure. Then you would compress the grains together to create room for more. You

would shake it to eliminate any air pockets between the grains and pour in as much grain as you possibly could, heaping it up above the rim until it spills over the sides. The law of reciprocity says for the same measure you measure with, it shall be measured to you in return! God is saying: ***Whatever you give is going to be given back to you*** in “good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over”.

My friend, what is the condition of your heart today? Do you have the generous heart of Mary and Cornelius? Or is your heart like that of Judas, who, instead of overcoming his weakness of selfishness, betrayed the Lord and hanged himself afterwards?

*Let us overcome the demonic forces of mammon, the beast, his image and his number and stand on the sea of glass the victorious song of Moses to the Lord! **Then I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire. Those who had conquered the beast, its image, and the number of its name were standing on the sea of glass holding God's harps in their hands.***

³ They sang the song of God's servant Moses and the song of the lamb: "Your deeds are both spectacular and amazing, Lord God Almighty. Your ways are just and true, King of the nations". Revelation 15:2-3 KJV

If you still don't understand the importance of giving and tithing as obligations, seek God in this matter and ask Him to reveal His truth to you.

God desires for us to succeed and overcome!



First Fruits: A Doctrinal Stone in our Foundation

There are many concealed Biblical principles in the Old Testament, which are revealed in the New Testament. A Biblical foundational stone in the Old Testament, regarding first fruits, is in Exodus. **"Consecrate to me every firstborn male. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the Israelis, both of humans and of animals, belongs to me"** (Exodus 13:2 ISV). **Whatever is first belongs to Him. It is His property, and He is the owner!"** First Fruits is a very important doctrinal stone in our foundation to open the heavens for financial blessings.

"Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine" (Proverbs 3:9-10). Many believers disobey Kingdom principles, resulting in devastating sicknesses and diseases, a lack of resources, and open doors for the devourer to steal, kill and destroy. Violating Biblical principles leaves us naked and stripped. This is not what Adonai intends for us.

"You are to dedicate to the LORD everything that first opens the womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the LORD. And every firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb; and if thou wilt not redeem it, then thou shalt break his neck: and all the firstborn of man among thy children shalt thou redeem" (Exodus 13:12-13 ISV).

The principle is simple! A clean firstborn animal must be sacrificed to the Lord and an unclean animal must be redeemed by a clean animal. This Old Testament doctrinal stone was revealed in the New Testament when the Messiah, as a clean **"Lamb"**, was born and sacrificed to redeem the unclean human race. When we honour the Lord by putting Him first in our finances, we obey a biblical principle to redeem the rest of our income from the devourer.

Adonai is a God of blessing and prosperity. "Beloved friend, I pray that you are prospering in every way and that you continually enjoy good health, just as your soul is prospering" (3 John 1:2 TPT).

This is a must-read for all believers desiring to live a blessed life and enjoy financial freedom. Obeying this principle will set you free!