

THE GIFT

of

Giving



Compiled by:

El-Azar

Published by:

Berashith Ministry

© 2017

First Edition June 2017

Second Edition October 2025 Version 2.0

Cover designed by Utilisoft

Kallie du Plessis

Edited by:

Estre-Lize Joubert

There is no copyright on our material.

Please feel free to make as many copies as needed for free distribution.

Not for resale.

Website: www.berashithministry.co.za

Email: BethesdaHealingOasis@gmail.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	1
THE GIFT OF GIVING	3
PART 1: MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS.....	5
INTRODUCTION.....	5
SPIRITUAL GIFTS	9
WHAT IS YOUR MOTIVATIONAL GIFT?	15
SIGNS OF THE GIFT OF GIVING	25
A HEART TRANSPLANT	30
BY FAITH THROUGH ACTING	36
THE LAW OF RECIPROCITY.....	39
OUR MOTIVES	42
USING MONEY AS SEED	55
BIBLICAL SEED-PRINCIPLES	57
THE SPIRIT OF MAMMON	68
BREAKING THE SPIRIT OF MAMMON.....	81
THE NEW WORLD ORDER.....	96
Part 2: BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES	99
INTRODUCTION.....	99
THE PRINCIPLE OF “GOD FIRST”	100
THE PRINCIPLE OF FIRST FRUITS	112
THE TITHE	115
PARTNERSHIP	133
PRINCIPLES OF MULTIPLICATION	140

KEYS TO MULTIPLICATION	143
THE LADDER OF GIVING.....	148
THE HEARTS OF MARY AND JUDAS	162
DEMONIC FORCES	166
<i>SUMMARY</i>.....	<i>171</i>

FOREWORD

“The Firstborn is Mine! They all belong to Me!”

(Exodus 13:2)

In the Old Testament, every firstborn of all the livestock had to be sacrificed unless designated unclean, in which case it had to be redeemed by a clean, spotless lamb (Exodus 13:12). The **clean firstborn was sacrificed**, and the **unclean firstborn was redeemed**. There was no alternative.

Yashuah was God's Firstborn. He was clean, perfect and unblemished in every way. Every one of us, in contrast to Jesus, was born unclean. We were born as sinners with a fully active sin nature. According to God's perfect law, the clean firstborn had to be sacrificed, and He could not violate His laws. **Thus, Jesus Christ, the Firstborn of God the Father, the spotless Lamb, had to be sacrificed to redeem the unclean, which is us.**

Yashuah redeemed us through His sacrifice and bought us back to the Father. He was the firstfruit offering. In a very real sense, **He was the Father's tithe.** YEHOVÂH gave His **tithe (His Son)** in faith, before we ever believed.

While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 KJV

This is a law (statute, principle) that God laid down, and He followed His own law for our benefit. He accepted this firstfruit offering (His Son), and thus Jesus could declare the following about Himself:

I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. John 14:6 KJV

I am the door. John 10:9 KJV

If you accept my precious gift and open the door, I will come in and eat with you (Revelation 3:20b).

Abide in me and I in you. John 15:4 ESV

The firstfruit law is a universal act coming from a pure heart of love. **We were born as “takers”**. Therefore, a heart transplant is necessary so we can have the same attitude of sharing and giving unconditionally as Elohim does. **We must become born-again givers!**

You will be very surprised by the ways that God follows to change our selfish hearts into giving hearts!



THE GIFT OF GIVING

I am convinced that the devil does not want you to read this book. We are in a spiritual war, whether we know it or not. We are constantly under attack. Ignorance and a lack of knowledge about spiritual warfare keep us in bondage.

But today, I have good news for you. God has an appointment with you. He wants you to be free and filled with joy, peace, comfort, love and prosperity. The truth will set you free. You only have to acknowledge it, believe it, and start implementing it in your life. You must become a doer of the Word and not just a hearer.

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. James 1:22 KJV

We need to meditate on God's word day and night, observe it and DO what He says. We will become prosperous and successful when we choose to be serious about God's Word.

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

New Testament believers are living under the law of grace, but grace alone will not bring breakthroughs in our lives. We are saved by grace through **faith**.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is a gift of God. Ephesians 2:8 KJV

None can be saved unless we acknowledge and believe through faith and by grace the price He has already paid for us on the cross. Everything needed for the rest of our Christian lives has also already been done for us by grace. We must respond to it and put our faith into action to see results.

The truths in this book are profound and will change your life forever. If you have a receptive and teachable heart, the Holy Spirit will do His work.

I pray that the Holy Spirit will give you deep revelations, so you can glorify the Name of our Lord, Christ Jesus.



PART 1: MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS

INTRODUCTION

In the first part of this book, we will be exploring motivational gifts. The gift of giving is one of the seven motivational gifts listed in Romans 12. The gift of giving has to do with the condition of our hearts. This is of vital importance. God wants to transform our hearts from being selfish to being generous.

Forget everything you know about finances. Forget what you know about giving. Allow the Holy Spirit to teach you about God's motivational gifts and let Him change the attitude of your heart, so you can become like Him. He shares everything He created with us, and we must learn to give and share as He does.

TRAINED IN UNBELIEF

Unfortunately, we are often double-minded and mix worldly financial principles with Kingdom principles. This confuses us and prevents us from discovering the truth. In my book, **"In Bondage?"**, I illustrated how people with a medical background have been trained in unbelief. They believe some diseases are incurable and have limited life expectancies. They leave no room for faith or for the supernatural. Their unbelief stems from what their profession believes to be true. God's Word is clear that **without faith it is impossible to please Him.**

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Hebrews 11:6 KJV

I have a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics. This profession has the same problem of unbelief as that of the medical profession. For years, my unbelief left no room for the supernatural flow of financial Kingdom principles. When the Lord tried to teach me these principles through the Word, my heart was extremely hardened. I could not believe that the Lord could supernaturally and abundantly supply all my needs.

This kind of **unbelief must be dealt with through prayer and fasting!** This is what Jesus said when the disciples could not cast a demon from a sick boy. Such unbelief goes out only by prayer and fasting. (See my book, “**In Bondage**”, for a detailed discussion.)

*And Jesus said unto them, **Because of your unbelief:** for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. ²¹ Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by **prayer and fasting.** Matthew 17:20-21 KJV*

This is profound. We should return to the Word of God and study it until it replaces our unbelief.

For with God nothing shall be impossible. Luke 1:37 KJV

With prayer and fasting, we exercise our faith to believe that anything is possible for our God.

For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Hebrews 5:13-14 KJV

Most Christians desire more faith, but we don't need more faith - we need to get rid of unbelief. Faith as small as a grain of mustard seed is enough. But when we mix our mustard-seed faith with unbelief, our faith is cancelled. This is what was meant when the boy's father said, "**I believe, but help me with my unbelief.**"

And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. Mark 9:24 KJV

Take a moment to meditate on these profound words of truth. We need to get the unbelief in our minds out of the way and consider the supernatural realm that we have access to. Because we are trained by a worldly system, we do not consider anything else. Our hearts are hardened and insensitive to the truth.

For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened. Mark 6:52 KJV

The disciples were **more sensitive to the natural realm**, which was more believable. We are the same. We are **so insensitive** to the **supernatural** that we **cannot believe**. The reason for unbelief is our hardened hearts.

Most of us believe that God can do anything, but our unbelief stands in the way of receiving the abundant life He desires for us to have. Therefore, we need to exercise our senses, as Paul instructs us to do.

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Hebrews 5:14 KJV

Do not let your unbelief make you sink.

*But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and **beginning to sink**, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.* Matthew 14:30 KJV

Our five senses (*what we see, hear, taste, smell and feel*) must submit to our spirits. If not, the carnal mind will contradict our faith and our spiritual knowledge.

What we consider, study, focus or meditate on will influence us.

This is what happened to me. The world's views on financial marketing influenced me.

When someone's heart is tied to things, the person becomes more sensitive to them. A good example is people whose hearts are tied to a sport. They know everything about it - the names of the players and all the details of the game. But they won't be able to recall what they have read in the Bible.

Unless we consider the supernatural and become sensitive to it, we cannot access it (Mark 6:52). Our hearts are standing in the way of our receiving revelations. They restrict the fullness of biblical truths.

Over many years, I have been putting together all the bits and pieces that God has been showing me. He has been dealing with the condition of my heart for many years, especially when He taught me how to deal with

sickness. I overcame sickness and disease in my life and helped others get healed. Then, I asked the Lord to teach me also biblical truths about Kingdom Finances and how to overcome in this area of my life. He said, **“It works the same as with sickness.”** I asked Him to help me deal with and overcome the ***Mammon Spirit***.

The Holy Spirit revealed many truths to me, and I want to share them with you in this book. God’s Word is alive and brings revelations and deep understanding, so hopefully you will grasp these truths and apply them to your life, so you can experience the marvellous freedom, joy, and peace that come with it.

I pray that God Almighty will reveal these truths to you and bring you out of bondage and captivity, in Jesus’ Name.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

God gives us various spiritual gifts to edify His church (the Body of Christ).

There are often debates and divisions about these gifts, but let us explore what the Bible says about them.

WHAT ARE THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12 that spiritual gifts are given to God's people by the Holy Spirit for "the common good". They are given according to God's sovereign will, "as He determines". Ephesians 4:12 says these gifts

are given to prepare God's people for service and for building up the Body of Christ.

The term "spiritual gifts" comes from the Greek words "**charismata**" (gifts) and "**pneumatika**" (spirits). They are the plural forms of "**charisma**", meaning "**expression of grace**", and "**pneumatikon**", meaning "**expression of Spirit**". While there are different gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4), generally speaking, **spiritual gifts** are God-given graces (special abilities, offices, or manifestations) meant for works of service, to benefit and build up the Body of Christ as a whole.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE BIBLE

The spiritual gifts are listed in the following passages.

- Romans 12:6-8
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28-31
- Ephesians 4:7-13
- 1 Peter 4:10

Although a great deal of disagreement exists among denominations, most Bible scholars classify the spiritual gifts into three categories:

- Ministry gifts
- Manifestation gifts
- Motivational gifts

1. MINISTRY GIFTS

The ministry gifts serve to reveal the plan of God. They are characteristic of a full-time office or calling, rather than a gift that can function in and through any believer. The ministry gifts were once presented to me through a five-finger illustration that I've never forgotten.

- **Apostle** - An apostle establishes and builds churches. He is a church planter. An apostle may function in many or all of the ministry gifts. He is the "**thumb**," the strongest of all fingers, able to touch every other finger.
- **Prophet** – "Prophet" in Greek means to "forth tell" in the sense of speaking for another. A prophet functions as God's mouthpiece, speaking forth God's Word. The prophet is the "**index finger**" or pointer finger. He points to the future and points out sin.
- **Evangelist** - An evangelist is called to be a witness for Jesus Christ. He works for the local church to bring people into the Body of Christ, where they can be discipled. He may evangelise through music, drama, preaching, and other creative ways. He is the "**middle finger**," the tallest one who stands out in the crowd. Evangelists draw a lot of attention, but they are called to serve the local body.
- **Pastor** - The pastor is the shepherd of the people. A true shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The pastor is the "**ring finger**." He is married to the church, called to stay, oversee, nurture and guide.
- **Teacher** - The teacher and the pastor are often a shared office, but not always. The teacher lays the foundation and is concerned with

detail and accuracy. He delights in research to validate truth. The teacher is the "**pinkie finger**". Though seemingly small and insignificant, he is designed specifically for digging into tight, dark places, shining a light and picking apart the Word of Truth.

2. MANIFESTATION GIFTS

The manifestation gifts serve to reveal the power of God. These gifts are supernatural or spiritual in nature. They can be further subdivided into three groups: utterance, power, and revelation.

- **Utterances** - These gifts **say** something.
- **Power** - These gifts **do** something.
- **Revelation** - These gifts **reveal** something.

UTTERANCE GIFTS

- **PROPHECY** - This is the "forthtelling" of the inspired Word of God primarily to the church, for the purpose of confirming the written Word and building up the entire body. The message is usually one of edification, exhortation or consolation, although it can declare God's will in a particular circumstance, and in rare cases, predict future events.
- **SPEAKING IN TONGUES** - This is a supernatural utterance in an unlearned language, which is interpreted so that the entire body will be edified. Tongues may also be a sign to unbelievers.

- **INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES** - This is a supernatural interpretation of a message in tongues, translated into the known language so that the hearers (the entire body) will be edified.

POWER GIFTS

- **FAITH** - This is not the faith that is measured to every believer, nor is it "saving faith". This is supernatural faith given by the Spirit to receive miracles or to believe God for miracles.
- **HEALING** - This is supernatural healing, beyond natural means, given by the Spirit.
- **MIRACLES** - This is the supernatural suspension of the natural laws or an intervention by the Holy Spirit into the laws of nature.

REVELATION GIFTS

- **WORD OF WISDOM** - This is supernatural knowledge applied in a godly way. It can be described as "insight into doctrinal truth".
- **WORD OF KNOWLEDGE** - This is supernatural knowledge of facts and information that can only be revealed by God for applying doctrinal truth.
- **DISCERNING OF SPIRITS** - This is the supernatural ability to distinguish between spirits, such as good and evil, truthful or deceiving, prophetic versus satanic.

3. MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS

Most believers are well aware of the spiritual gifts, even if only to a certain degree, but few are aware of the motivational gifts.

*Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether **prophecy**, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; ⁷ Or **ministry**, let us wait on our ministering: or he that **teacheth**, on teaching; ⁸ Or he that **exhorteth**, on exhortation: he that **giveth**, let him do it with simplicity; he that **ruleth**, with diligence; he that **sheweth mercy**, with cheerfulness. Romans 12:6-8 KJV*

*God has given each of us **the ability to do certain things** well. So if God has given you the **ability to prophesy**, then prophesy whenever you can—as often as your faith is strong enough to receive a message from God. ⁷ If your **gift** is that of **serving others**, serve them well. If you are a **teacher**, do a good job of teaching. ⁸ If you are a **preacher**, see to it that your sermons are strong and helpful. **If God has given you money, be generous in helping others with it.** If God has given you **administrative** ability and put you in charge of the work of others, take the responsibility seriously. Those who offer comfort to the sorrowing should do so with Christian cheer. Romans 12:6-8 TLB*

- **Prophecy** is the **eyes** of the Body of Christ.
- **Service** is the **hands** of the Body of Christ.
- **Teaching** is the **mind** of the Body of Christ.
- **Giving** is the **arms** of the Body of Christ.
- **Exhortation** is the **mouth** of the Body of Christ.

- **Administration** is the **head** of the Body of Christ.
- **Mercy** is the **heart** of the Body of Christ.

WHAT IS YOUR MOTIVATIONAL GIFT?

The motivational gifts serve to reveal the personality of God.

Don't just pretend that you love others: really love them. Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good. ¹⁰ Love each other with brotherly affection and take delight in honoring each other. ¹¹ Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically. ¹² Be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble, and prayerful always. ¹³ When God's children are in need, you are the one to help them out. And get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or, if they need lodging, for the night. ¹⁴ If someone mistreats you because you are a Christian, don't curse him; pray that God will bless him. ¹⁵ When others are happy, be happy with them. If they are sad, share their sorrow. ¹⁶ Work happily together. Don't try to act big. Don't try to get into the good graces of important people, but enjoy the company of ordinary folks. And don't think you know it all! Romans 12:9-16 TLB

PROPHECY

Believers with the motivational gift of prophecy are the "seers" or "eyes" of the body. They have insight, foresight, and act like watchdogs in the church. They warn of sin or reveal sin.

Those with the motivational gift of prophecy are usually very verbal and may come across as judgmental and impersonal; they are serious, dedicated, and loyal to the truth, even over friendship. They should love everyone – the good ones and the bad.

Don't just pretend that you love others: really love them. Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good. Romans 12:9 TLB

MINISTERING/SERVING/HELPING

This is the Lord's description of someone who serves with excellence.

Love each other with brotherly affection and take delight in honoring each other. Romans 12:10 TLB

Those with the motivational gift of serving are the "hands" of the body. They are concerned with meeting needs; they are highly motivated doers. They may tend to overcommit, but find joy in serving and meeting short-term goals.

TEACHING

Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically.
Romans 12:11 TLB

Teachers tend to be very diligent, but their admonition from Scripture is to be fervent when they teach the truths that the Lord has given them from Scripture.

Those with the motivational gift of teaching are the "mind" of the body. Their gift is foundational. They emphasise the accuracy of words, love to study and delight in research to validate truth.

EXHORTATION/ENCOURAGEMENT

Be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble, and prayerful always. Romans 12:12 TLB

People who are exhorters know how to rejoice, but they also know how to be patient with people. They are also the intercessors who always pray for people in need.

Those with the motivational gift of encouragement are the "mouth" of the body. Like cheerleaders, they encourage other believers and are motivated by a desire to see people grow and mature in the Lord. They are practical and positive and seek positive responses.

GIVING

When God's children are in need, you be the one to help them out. And get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or, if they need lodging, for the night. Romans 12:13 TLB

People who function in the gift of giving truly love to distribute to the needs of the saints. They are also very hospitable, always opening their homes to others.

Those with the motivational gift of giving are the "arms" of the body. They truly enjoy reaching out to give. They are excited about the prospect of blessing others. They desire to give quietly, in secret, but will also motivate others to give. They are alert to people's needs, give cheerfully, and always give the best that they can.

ADMINISTRATION/LEADERSHIP

If someone mistreats you because you are a Christian, don't curse him; pray that God will bless him. Romans 12:14 TLB

This is something that those in authority must do continually. People who lead are no strangers to having people speak against them. Instead of cursing them, bless them!

Those with the motivational gift of leadership are the "head" of the body. They can see the overall picture and set long-term goals. They are good organisers and find efficient ways of getting the work done. Although they may not seek leadership, they will assume it when no leader is available. They receive fulfilment when others come together to complete a task.

MERCY

When others are happy, be happy with them. If they are sad, share their sorrow. Romans 12:15 TLB

People with the gift of mercy naturally weep with those who weep, but sometimes need admonishing to rejoice with those who rejoice.

Those with the motivational gift of mercy are the "heart" of the body. They easily sense the joy or distress in other people and are sensitive to feelings and needs. They are attracted to and have patience with people in need, motivated by a desire to see people healed of hurts. They are truly meek and avoid being firm.

A mature born-again believer should operate to a certain extent in all these motivational givings. This teaching is not about all the spiritual or motivational gifts, though, but is focused mainly on the **gift of giving**.

RESISTANCE TOWARDS GIVING

Very few are aware that **giving** is a God-given gift. This lack of knowledge leads the Body of Christ to perish. The **law of giving**, I believe, is the most violated law in the Body of Christ, and the main reason the Body of Christ suffers so much!

People are easily offended when others talk about **giving** because they believe they are asking for their money. But we cannot talk about grace without talking about giving! God is our example of giving. He gave His beloved Son to us while we were still His enemies. He gave the Gift unconditionally, and we must accept it to have eternal life.

I am sharing these truths without the intention of financial gain. God is my Provider and Source. He will direct sufficient funds towards me as He has often done in the past and will continue in the future.

Often, the people who give nothing are the ones most offended. Those who have received a revelation about giving will not get offended. Those

in bondage to mammon will never taste freedom unless they hear the truth. People with the gift of giving can sense manipulation easily and will not respond to it. They will respond to the voice of God. This is the most important lesson for you to learn today.

I'd like to encourage you to be unhindered by previous disappointments. People often give large sums of money, but are discouraged, disappointed and mistreated. Don't allow bitterness in your heart. Put the unpleasant experience behind you, forgive those responsible, and focus on the Word of God. Let the **gift of giving** germinate in your heart.

People who are not open to giving often use the failures or shortcomings of religious leaders to justify their point of view. We are living in an evil world and are in constant spiritual battles. Do not be deceived by the god of this world. When individuals fall into a trap, such incidents should not influence our belief in what the Bible teaches us.

The Father gave His only beloved Son unconditionally to save the world. We need the same heart attitude to also give unconditionally. It is about our hearts and not about what we give!

PARTIALITY

We are all guilty of judging others by their outward appearances. Sometimes we do this unknowingly, but often we are well aware of it and treat them based on our judgment.

*But if you treat people **according to their outward appearance**, you are guilty of sin, and the Law condemns you as a lawbreaker.*

James 2:9 GNB

*But if you show **partiality**, you are committing sin and will be convicted by the Law as violators.* James 2:9 ISV

Most often, wealthy people are treated better than others. Surprisingly enough, in the Body of Christ, wealthy people are often treated worse than the rest. This treatment comes from a **spirit of envy, jealousy or greed**. Believers operating in the **gift of giving** and blessed by Christ must face religious reasoning that believers should not have riches.

In my experience, many pastors discourage believers from increasing and advise them to scale down and live a life of simplicity. There is nothing wrong with living in simplicity, but when people draw the wealthy down to their level, they limit what God wants to do through the wealthy. Often, they portray success as a sin or something to be ashamed of. Instead of unlocking the **gift of giving**, the church stands to lose the wealthy believers who have a genuine gift of giving. It is based on a false doctrine infected by the world's way of thinking. Even movies often discriminate against wealthy people, portraying the successful businessperson as the bad guy. The "evil rich person" and the "greedy corporation" have become Hollywood clichés.

The worldly view leads us to believe that those doing well must have lied, cheated, and backstabbed others to achieve it. This lie resonates with people because it appeals to envy and jealousy in the fallen human

nature. In reality, people who do well over the long term tend to be people who do things God's way, whether they realise it or not!

The LORD makes people poor and he makes people rich, he brings them low, and he also exalts them.⁸ He raises the poor up from the dust, he lifts up the needy from the trash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. Indeed the pillars of the earth belong to the LORD, and he has set the world on them.

1 Samuel 2:7-8 ISV

Lazy hands bring poverty, but hard-working hands lead to wealth.

Proverbs 10:4 ISV

The blessing of the LORD establishes wealth, and difficulty does not accompany it. Proverbs 10:22 ISV

A generous person will prosper, and anyone who gives water will receive a flood in return. Proverbs 11:25 ISV

MY STORY

I can truly say that, at a relatively young age, I was embarrassed by how God blessed me financially. Later in life, I became involved with a ministry that very subtly bombarded me about my wealth. The pastor gave me a book called "Living on the Edge". I read the book and really struggled with God about the concepts taught therein. In my spirit, I believed those concepts were not God's heart. I have never found one text or example in the Bible of God telling His people to live on the edge. His Word is full of

*blessings for the righteous. During this struggle, I tuned in to an International Christian Television Station at the exact moment that a well-known minister said, **"It is not God's will for you to live on the edge."** I knew it was not a coincidence, but God answering me. I told the pastor that I didn't want to live on the edge, and confirmed what I believed God was speaking to me. He became very upset because, in his eyes, I was discrediting a good book.*

*Many years later, I read Andrew Wommack's book, "Believer's Wealth". He wrote that a person with the gift of giving said to him, **"If you aren't embarrassed by your level of prosperity, then there is a good chance you aren't depending on God as your SOURCE!"** My friend, do not believe the false doctrines. It is God's desire for you to prosper.*

I agree that many pastors falsely teach a prosperity theology, but as we progress, you will see what the difference is. In hindsight, I can understand the mindset of the pastor who lent me that book.

After God had shown me how to deal with sickness and disease, He proved to me that Kingdom Finances worked the same. The reason so many churches do not believe in healing is that there is no powerful Holy Spirit anointing anymore. We make each other comfortable in our discomfort. Likewise, "Living on the Edge" served to make the pastor comfortable in his own financial discomfort. This was the reason for his defensive response.

Continue reading to discover the hidden truths about living a blessed life!

According to the Scriptures, **wealth** is a blessing from God and the product of **diligence** and **generosity**. So, why do we put down someone whom God has blessed? Why would we consider something from the hand of God to be evil or shameful? It borders on blasphemy. We really need to change our attitudes about money and wealth. We need to examine our hearts and see if we have any prejudices against financially blessed people. Envy and jealousy are running rampant in our culture and, sadly, in our churches.

Many of God's people in the Bible were rich. They were blessed because they were good stewards and God trusted them with wealth. He knew they would use their resources to bless others and carry out God's purposes.

Acknowledgment: Robert Morris - "The Blessed Life"

The problem isn't money, but our mindset about money and those who have more of it than we do.

A STORY BY ROBERT MORRIS

"I believe God tried to restore the truth about giving to the Church in the 1980's. But Satan distorted that truth with a hyper-prosperity message; thus, we saw many ministers exploit people and gather large sums of money for their own pleasure. The

abuses were there for the whole world to see. Yes – God wants to bless His people, but for the right purposes.”

SIGNS OF THE GIFT OF GIVING

1. People with the gift of giving respond to a strong vision with **clear objectives**.
 - They want their money to count.
 - They want to see ministers and ministries that operate on sound financial principles.
 - They want to invest where there are good stewards successfully using the funds God has given them.
 - They are investors in the Kingdom.
 - As good investors, it is important to put their money in good ministries that are effective with the funds entrusted to them.

2. They have the discernment that allows them to **determine genuine needs**.
 - A person with this gift from God picks up manipulation quicker than anyone can by natural means.
 - They can look at ministries and missionaries and determine where bona fide needs are and how money should be used.

- People who have the gift of giving are great at serving on mission and benevolence committees because they can determine genuine needs that are worthy of investment.

3. They are very frugal but also very **generous**.

- Sometimes a person would give away thousands of rands as the Lord prompted, but would then inspect his wife's grocery receipts to see if she had spent money needlessly.
- Such a person is not mean, but allows the frugality that comes naturally to a giver to get out of balance.
- Such a person might not understand everything about giving, and does not realise he was generous toward strangers, but stingy toward the most important person in his life.
- People with this gift know where their money goes.
- They like budgets and understand the principles of finances.
- Their greatest joy comes from meeting the needs of others.

4. They desire to be appreciated, but **not recognised**.

- They don't want their names on anything.
 - They don't want to be praised in front of others for their giving.
 - They don't want any recognition for their gift.
 - BUT they do like to know that their obedience and sacrifices are appreciated.
-

5. They want to invest in a **stable ship**, not a sinking ship.
 - Saying that the doors will close unless there is support is to announce the death penalty.
 - People with this gift want to see leaders demonstrate their ability to handle large sums of money wisely.
 - A ministry must show that they are helping people to get saved, delivered, healed, etc.

6. Contrary to common belief, they **don't want to control** their money after they have given it away.
 - If a person **controls** through the giving of their money, surely they are not operating in the **spiritual gift of giving**.
 - People with the genuine gift would simply want to know that their money will be handled correctly.
 - Wealthy givers want to be treated like everyone else.

7. They don't want to be a Band-Aid, but **a cure**.
 - They do not want their money to be a short-term fix for something that is going to break again.
 - Their gift must bring lasting solutions to situations.

8. People with this gift desire to give **more than money**.

- They give their time, talents and wisdom.
- They love to see their experience and expertise put to work for the Kingdom.
- They want to offer wise counsel to the church they love and appreciate.
- **Most institutions expect only co-operation and don't want counselling** from them, which, of course, will lead to losing such expertise. They will look for ministries that are looking for counsellors, rather than co-operating with the pastor.

9. They are often **gifted leaders**.

- Their ability to lead is often the reason for their success.

10. They do not want to be **criticised for a successful lifestyle**.

- If wealthy believers have large homes, they most likely see them as investments that are building wealth that will ultimately be used in the Kingdom of God.
- The income that God has blessed them with may give them the ability to drive expensive vehicles and have nice clothes.
- For them, it's not about extravagance or being ostentatious, but about enjoying some fruits of God's blessings.

- Often, people being criticised are giving away a much higher percentage of their income than a preacher would ever dream of doing himself.
11. They do not want to **talk about money** all the time.
- They do not want to talk about money when they are around other rich people.
 - Money is not something they worship, obsess over or analyse all the time.
 - They want to be asked about their family and kids and talk about anything but money.

A STORY BY ANDREW WOMMACK

In one of his books, Andrew told the story of a person who lived in a large house and drove luxury cars. Most people criticised him, but very few realised he gave away about \$70 000 each month. Then Andrew made a profound statement. He said this person lived in a house that equals 16 months of the amount he gives away each month. The house was worth \$1.12 million.

I challenge you to do the same calculation. Take the money you give away monthly and multiply it by 16 (months) to see what you will end up with. Most of us could only afford a tent or maybe a mobile caravan.

ADVICE FOR GIVERS

Maybe, for the first time in your life, you are discovering that you have the gift of giving.

- Look for opportunities to bless worthy ministries that are affecting and helping people.
- Begin distributing to the needs of the saints as you are given to hospitality.
- Invest your money where it will make the largest potential impact for the Kingdom of God.
- Forgive those who **mistreated you previously**, even if it was a pastor, a church or a religious organisation. Don't be bitter in your heart and stop the flow of giving and blessing in your life.
- God has caused you to be a river and not a reservoir.
- Water in a river is pure and clean, but water in a reservoir is contaminated.

Make sure that you continue giving to the church and to worthy ministries that are making an impact for the Kingdom of God, as He leads you.

Acknowledgment: Robert Morris – A Blessed Life

A HEART TRANSPLANT

By nature, we were born selfish, and giving does not come naturally. We need to be born again to be generous. We need to learn to walk in our

born-again nature. Our human body is flesh and born out of a corruptible seed.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is a spirit. John 3:6 KJV

We need to be born again of the Spirit to be saved.

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. John 3:5 KJV

Our mortal body must put on the immortal spirit, and this corruptible body must put on incorruption to enter eternal life.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 1 Corinthians 15:53 KJV

Now, you are a **new creature**.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV

You are **perfectly made**.

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. 2 Timothy 3:17 KJV

You have the **mind of Christ**.

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:16 KJV

You have the **same measure of faith** that Jesus had on earth.

...according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Romans 12:3b KJV

Your newborn spirit is as perfect as Christ's, vacuum-packed and **sealed** with the Holy Spirit to never change again.

*In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were **sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise.*** Ephesians 1:13 KJV

That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts. Ephesians 4:22 KJV

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Ephesians 4:24 KJV

God instructs us to not be conformed to this world, but to **renew our minds.**

Do not be conformed to this world, but continuously be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you may be able to determine what God's will is—what is proper, pleasing, and perfect. Romans 12:2 ISV

You need to **purify yourself** through the truth, which can only be found in the Word of God.

*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy **word is truth.*** John 17:17 KJV

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. 1 John 3:3 KJV

Your new life in Christ is a walk through **sanctification and cleansing** by the washing of water by the Word of God.

That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word. Ephesians 5:26 KJV

Therefore, it takes a heart transplant to reach a place where we give simply because we have an unselfish, liberal heart of gratitude towards God. When you give, do it with good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over as the Gospel of Luke advises us.

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

We will come back to this very important scripture, but let us first discover how we can change our hearts.

Giving is about the condition of your heart.

THE SELFISH HEART

Selfish thoughts are labelled by God as wicked. Selfishness whispers that we won't have enough or that God won't be faithful to meet our needs after we have given. God wants to change such a mindset. Remember, you need to renew your mind to change your heart from a greedy, selfish taker's heart to a grateful, generous giver's heart.

*Be careful not to think this **wicked thought to yourselves**: 'The seventh year, the year of remission, is drawing near,' and you show ill will toward your poor relative and not give to him. He may then call to the LORD on account of you, and you will be guilty of sin. Deuteronomy 15:9 ISV*

THE GRIEVING HEART

When your heart is not grieved while you give, you will be blessed.

*You must certainly give to him and not **feel regret for doing so**. Because of this, the LORD your God **will bless all your works** and everything you do. Deuteronomy 15:10 ISV*

Most people are impulsive buyers and regret their purchases. Often, we give and then afterwards regret it. The Word of God warns us to not regret giving. People give because they feel obligated, rather than because they want to. They feel pressured and afterwards grieve over the gift, but God is trying to do something deeper in their hearts.

How do we overcome a grieving heart? We must have a renewed perspective regarding “our” money. It really isn’t ours, but God’s. If I ask you to hold my R200 bill for me and ask you to give it back immediately, you would not have any feelings of grief, remorse or emotional conflict about returning the money, because it wasn’t yours in the first place. When you have this same perspective about God’s money, that He owns it all, it is easy to return it to Him when He asks for it. We should not act like owners but as stewards.

THE GENEROUS HEART

We need to give liberally from what God has blessed us with. That's why we must cultivate a liberal heart. This is part of renewing your mind. We have to get to a place where we honestly trust God to take care of us when we give generously.

*Provide for them **liberally** from your flock, threshing floor, and wine vat. As the LORD your **God has blessed you, so give to them.***

Deuteronomy 15:14 ISV

Our old nature will always try to manipulate circumstances in our favour. This is the attitude of a taker and not a giver. Selfishness tries to manipulate God or “**make deals**” with Him where giving is concerned. A liberal giver gives quickly and generously because he knows all belongs to God, and he trusts God to take care of him and bless him.

God invented giving because it works selfishness and greed out of our lives!

The false doctrine of giving **so we can receive** misleads us. It works selfishness and greed back into your life. When a preacher says, “**Give and you will receive**”, the people give merely to receive back. It is counterproductive to God's message. This is how the Body of Christ is being misled by the prosperity theology. A biblical concept is twisted to preach a devilish message. God wants us to give, so our hearts can be changed from being selfish to being generous.

Win the battle of selfishness by always putting God first in your giving.

BY FAITH THROUGH ACTING

One night, God was downloading specific words into my spirit - “**hear**”, “**speak**”, “**act**” and “**do**”. Let me explain how these concepts are relevant.

We know we are saved by grace through faith. Salvation is a gift of God. God’s grace is available 24/7 for every person on earth.

*For by **grace are ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.* Ephesians 2:8 KJV

But not all are saved, though. Why not? Because we need to act on the grace God provides. We need to mix our faith with God’s grace. By doing so, we receive a blessing, a gift from God. He delivered us from the kingdom of darkness and brought us into the Kingdom of Light. The Word preached will not profit us much unless we mix our faith with God’s promises.

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. Hebrews 4:2 KJV

The people of Israel did not mix their faith with God’s promise to take them into the Promised Land, and God said to them, “**So I swear in my wrath, they shall not enter into my rest**” (Hebrews 3:11). Do not let your heart be hardened!

Today if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.
Romans 3:15 KJV

God has already promised us many blessings. We only need to act on His voice by mixing our faith with His promises and by walking into a blessed life - our Promised Land of rest.

This brings me to another important point, namely that faith comes by hearing.

So then faith cometh by hearing... Romans 10:17a KJV

For us to act on God's promises, we first need faith. Faith only comes by hearing, and hearing comes by the Word of God.

...and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17b KJV

*How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they **believe in him of whom they have not heard?** and how shall they **hear without a preacher?**¹⁵ And how shall they **preach, except they be sent?*** Romans 10:14-15a KJV

How can we believe in giving unless we have heard of it?

***How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!**¹⁶ But they have not all **obeyed the gospel.** For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?*
Romans 10:15b-16 KJV

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
Romans 10:17 KJV

Not all obeyed the Gospel! Not everyone reading here is obeying God's instructions. Believers often obey the instructions of preachers and rely

on their insight, but are reluctant to study the Bible for themselves. When Christ permanently abides in us, we do not need anyone to instruct us!

But as for you, the anointing (the sacred appointment, the unction) which you received from Him abide [permanently] in you; [so] then you have no need that anyone should instruct you. But just as His anointing teaches you concerning everything and is true and is no falsehood, so you must abide in (live in, never depart from) Him [being rooted in Him, knit to Him], just as [His anointing] has taught you [to do]. 1 John 2:27 AMPC

We shouldn't just "**hear**" the good news, or "**speak**" it, but "**act**" upon it and "**do**" what the Word of God says!

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. James 1:22 KJV

This may sound elementary and effortless, but few believers are doers of the Word. Only when we act on what the Word says is faith released to unlock the supernatural. When we meditate on the Word of God constantly, it will make us prosperous.

*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*

Notice that we must “*observe to do according to all that is written therein.*” The ISV says to “*carry out everything that’s written in it*”, not just reading and listening, but doing and obeying God's Word!

This set of instructions is not to cease being a part of your conversations. Meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to carry out everything that's written in it, for then you'll prosper and succeed. Joshua 1:8 ISV

THE LAW OF RECIPROCITY

The word “reciprocity” refers to the practice of exchanging things with others for mutual benefit, especially privileges granted by one country or organisation to another. Let us look at this principle in the Scriptures.

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 give, let it be with good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over. With the same measure you measure with, it shall be measured to you! In other words, in the same measure that you are giving, it will be given back to you. **Whatever you give is going to be given back to you** in “*good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over.*”

What does this refer to? In the Old Testament, farmers had to leave the corners of the field to the poor. The farmers would harvest the crop in the middle of the field, and the poor could harvest the crop in the corners to feed themselves and their families.

It didn't matter how full the baskets were of the primary harvest in the middle of the field: the workers bringing them in got paid by the hour. Unfortunately, this was not the case with the poor. For them, the amount of food they could fit into their baskets would be the amount available to their families.

Imagine being a poor man gathering food for your family. You would probably put in **a good measure**. Then, you would compress the grains together to create more space **by pressing them down firmly**. Then, you would **shake the bag** to eliminate any air pockets between the grains. After this, you would pour in more grain, as much as you possibly could, heaping it up above the rim until it **spills over** the sides.

It is one thing to receive grain for free, but far better to receive a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over the edge of the basket. The people of Israel understood this concept due to their farming background. They understood what Jesus meant by “**for with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again**” (Luke 6:38b KJV).

Although this mostly applied to money, Jesus said we must also give mercy and forgiveness. If you give forgiveness, it shall be given back to you in the same measure. If you give unforgiveness, it will come back to

you in the same measure. Unforgiveness leads to the manifestation of incurable diseases in our bodies.

*Be ye therefore **merciful**, as your Father also is merciful. ³⁷ **Judge** not, and ye shall not be judged: **condemn** not, and ye shall not be condemned: **forgive**, and ye shall be forgiven.* Luke 6:36-37 KJV

This is contrary to the teachings that say, “**Give and it shall be given to you,**” as a principle of motivation. It is a principle of reward! The principle is that if you give judgment, judgment will be returned to you in a 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.

Isn't this good news? When we forgive, an abundance of forgiveness will be returned to us. When we love, we will harvest overflowing love. This is a fundamental principle in the Kingdom of God.

This is the law of reciprocity!

It is, therefore, wrong to teach people to give and expect something back. Personal gain should never be our motive for giving. How do you think God feels when people get excited about giving towards His Kingdom purposes only when they are whipped into a frenzy through get-rich-quick promises? **This is not a revelation of receiving but of giving.** And yes, as we start to give, we will receive much more in return. However, our motives matter.

OUR MOTIVES

The motive for giving must be a cheerful heart. We do not give to please God, but from a sense of appreciation for what He has done for us. God poured out all of His wrath towards sin on Jesus. He is not mad at you for not giving. He is not even in a bad mood about it. But because the punishment for not giving has been paid, it doesn't mean we should not give or stop giving. Give with a joyful heart if you want to see a return on your giving.

Always give personally - willingly - cheerfully.

Give, and [gifts] will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will they pour into [the pouch formed by] the bosom [of your robe and used as a bag]. For with the measure you deal out [with the measure you use when you confer benefits on others], it will be measured back to you. Luke 6:38 AMPC

God loves a cheerful giver!

WRONG MOTIVES

Some people give faithfully, BUT with the WRONG motives. They believe they should give out of obligation, as if they were simply paying a bill. Or they give to appease God. You must plant your financial seed with a cheerful heart, motivated by love. The gift is ruined when we give with the wrong motive. Giving should flow from a revelation of God's love

for us! **We need to purify our motives.** It is better to give a little with the right motivation than a huge amount without benefit.

GOOD MOTIVES

The only scripture where the Lord says to prove Him regarding giving is in Malachi. He invites us to see for ourselves if giving works. (*A complete discussion on tithing follows.*)

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. [Mal. 2:2.] Malachi 3:10 AMPC

MY STORY

At a certain point in my life, I was a cheerful giver, but I lost the principle of giving. When God started teaching me the truths of giving, I was financially at rock bottom, but He told me to start giving what I had. I took a R100 note and put it in the storehouse. I took a small amount and gave it away. At that stage, I had been waiting for longer than three months for a transaction to go through. All negotiations were already completed. When I started giving with the right attitude without expecting anything back, the transaction was finalised within a week. God had moved miraculously and opened the door for that provision to

come in. I used some of the money to buy a vehicle for someone in need. After that, more doors opened. One morning, just after I had paid my giving, three payment notifications came through simultaneously. I had never experienced this before! At that same minute, my phone rang. It was a consulting company calling me to discuss a job they wanted me to do for them. For the previous four years, I had done no professional consultation work, and nobody phoned me to form a joint venture on a project any more. I knew this was a supernatural act of God.

Learn to co-operate with God!

When you first start giving, it might be better to give a small amount with a cheerful heart if that is what you can trust God with. Do it with joy and peace. This is better than trying to please God with a legalistic, bigger amount. It is not about the amount, but about your motives!

*And there came a certain poor widow, and she **threw in two mites, which make a farthing.** ⁴³ And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this **poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury.***

Mark 12:42-43 KJV

I assure you that Yashuah is interested in what we bring to the storehouse. When the poor widow gave her last two mites, He did not turn to her, but to His disciples to teach them about giving. The widow had given more than all the others.

If that is what you can give cheerfully, then start there. It's better to give a small percentage cheerfully than to give reluctantly! As New Testament givers, we should give more than the Old Testament requirement.

God's laws in the New Testament have higher demands than Old Testament laws. In the Old Testament, God's instructions were to stone an adulterer to death, but in the New Testament, even looking at a woman with a lustful heart is considered adultery.

*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].** [Proverbs 22:9.]*

2 Corinthians 9:7 AMPC

We must get to a place where we can say, "God, this is Your money. What do You want me to do with it?" It comes down to the motive in your heart. Giving out of FEAR is the same as giving grudgingly, and giving out of manipulation and condemnation is the same as giving of necessity. It PROFITS nothing!

We can't buy prosperity from God or force Him to bless us. We also cannot pay Him protection money to keep the curse of the Law out of our lives.

Start giving because you love God and want to show your appreciation for all that He has done for you. When you purify your motives for giving and

start doing it as you desire in your heart, then you will see a hundredfold return on your giving. You will probably start giving more than just 10%.

I believe that our inability to distinguish between the believer and the unbeliever is a huge problem in our society. In many cases, it seems as if unbelievers are more trustworthy in business than those who call themselves believers.

God's Word is clear that we should give to those who cannot pay us back. What benefit is there in loving somebody who returns your love, because the sinners do the same? Believers must love their enemies!

*Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again. ³¹ And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. ³² **For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.** ³³ And if ye **do good to them which do good to you**, what thank have ye? for **sinners also do even the same.** ³⁴ And if ye lend to them of whom ye **hope to receive**, what **thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.** ³⁵ **But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again;** and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Luke 6:30-35 KJV*

These are hard words, but they are Kingdom laws and the complete opposite of earthly, governmental laws. We are the “called-out ones”, His Ecclesia. We are called out of the world, Babylon, into the Kingdom of Heaven. Believers operate under a distinct set of rules and laws.

GIVE AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU

- Not coincidentally, this passage begins with the words, “Give to everyone who asks of you” (verse 30).
- Both verses begin with GIVE.
- This is the revelation of giving. “Give!”
- 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.

Give, and your heavenly Father will give you much more in return! He is a **“GIVER”**. He shares everything He has made with us, except His glory. When we give, God will give back to us, but that should not be our motive for giving. We should give for the pure joy of imitating our wonderful Father. It’s our hearts the Lord is concerned about. When you give simply to give, He will reward you by giving back to you in much greater measure. The reward comes because we have allowed God to do a work in our hearts in the area of giving, not receiving.

DON’T FORGET

In my book, “Dispensation”, I share my exodus experience from Egypt and how God delivered me. Once you’ve had such an experience, salvation has a completely new meaning. The Lord told me to *never forget that I*

once was a slave in Egypt and that He had redeemed me. That changed my heart and attitude for good.

Don't ever forget that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, yet the LORD your God redeemed you. Therefore, I'm giving you these commands today. Deuteronomy 15:15 ISV

Therefore, God gives us these commands.

*If there be among you a **poor man of one of thy brethren** within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God **giveth thee**, thou shalt not **harden thine heart**, nor **shut thine hand from thy poor brother**:⁸ But thou shalt **open thine hand wide unto him**, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth. Deuteronomy 15:7-8 KJV*

*Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and **thine eye be evil against thy poor brother**, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the LORD against thee, and it be sin unto thee.¹⁰ Thou **shalt surely give him**, and **thine heart shall not be grieved** when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto. Deuteronomy 15:9-10 KJV*

*For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine **hand wide unto thy brother**, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.¹² And if thy brother, an Hebrew man, or an Hebrew woman, be sold unto thee, and serve thee six years; then in the seventh year thou shalt let him go free from thee.¹³ And*

*when thou sendest him out free from thee, **thou shalt not let him go away empty**: Thou shalt **furnish him liberally out of thy flock**, and out of thy floor, and out of thy winepress: of that wherewith the LORD thy God hath blessed thee thou shalt give unto him.*
Deuteronomy 15:11-13 KJV

And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the LORD thy God redeemed thee: therefore I command thee this thing to day. Deuteronomy 15:15 KJV

This is a clear picture of God's heart for helping His people. Let our hearts not grieve when we give. Once we become cheerful, willing givers, we become more and more like our heavenly Father. God is trying to do a work in us through the Ruach HaKodesh. He wants to purify our hearts.

Will you allow Him?

SOWERS AND EATERS

When we read the Scripture with hardened hearts, the Word has little impact on our lives and does not profit us.

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. Hebrews 4:2 KJV

I often heard that the Lord gave seed to the sower, and yet, I still ate the seed. In hindsight, God gave me much seed, but instead of sowing it,

I ate it. God gives seed to those who have proven themselves to be sowers.

*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; ¹¹ Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.*

2 Corinthians 9:10-11 KJV

The reason God gives seed to the sower is for us to grow richer and become even more generous!

*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.*

2 Corinthians 9:11 ISV

The eyes of the Lord are searching for givers He can give finances to.

*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose **heart is perfect toward him**. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth, thou shalt have wars. 2 Chronicles 16:9 KJV*

“If you are consistently short of money...

If you always have more month than you have money...

Then maybe God doesn't see you as a GIVER.”

Andrew Wommack

Instead of being sowers, we are eaters. Eaters are focused on getting their own needs met and establishing their own kingdoms. They use their resources to buy everything they want, and give only if there is money left.

Sowers put other people first. Our selfishness short-circuits prosperity because it causes us to consume all our resources.

Prosperity doesn't happen overnight. There is a passage of time between planting and harvesting. Money has power, and maybe you are not ready to handle the power of prosperity.

MY TESTIMONY

As I am writing this book, the Lord is giving me a flashback to about 20 years ago when my family started a business. It grew by over 800% in a brief period and branched into several businesses. We were not mature enough to handle such growth. I believe we became arrogant, and it was soon very obvious that we could not handle the responsibility. We began striving with each other. God's word is clear that where there is strife and envy, there is confusion and all evil works (James 3:16). The family broke apart, and it took many years to restore the broken relationships.

I am sharing this with you for one reason only – that you will not be deceived by the god of this world. Satan promises us things that only GOD can give! If satan cannot stop you, he will push you. There was a time in my life when I believed nothing could stop me. Little did I know I was being pushed. Cultivate the attitude of a giver and walk it out over time! God will see that He can trust you and will increase your finances.

After reading Andrew Wommack's book, "Financial Stewardship", and Robert Morris's, "A Blessed Life", I realised how much seed I had eaten. The most profound words Andrew wrote in his book were: "**If God can get money through you, He'll get it to you.**" It won't be long before you have plenty left over for yourself. We can reach this point in our lives only when our motives are pure. These can only come from a pure heart.

How do you see your money? Is it there to meet your needs and greed, or do you see it as SEED?

*But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly;
and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.*

2 Corinthians 9:6 KJV

If you see your money as seed, do you sow sparingly or bountifully? You shall reap in the same manner that you sow! We are being tested in the areas of need and greed. In Proverbs, the scripture highlights this principle: "**Give me neither poverty (need) nor riches (greed).**"

*Remove far from me vanity and lies: **give me neither poverty nor riches**; feed me with food convenient for me: ⁹ Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or **lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.** Proverbs 30:8-9 KJV*

The writer of Proverbs asks the Lord to be in the sweet spot of His provision. God can supply all our needs without using money. This may be too much to understand if we are in a struggle for survival. But the Scripture has many examples of God providing without money. The problem is that we do not believe it is God's desire.

The **strategy of the antichrist** comes through the Spirit of **Mammon**. We will not be able to **buy and sell** without the mark of the beast!

And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Revelation 13:17 KJV

FOOD FOR ELIJAH

*Crows would bring him bread and **meat** both in the morning and in the evening, and he would drink from the brook. 1 Kings 17:6 ISV*

*Then he lay down and went to sleep under the juniper tree. All of a sudden, there was an **angel**, who kept grabbing him and telling him, "Get up! Eat!"⁶ So he looked around, and there near his head was a muffin sitting on top of some heated stones, along with a jar of water. Elijah ate and drank and then lay down again. 1 Kings 19:5-6 ISV*

NAKED BUT PROSPEROUS

Joseph was sold at an auction, without a single possession to his name. Still, God called him **a prosperous man!**

*And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmaelites, which had brought him down thither.² **And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man;** and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. Genesis 39:1-2 KJV*

Prosperity isn't measured by how many assets you have. God was with Joseph even when he was naked, and it was a matter of time before money started flowing his way. God is always committed to meeting our needs, but are you committed to using your money as SEED?

God always gives seed to the sowers.

God's blessing on Joseph's life caused him to prosper in everything he did, and soon he was promoted.

And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.

Genesis 39:4 KJV

Even when imprisoned because he rejected Potiphar's seductive wife, he prospered.

*And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, **Lie with me.** ⁸ **But he refused,** and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;*

Genesis 39:7-8 KJV

*The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, **the LORD made it to prosper.*** Genesis 39:23 KJV

Joseph was released and promoted. He prospered more and made Potiphar even wealthier.

And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do. Genesis 41:55 KJV

Joseph used his position to save his brothers and family, even though they had sold him into slavery. Joseph was a giver and always put God first. Christians today cut back on giving when the economy turns down. This is the worst thing we could do. When hard times come, we should increase our giving so that we can increase our harvest. Isaac, Joseph's grandfather, sowed in a year of famine and reaped a **hundredfold return**.

Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him. Genesis 26:12 KJV

Isaac sowed seed when everyone else was holding back in fear of poverty. He became tremendously wealthy! During a recession, cut back on personal spending, but never cut back on what you are doing for God. You have a choice to grind the whole sack of seed into flour for bread and then be hopeful that someone will give you more seed for planting, or you could use some of it for bread and the rest as seed. If you sow that seed, you are going to harvest much more than the seed you sowed.

USING MONEY AS SEED

I listened to a teaching by Earl Pitts many years ago, where he said that God uses the unrighteous mammon to teach us righteousness. Isn't this profound? God cannot entrust us with the true riches of heaven if we are

not even faithful in the unrighteous mammon, which is money and possessions.

If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? Luke 16:11 KJV

Therefore if you have not been faithful in the [case of] unrighteous mammon (deceitful riches, money, possessions), who will entrust to you the true riches? Luke 16:11 AMPC

God gives us money to teach us Kingdom principles. Jesus says, “**So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground**” (Mark 4:26 KJV). We must learn to use money as seed to be planted. The harvest will always be bigger than the seed we have sown, depending on our attitude as we sow.

*But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.
2 Corinthians 9:6 KJV*

God always supplies more than just seed. According to the Scripture, He also supplies bread and food.

*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*

God does not have a problem when we eat of the seed He’s given us, but He wants us to sow the rest. He even adds a promise to the seed. He supplies the seed, and He multiplies it, so we will always receive more than we have sown.

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. 2 Corinthians 9:10 ISV

From a single kernel of corn planted in the soil, a plant sprouts up that bears thousands of kernels. When you give money, the same multiplication occurs.

BIBLICAL SEED-PRINCIPLES

Let's look at three biblical seed-principles.

1. SOWING AND REAPING

You can only reap what you sow. If you sow corn, you will reap corn, and if you sow money, you will reap money. This law was established at the creation of the world. Seed will multiply after its kind, according to Genesis 1. God spoke these words, and they will do exactly what He commanded them to do. They will not return to Him empty-handed (Isaiah 55:11 MSG).

*And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb **yielding seed**, and the fruit tree **yielding fruit after his kind**, whose **seed is in itself**, upon the earth: and it was so. ¹² And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, **after his kind**: and God saw that it was good.*
Genesis 1:11-12 KJV

A farmer cannot sow corn and expect to reap wheat. Many believers expect a harvest of something they have never planted. Or they reap a harvest of the seeds they had sown years ago, without realising what they had sown. Whatever you sow, you will reap. If you sow judgment, you will reap judgment. If you sow forgiveness, you will reap forgiveness, and if you sow money, you will reap money.

2. PLANTING A SEED

The next principle is that you reap only **after** you have sown. Again, God laid down this principle in the beginning of creation. He established the order. Before there can ever be a harvest, a seed must be planted.

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

Genesis 8:22 KJV

Jesus usually spoke in parables and often used agricultural examples to make the Kingdom of God understandable. In Mark 4, He used an example of a farmer sowing seed into the ground. He compared it to how the Kingdom of God works.

And he said, So is the kingdom of God as if a man should cast seed into the ground; ²⁷ And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. ²⁸ For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. ²⁹ But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest comes. Mark 4:26-29 KJV

This parable clearly illustrates that you cannot sow a seed and expect a harvest the very next day. You must wait night and day for the seed to germinate and grow. First, it produces the **blade**, then the **ear** and after that, a full **corn** in the ear before it can be harvested.

The beauty of this is that God gives seed to the farmer to sow. The Word of God promises us He will give more and more seed to the givers to sow. He will even make it grow so we can give more away!

For God, who gives seed to the farmer to plant, and later on good crops to harvest and eat, will give you more and more seed to plant and will make it grow so that you can give away more and more fruit from your harvest. 2 Corinthians 9:10 TLB

Decide right now not to wait until you have money before starting to give. I waited for sufficient funds myself, but it never happened. The moment I took a step of obedience and planted a seed by faith, God supernaturally moved, and finances came in. You reap what you sow!

3. MULTIPLICATION

The principle of multiplication in God's Kingdom has always fascinated me. During my involvement in a ministry that served the agricultural community in Africa, I discovered this principle. In hindsight, the ministry missed a fundamental principle in our teachings. Praise YEHÔVÂH Elohim that He directed me precept upon precept, line upon line, to understand this doctrine.

*Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. ¹⁰ For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:
Isaiah 28:9-10 KJV*

As we study the Word of God and our understanding grows into maturity, He reveals more to us. (See the principle of multiplication in Part 2).

The **first principle** of multiplication is that we always **reap more than we sow**. This is a law laid down by God.

*They that sow in **tears** **Shall reap in joy**.⁶ He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, **Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing**, bringing his sheaves with him. Psalm 126:5-6 KJV*

The principle of harvest increase is so powerful that even should you cry while scattering your little bag of precious seed, your tears will turn into rejoicing as you bring in your sheaves of harvest. You will always get more when you sow God's way!

THE POWER OF THE SEED

God puts divine power in all seed. When a man plants a seed in a woman's womb, it grows into a new human being that has the likeness and image of our Creator! Mark 4 says that **a seed is the Word of God**. Do not compare the Word of God to a social system because the system can be corrupted. For example, without attending classes, you can study for a test and pass it, effectively beating the system. But you cannot beat

God's system. You cannot sow seed in the evening and expect results the very next morning.

The sower soweth the word. Mark 4:14 KJV

We cannot beat God's system of **Seed - Time – Harvest**.

*And he said, **So is the kingdom of God** as if a man should **cast seed into the ground**; ²⁷ And **should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring** and grow up, he knoweth not how. ²⁸ For the earth **bringeth forth fruit** of herself; first the **blade**, then the **ear**, after that the **full corn in the ear**. Mark 4:26-28 KJV*

The Kingdom of God works in the order of Seed - Time - Harvest. We must learn to be patient and give it time. We must have faith for the miracle to come to pass. The entire world operates according to the sowing system. Even man procreates through seed.

Andrew Wommack told the story of the supernatural power of a seed. A seed growing inside a rock can split a huge rock in half. This is the power that God puts inside a seed. God's Word is the seed, and we must plant it in our hearts and meditate on it day and night.

My eyes anticipate the night watches and I awake before the call of the watchman, That I may meditate on Your word. Psalm 119:148 AMP

As a seed splits the rock in half, **no matter how hard your heart has become, the Word of God will split it**, and you will start walking after the Spirit, turning away from the lust of the flesh. It will heal you, deliver you and split whatever has hardened your heart or stood in your way. The Word of God will bring forth miraculous results.

He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. Psalm 107:20 KJV

A PERSONAL TESTIMONY

One morning, I got up and decided that enough was enough! I made a new commitment to overcome the world, the flesh and the pride of life. The Word of God instructed me to forgive, so I forgave unconditionally. I closed my office door and studied the Word of God for 10 hours per day. I had to reset my old way of thinking. I had to conform, as the Word of God commanded me to do. I had to delete the old icons in my mind and break the strongholds, even those inherited generationally.

Today, 13 months later, I can testify that the seed of the Word of God not only split my hardened heart, but I have received a new heart, and my carnal, worldly mind has died. By His grace, and by my commitment, the Ruach HaKodesh has healed me, delivered me and brought me to a place of peace, not as the world gives, but the peace of the Prince of Peace!

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6 KJV

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your

remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
John 14:26-27 KJV

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.
Romans 15:13 KJV

For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Romans 8:6 KJV

We must meditate on the Scripture day and night. It will make us prosperous. The secret lies in the “to do” part of verse 8 – to do according to all that is written therein, and it shall make you prosperous.

*Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest **observe to do according to all the law**, which Moses my servant commanded thee: **turn not from it to the right hand or to the left**, that thou mayest **prosper whithersoever thou goest.** ⁸ 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 1:7-8 KJV

*Grace and peace be multiplied unto you **through the knowledge of God**, and of Jesus our Lord.* 2 Peter 1:2 KJV

*Thou wilt keep him **in perfect peace**, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.* Isaiah 26:3 KJV

God's promise overcomes our problems! If you do not have peace, your mind is on the wrong things, and you gain knowledge from things outside of Him. His power gives us all things through the knowledge of Him.

*According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the **knowledge of him** that hath called us to glory and virtue: ⁴ whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having **escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.** 2 Peter 1:3-4 KJV*

Healing, joy and prosperity come through knowledge. The Word of God is a SEED. We must get the seed, the Word of God, in our hearts.

*So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast **seed into the ground.**
Mark 4:26 KJV*

The word “ground” refers to our hearts. When we understand the Word of God, we can swallow it and it will go to our hearts.

*Their **moral understanding is darkened and their reasoning is beclouded.** [They are] **alienated** (estranged, self-banished) from the life of God [with no share in it; this is] **because of the ignorance** (the want of knowledge and perception, the willful blindness) **that is deep-seated in them,** due to their **hardness of heart** [to the insensitiveness of their moral nature]. Ephesians 4:18 AMPC*

Peacefully, we can go to sleep, and it will grow.

*And **should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.** ²⁸ For the earth **bringeth forth fruit***

*of herself; first the **blade**, then the **ear**, after that the **full corn in the ear**. Mark 4:27 KJV*

We need not understand how a seed can split a rock. The only thing needed is for us to mix faith with God's promises.

*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. Hebrews 4:2 KJV*

We need to believe that it will work for us. We cannot dig it up every day and then replant it. We need to leave it in the ground and believe it will grow. This is not something we do only on Sundays, and for the rest of the week, we dig up our seeds by operating according to the world system! When we waver, we are double-minded. This means we dig up our seeds.

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. ⁷ For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. ⁸ A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. James 1:5-8 KJV

Keep your heart focused on God (your ground), and it will automatically and effortlessly change you. Are you bearing visible fruit, or are you operating according to the world system? How do you treat your colleagues? How much time do you spend on devotion?

Unless we interfere, the nature of a seed is to produce fruit effortlessly. The Word of God works the same. It will effortlessly change you if you stay focused on the Word of God with a pure heart.

Your heart does not know when you are planting seeds of pornography, hatred, violence, etc. These seeds will bring a harvest of bad fruits that will harden your heart, and, over time, you will get a full corn in the ear.

*For the earth **bringeth forth fruit** of herself; first the **blade**, then the **ear**, after that the **full corn in the ear**. Mark 4:28 KJV*

God is looking for mature hearts that are at peace, with positive attitudes towards Him. He is looking for hearts that believe His promises, put the Kingdom of God first and give from their hearts, not manipulating to receive. He is looking for givers to whom He can give finances.

*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose **heart is perfect toward him**. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth, thou shalt have wars. 2 Chronicles 16:9 KJV*

We have shortages because of wrong beliefs, motives and attitudes, and because we aren't givers.

PROPORTIONAL

God did not specify an amount, and large sums are not the focus - it is proportional (about a percentage). The widow gave more than the rich.

*And he looked up and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. ² And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. ³ And he said, Of a truth, I say unto you, **that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all:** ⁴ For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had. Luke 21:1-4 KJV*

*He that **trusteth in his riches shall fall:** but the righteous shall flourish as a branch. Proverbs 11:28 KJV*

Stop trusting in money and put your trust in the Lord. If you do not honour the Lord with your first fruits, you do not trust Him. Fear that God won't supply is what keeps you from giving and is releasing poverty into your life. Honouring the Lord with your first fruits will release the power and anointing of God in your life, and you will prosper.



THE SPIRIT OF MAMMON

*No man 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.*** Matthew 6:24 KJV

Why can we not serve both God and mammon? Why does Jesus refer to mammon as an idol and not to something else?

We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against powers, dominions, and principalities in the air. The ultimate demonic force is the antichrist, which we are dealing with now before the Lord's return. It is not a nuclear threat, **BUT** a Mammon Spirit! Unless we receive the mark of the beast, we will be prevented from buying and selling.

And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Revelation 13:17 KJV

We perish because of a lack of knowledge and understanding, and as a result, we are easily deceived. What is the principle of deception?

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.

John 10:10a KJV

This is satan's nature. He is still using the same strategy as with Adam and Eve. He came to the woman with a question: "**Has God indeed said you shall not eat?**" He is still doing the same.

Now the serpent was more crafty (subtle, skilled in deceit) than any living creature of the field which the Lord God had made. And the serpent (Satan) said to the woman, "Can it really be that God has said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" Genesis 3:1 AMP

God says in His Word to forgive others, so He can forgive us.

For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: ¹⁵ but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Matthew 6:14-15 KJV

He instructs us to love our enemies and to bless those who curse us. We must love the Lord our God so that we can love ourselves and our neighbours. This is His command.

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; Matthew 5:44 KJV

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like, unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Matthew 22:37-39 KJV

But the enemy asks, **"Has God really said...?"**, and when we ignore God's words of love, many opposite things enter the heart of man - bitterness, hatred, self-hatred, rejection, unlovingness. The result is strongholds developing in our minds, and they become our way of thinking. Without realising it, we come under the influence of demonic forces and end up in captivity.

Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever.
Amen. Romans 1:25 KJV

The King says we cannot serve **two masters**, and immediately afterwards, He refers to **GOD** and **mammon**! This shows that we are dealing with a demonic force, a strategy of the antichrist, trying to rob us of our belongings by **giving us an alternative to put our trust and hope in**. Once we have been trapped in this false sense of security, the enemy will come in with a final lockdown, using the mark of the beast. He will close all the doors and say, **"You have been trusting Mammon for many years, and now, I, the god of this world, will not allow anyone to buy or sell without my mark"** (Revelation 13:17).

Life on earth is a battle, not against flesh and blood but against various forces in the air (Ephesians 6:12). Without exercising our senses to discern between good and evil (Hebrews 5:14b), we will be misled and fall into Satan's trap.

Two very strong demonic forces are deceiving mankind. The first comes from the King of Tyron. Nimrod and Nebuchadnezzar were examples of such strong kings. They attacked their enemies by influencing the souls of the people. When a person's soul is weak, they cannot resist the attacks of the enemy. The second demonic force is that of King Molech.

*And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to **Molech**, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.* ²² ***Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.*** Leviticus 18:21-22 KJV

Molech signifies a king or governor of similar import to Baal, lord, or governor. It is supposed that the sun was worshipped under this name, and more particularly, as fire appears to have been much employed in his worship. "Molech" means "king". The Amorite Spirit is a spirit of "self-exaltation". People possessed by this spirit strive to be "kings" over others. Therefore, "Molech" represents an Amorite Spirit that establishes an "earthly kingdom" of domination over others. The Amorite Spirit is powerful inside the church and manifests itself in human leaders who impose an earthly system of domination over other believers through earthly rules and decrees. Where there had been many generations of Jebusites sacrificing their "prophetic seed" to various "Molechs", a door is possibly opened for the spirit of homosexuality to enter (Leviticus 18:22).

We need to know what and who Mammon is, since we are wrestling against principalities, powers, and forces, and these forces, once we yield or listen to them, steal our health and prosperity, joy and peace.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Ephesians 6:12 KJV

Mammon is a demonic force used by Satan to deceive mankind into taking the mark of the beast to buy and sell. *You may be determined to not take the mark and thus avoid the consequences*, but Satan deceives us very subtly. He did not approach Eve with force, or she would not have eaten from the tree. Because he deceived her subtly, she lost the ability to distinguish between good and evil and ate from the fruit. In the same way, Satan has already deceived us into serving mammon. We cannot have two masters, as God warns us. (*Do you perhaps own a MasterCard?*)

We are entrapped, leading to strongholds forming in our heads. The method that worked in the Garden of Eden is the same one Satan used to try defeating Jesus. He is still using it to defeat us today. In our minds, we struggle to believe that God is our provider and choose to trust in something else to supply our needs. Most Christians believe God has no part in what they have gained. They believe they have accumulated their possessions through hard work. We cannot serve God on a Sunday and serve our own plans and works for the rest of the week. Sometimes we give back to God but are still serving two masters. That's how strong the Mammon Spirit is.

"*Mammon*" comes from post-classical Latin *mammona* '**wealth**', used most importantly in the Vulgate Bible. This was borrowed from Hellenistic Greek μαμωνᾶς, which appears in the New Testament, borrowed from Aramaic ܡܡܢܐ *māmōnā*, an emphatic form of the word *māmōn*, **wealth**, "profit" perhaps specifically from the Syriac dialect. The word may have been present throughout the Canaanite languages. The word is unknown in Old Testament Hebrew, but has been found in the Qumran documents; post-biblical Hebrew attests to *māmōn*; and, according to St Augustine of Hippo, Punic included the word *mammon* **profit**. It has been suggested that the Aramaic word *māmōn* was a loanword from Mishnaic Hebrew מָמֶנֶם (*mamôn*) meaning **money**, **wealth**, or **possessions**; although it may also have meant "**that in which one trusts**".

According to the Textus Receptus of the New Testament, the Greek word translated "mammon" is spelt μαμμωνᾶ in the **Sermon on the Mount** in Matthew 6:24, and μαμωνᾶ (from μαμωνᾶς) in the parable of the **Unjust Steward** in Luke 16:9,11,13. The spelling μαμμωνᾶ refers to "a Syrian

deity, **god of riches; hence riches, wealth**"; μαμωνᾶς is transliterated from Aramaic [ܡܡܢ] and also means "**wealth**". The Authorised Version uses "**mammon**" for both Greek spellings. John Wycliffe used ***richessis***.

Gregory of Nyssa also asserted that mammon was another name for Beelzebub. In the 4th century, Cyprian and Jerome relate mammon to greed and **greed as "an evil master that enslaves"**, and John Chrysostom even personifies **mammon as greed**. During the Middle Ages, Mammon was commonly personified **as the demon of wealth and greed**. Thus, Peter Lombard (II, dist. 6) says, "**Riches are called by the name of a devil**, namely **mammon**, for **mammon is the name of a devil**, by which name riches are called according to the Syrian tongue. Piers Plowman also regards Mammon as a **deity**. Nicholas de Lyra, commenting on the passage in **Luke**, says: "*mammon est nomen daemonis*" (**Mammon is the name of a demon**).

Albert Barnes, in his *Notes on the New Testament*, states that mammon was a Syriac word for an **idol worshipped as the god of riches**, similar to Plutus among the Greeks, but he cited no authority for the statement. No trace, however, of any Syriac god of such a name exists, and the common literary identification of the name with a god of covetousness or avarice likely stems from Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*, where **mammon oversees a cave of worldly wealth**. Milton's *Paradise Lost* describes a **fallen angel who values earthly treasure over all other things**. Later occultist writings, such as Jacques Collin de Plancy's *Dictionnaire Infernal*, describe **mammon as Hell's ambassador to England**. For Thomas Carlyle in *Past and Present*, the "**Gospel of Mammonism**"

became simply a metaphorical personification for the **materialist spirit of the 19th century**.

Under the influence of the Social Gospel movement, American populists, progressives and "muck-rakers" during the generation of 1880-1925 used "**mammon**" with specific reference to the consolidated wealth and power of the banking and corporate institutions headquartered on Wall Street and their predacious activities nationwide.

Mammon is defined as follows:

- Money, wealth, or possessions, although it may also have meant "***that in which one trusts***".
- God of riches; hence, riches, wealth.
- Greed is an evil master that enslaves.
- Mammon, as greed.
- Riches are called by the name of a devil.
- Mammon is the name of a devil and a demon.
- An idol worshipped as the god of riches.
- Mammon oversees a cave of worldly wealth.
- A fallen angel who values earthly treasure above all other things.
- The materialist spirit of the 19th century.

Mammon is a demonic force referring to the devil himself, who values earthly treasure above all other things. He uses greed as an evil master to enslave mankind on earth to possess more earthly wealth that they can trust in or rely on. Through this spirit, mankind developed a dependency on material things, and in this way, oversees a cave of worldly wealth. The manner in which

people on earth are currently losing money, and in many cases legally, confirms this demonic force is at work by overseeing a cave of worldly wealth.

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:

John 10:10 KJV

Jesus warned mankind to beware of mammon. It is not possible to trust earthly treasures and wealth and still serve and trust in Him, our King. If we decide to trust mammon, God will not stand in our way, but then mammon must provide for us.

I wish I knew this while growing up in a Babylonian system, but we are conditioned to spontaneously believe these lies. We cannot imagine that God can supply all our needs. We believe it is impossible to find a job without a tertiary qualification.

When you are unemployed, it is impossible to provide for yourself, and in recent years, the system has replaced millions of male employees with women, *all part of the women's rights agenda*. This serves to throw down God's order of the husband as the head of the wife, just as Christ is the Head of the church.

For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Ephesians 5:23 KJV

When the roles are reversed, with women climbing the corporate ladder and men staying at home, a door is opened wide for confusion to enter. An entire generation has grown up with this ungodly order in their homes. Envy and strife follow, inviting all evil works into the household.

*For where envying and strife is, there is **confusion** and every evil work.*

James 3:16 KJV

The Jezebel Spirit enters because of the confusion. This spirit flourishes on confusion and manipulation. After a short while, the husband transforms into Ahab, becomes the weaker one in the household, and submits to his wife. This is the dilemma in our society!

THE MAMMON STRATEGY

The enemy was subtle and skilled in deceiving mankind, and caused man to lose his dominion on earth. Man yielded himself to the deceitful thoughts of Satan, who came as a serpent to the woman and questioned what God had said. **"Has God indeed said you shall not eat?"**

Now the serpent was more crafty (subtle, skilled in deceive) than any living creature of the field which the Lord God had made. And the serpent (Satan) said to the woman, "Can it really be that God has said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" Genesis 3:1 AMP

From the moment mankind lost his dominion, we have been under the attack of the enemy, whether we are aware of it or not.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Ephesians 6:12 KJV

The enemy darkens our understanding.

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

Because of our lack of maturity in the Word of God, we cannot discern good from evil.

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Hebrews 5:14 KJV

In the process, mankind has lost fundamental concepts, such as leaving an inheritance to our children's children!

A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just. Proverbs 13:22 KJV

Statistics show that household debt has dramatically increased over time. Knowing that mammon is a god of riches and a demonic force that we wrestle against, we can conclude that this is a strategy of the enemy to put the children of God in bondage. So, we are in financial bondage and are slaves again, just as the Israelites were slaves. We become the servants of whom we obey.

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death or of obedience unto righteousness? Romans 6:16 KJV

How is it that most Christians know the Scripture fairly well, but remain in bondage? Financial bondage, physical, emotional, and spiritual sickness, loss of joy and peace, are just a few things on an endless list. Opposed

to this, we see non-Christians living in freedom. Earl Pitts once asked a Jewish accountant which of his clients were more prosperous, the Christians or the Jews? The accountant answered, “**My Jewish clients, of course.**”

“You Christians tend to live out of the back of this book, while we Jews tend to live out of the front of the book. Unfortunately for Christians, most of the financial principles are in the front of the book. So, we Jews believe in and abide by these principles, while you Christians seem to ignore them and discount them because they are “Old Testament”. However, I believe that the adherence to these principles is what causes people to prosper financially.”

Craig Hills’ book, *Wealth Principles*, discusses views similar to those of his Jewish friends.

“I don't really fully understand your Christian beliefs, but from what I understand, it seems that most Christians have the idea that they can violate the basic principles described in the Bible, and then because of the grace of God extended by the sacrifice of Christ, they are forgiven and everything will be alright. Thus, it seems to me that most Christians feel that they don't have to pay any attention to the financial principles explained in Proverbs or the rest of the Old Testament, because these are part of the Law. Since Christians are in Christ and no longer under the law, they feel no need to abide by these Old Testament financial principles. On the contrary, we Jews believe that we actually have to practice and abide by these principles in the Law. So, in

my opinion and experience, abiding by the biblical financial principles produces much greater financial prosperity than ignoring and discounting them."

Christians often know the Bible by heart but violate the life principles contained in it. Because of culture and the teachings of their family, Jewish people inherently practice the principles.

Proverbs tells us that the borrower is a servant to the lender.

The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

Proverbs 22:7 KJV

Commonly, most mortgage holders (lenders) are Jewish bankers, and Christian believers are borrowers, although the Christian believers hold weekly Bible study groups about biblical financial principles. **Yet who is the master and who is the slave?** Who is making money, and who is borrowing money? The Jewish bankers choose to be the masters, and the Christian borrowers choose to be the slaves.

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

Satan gathered 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.

Mammon: "I think we can use a principle I have learned from the Bible. Proverbs 22:7 says the borrower is the slave to the lender. I already have many institutions and individuals that I am controlling from hell. They are

completely dedicated to serving me, and I control them through their love of money. So, we can use these institutions and people to make money available to borrow at interest. Those who then borrow the money become slaves to the lenders, whom we control."

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

"We don't force them at all", said **Mammon**. "People will voluntarily borrow the money."

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

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

Satan then said: "But I really 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."

Satan: "You mean to tell me that people 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!"

Again, **Mammon** countered: "Maybe not at first, but after some time, more and more will be deceived as we introduce this idea to them as normal. I believe that, eventually, we will even get their pastors and leaders to borrow for their church buildings and thus subject their institutions 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 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 as strong as you think, so much so that people will voluntarily submit themselves to be our slaves through debt. It is hard to believe that people could be so foolish and shortsighted, but perhaps you are right. Soon we will see!"

Acknowledgment: Graig Hill - Five Wealth Secrets

BREAKING THE SPIRIT OF MAMMON

People who are most influenced by the Spirit of Mammon tend to have the biggest fear about money. Jesus warned: "*You cannot serve God and mammon*" (*Matthew 6:24*). Mammon wants to rule. He is looking for servants and worshippers.

He promises everything but delivers nothing!

Jesus implied that mammon would try to take the very place of God. Mammon promises us those things that only God can give – security,

significance, identity, independence, power, and freedom. He makes us believe that money can insulate us from life's problems and that it is the answer to every situation. Considering what we have discussed, you will realise mammon is nothing more than the system of this fallen world that **stands in sharp opposition to God and His ways.**

"If money can fix your problem, you do not have a problem!"

(Robert Morris)

MY STORY

I was raised in a farm community, and I always desired to run a successful business. I planned to go to university, get a degree and then return to the farm to take it to the next level. Because of significant dry periods and cycles, my father advised me to rather enrol for post-graduate studies after completing my degree and while waiting for the drought to break. I studied for many years and received a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics. After that, the cost was just too high for me to return to the farm, and I joined as a board member while my brothers joined my father. In hindsight, I can confirm that everything in the world stands in sharp contrast and opposition to the Kingdom principles. Despite our pure motives in business, it was not good to mix the worldly financial system with Kingdom principles. I am not saying you cannot have a successful business or farm if that is what God calls you to do, but had we known these profound

truths, we might have had less growth but more peace and unity.

Instead, we expanded extremely fast, which was our downfall.

As you can see, I am not writing this merely from an academic point of view, but from experience. I am sharing the biblical way, which begins with “giving”.

Look at the following profound oppositions.

- Mammon says to buy and sell; God says to sow and reap.
- Mammon says to cheat and steal; God says to give and receive.
- Mammon wants to rule. The antichrist attempts to dominate people through economics, preventing them from buying or selling unless they submit to him (Revelation 13:17).
- The brief rule of the antichrist will be through the Spirit of Mammon.

Now that we realise the Spirit of Mammon stands in direct opposition to the Spirit of God, it makes even more sense that we cannot serve both God and mammon.

Money and mammon are not synonymous, and money is not inherently evil.

For the love of money is the root of all evil. 1 Timothy 6:10 KJV

Money is not the root of all evil. The Bible says it is the **LOVE** (the worship) of **money** that is the root of all evil. It is the idolatrous love of the Spirit of Mammon that is evil. Greed, covetousness, and selfishness are manifestations of the Spirit of Mammon. While mammon always focuses on selfishness, God's model is to give and be generous. Mammon is a

spirit, and, thus, it is talking to us all the time. *“If you have the right credit card, branded clothes, a fancy car and house, live in the right neighbourhood and know influential people, you’ll be happy and fulfilled.”*

Mammon makes you believe that having money will make people listen to you and respect you, that a broken relationship will be restored, and life will be sweet. It makes you believe you can do whatever you want, go wherever you want and live the way you desire. This spirit also gets religious. ***“If you had more money, you could really start helping people.”***

Keep in mind that Jesus never said the answer was more money. **Money is not and will never be the answer to problems.**

When we are under pressure, we need God to change our circumstances miraculously, or we need someone to bring us a truckload of money. The Spirit of Mammon always tries to position itself as a substitute for God.

“You either need God to work a miracle right now or you need more money.”

That is the lie that mammon is telling you. When considering a business idea, you may motivate it by arguing that if you had more money, you could help many people, or that you would pay for everything in cash and not fall into debt. From experience, I can honestly tell you this is a lie. You will never give when you have a lot of money. The best opportunity to give is when you are rock bottom and broke. Start giving, apply these principles and trust God with a pure heart. When we believe that most of

our problems can be solved by more money, it's a sign that we are under the influence of the Spirit of Mammon.

Robert Morris tells a touching story from his childhood. When he was a young boy, he broke his father's brand-new motorboat by unplugging a wire because of a warning signal regarding a low oil level. The engine ceased, but he told his dad that he would make a plan to find the money and replace the engine. His dad said something he would never forget.

“Son, if you think that money can solve your problems, then you do not have a problem.” If money can't fix it, God can!

The Spirit of Mammon is constantly trying to make us believe that money is the answer to our problems. God is always the answer! Please do not misunderstand this – we should not hate money, but we should love GOD. We must hate mammon – the greedy, selfish, lying, deceiving, antichrist-like spirit that operates through money worship.

Either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Matthew 6:24 KJV

We are to despise the Spirit of Mammon that is trying to take the place of God by lying to people and promising everything, but delivering nothing.

One of the most profound scriptures God showed me is that *“there are so many kinds of voices in the world and no kind is without signification.”* All the voices have meaning.

*I suppose that there are **hundreds of different languages in the world**, and all are **excellent for those who understand them**,¹¹ but to me they **mean nothing**. A person talking to me in one of these languages will*

be a stranger to me and I will be a stranger to him. ¹² *Since you are so anxious to have special gifts from the Holy Spirit, ask him for the very best, for those that will be of real help to the whole church.*

1 Corinthians 14:10-12 TLB

There are hundreds of different languages in the world, but each is only excellent to those who understand it. It has significance only when adhered to. Paul does not understand the languages of the world, because to him they mean nothing. He is a stranger to these languages, and they are foreign to him. This is profound!

Who are you listening to? Which language and voice have significance to you? That of God or of mammon? We need to discern between these voices and listen only to the voice of the Shepherd.

MY EXPERIENCE

Many people complain about money, but do you know what loneliness is? It is to possess everything you have ever dreamed of, but nobody to share it with! It is to sit in a motorboat, but there is no one to take you skiing. It is to return home after a world trip only to enter a house of strife and brokenness.

Money is never the issue. Joseph was prosperous when he stood naked on the plain, being sold as a slave. Even in jail, he was prosperous. And that is the point! When God talks about prosperity, He refers to your spirit, soul and body.

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. 3 John 1:2 KJV

TRUE RICHES

When God first talked to me about true riches, I did not quite understand what it meant. Over time, He revealed the truth to me. Understanding riches brings peace and freedom above imagination, and joy indescribable. It is my prayer that the Holy Spirit will reveal it to you, too.

God calls mammon unrighteous. He does not say money is unrighteous.

*And I say unto you, Make to **yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness**; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.¹⁰ 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.¹¹ **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 16:9-13 KJV*

Jesus calls the spirit that can rest on money an unrighteous spirit. Money can be used for either unrighteous or righteous purposes. It can be used for temporal or eternal purposes. Money that has been submitted to God, as opposed to being used to replace Him, is blessed. That's why blessed

money multiplies and is not consumed by the devourer. This money can be used for good things and for blessing others. Jesus also illustrates that we must use our money for eternal purposes. *This is what true riches are!*

True riches are people!

Everything on earth will eventually burn, and we cannot take anything with us wherever we go after death. So, the only thing on earth that is eternal is people. The human soul is eternal. Use your money to help them hear the Gospel, and they will be part of your welcoming committee when you get to heaven. Money will not welcome you in heaven, but the friends you make will receive you into your everlasting home. Just as Jesus turned water into wine, God can turn money into souls. He can transform the unrighteous mammon into true riches.

For many years, I was confused by the following scripture and waited on God to reveal its meaning to me.

*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰ but lay up for **yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: ²¹ for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matthew 6:19-21 KJV*

When we use money for righteous purposes, we are laying up treasures in heaven. That's why we need to be wise stewards of money and sow in churches and ministries that are investing in people. Use your money to help, love, feed and care for people. Investing in ministries that spread the Gospel around the globe and affect people in powerfully positive ways, both physically and spiritually, gathers treasures in heaven!

Imagine entering the Kingdom of Heaven to see a multitude of people welcoming you because your money helped to reach them across the globe. Imagine someone saying to you, *“I’m in the Kingdom because you gave to a ministry that shared Christ with me. Thank you for allowing God to turn the unrighteous mammon into a heavenly treasure.”*

Money is not inherently evil. God uses it to feed and clothe people. He uses it to facilitate and spread the Gospel to the unreached parts of the earth. This explains why the enemy of our souls works so hard to corrupt and distort our thoughts about money. The devil knows God can take temporal money and turn it into eternal souls. He knows that the more money we give to ministries, the more souls are going to be saved, the Kingdom of God is going to be advanced, and the kingdom of darkness will fail. Hell is being plundered by our offerings, and Satan knows it. The devil hates Spirit-led giving because it diminishes his kingdom and makes us more like our heavenly Father.

The enemy does not want you to know this profound truth. He doesn’t want you to get financially free. He wants to stop you from giving, so your money will not be blessed and multiplied!

If you do not have any money to give, the principles of the unrighteous mammon, stewardship and giving are still relevant to you.

You will never have money if you don’t embrace these principles.

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

We must be faithful with a little before we will be entrusted with much. Having little money makes you a perfect candidate to start giving. Be faithful with little, and God will give you more. If God can get money through you, He will get money to you! This is a principle. He knows that a person who is unjust with a little will also be unjust with more.

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? Luke 16:11-12 KJV

Do not miss the essence of Luke 16:10-12. Most people dream of bigger and better houses and cars, and there is nothing wrong with it, unless their current vehicles and houses are a neglected mess. This gives you an indication of what is going on in their lives. You will find the same mess in their houses, wardrobes and kitchens.

God laid down a principle of stewardship, and He will first test you with little before much can be released. If you cannot maintain and clean a one-bedroom apartment, how are you going to look after a three-storey house? Some people can be entrusted with large amounts of money without falling into a trap, but few can handle riches. Very few celebrities can handle the power of money!

Maybe God loves you so much that He has not released that amount of money into your life yet, knowing that you might end up being separated from Him. **Think about that!**

Earl Pitts ("Walking in financial freedom") told the story of a young boy who applied for enrolment in his company, but because he was in debt to

his father at that stage, he was not allowed to. Earl decided to help the boy, nonetheless, and asked what the arrangement for the outstanding debt was. He said there was no arrangement to pay his father back. His father confirmed that this was indeed a loan that still had to be paid back.

Debt without an arrangement to pay it back puts us in bondage. Earl taught the boy the concept of a closed circle. He told him to make an offer to his father to pay back \$5 per month. At first, his father was reluctant, as this would take a lifetime to settle the outstanding amount. But his father agreed, and the son paid \$5 each month. After eight months, the boy got a raise and could pay off his debt faster. Because he kept his circle closed, he settled the outstanding amount in less than a year.

This was a huge lesson I also had to learn. In the past, my salary covered my living costs, but as my salary increased over time, so did my living costs. With this approach, you'll find yourself in bondage sooner or later.

All that you have belongs to God. We are His stewards. Each day brings a new test to steward someone else's treasures – money. If we are not good stewards of the unrighteous mammon, how can God entrust us with His true riches – people?

This is insightful to those who are called by God into full-time ministry. You need to be a good, entrusted steward of the unrighteous mammon before God can promote you and trust you with His people! People are God's treasure, regardless of their past. God loves all, and it is not for us to judge others but to care for them, minister God's true riches to them, and bring correction in meekness and love!

*And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to **teach, patient,** ²⁵ in **meekness instructing those that oppose themselves;** if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; ²⁶ and that they may **recover themselves out of the snare of the devil,** who are **taken captive by him at his will.***

2 Timothy 2:24-26 KJV

I am currently very selective about who I spend time with and what I listen to or watch. I cannot afford to be double-minded. We cannot seek the riches of this world and still desire to teach. In meekness, we must instruct those who are captive so that they can recover themselves and escape from the snare. Many false teachers are making a lot of money by teaching the Gospel, but that should not be our focus or concern. I do not partake in conversations that condemn spiritual leaders, nor do I listen to negative comments about them. I encourage you to do the same!

FRIENDS OF MAMMON

In his book, “The Blessed Life”, Robert Morris explains how the spirits of poverty and pride become friends of Mammon, and I’d like to share this deep truth with you! Again, it is only a subtle method of the god of this world to blind us and keep us in bondage!

The **spirit of poverty** will always convince you to feel **ashamed** of the blessings of God. If you are a faithful, generous steward, you will be blessed. There is no avoiding it. The devil can’t stop you once you have become a giver, but he can definitely try to shame you for it. This is how the spirit of poverty is at work. You may think it is more active in poor

people, but it is actually the other way round. It is the rich who have a sense of shame and guilt about being blessed by God. Many believers live according to God's ways and receive blessings. Somehow, they believe they have to apologise for them. Don't ever do that! Don't allow the enemy to make you ashamed of God's blessings. Do you think God wants you to feel ashamed of His blessings? Of course not!

Now, if you are not susceptible to a poverty mentality, the enemy will try approaching you through the “**spirit of pride**”. Pride says, “**You’ve earned this stuff.** *Your hard work, ingenuity and talent have made it happen. Thus, you should be proud of the blessings you have received.*” These two spirits work from opposite ends of the spectrum but have a common root. They get you to focus on things rather than on God. We become centred on the blessings rather than on the Blessor.

- The spirit of pride says, “Wealth comes from hard work.”
- The spirit of poverty says, “Wealth comes from the devil.”
- The spirit of pride says, “You should be proud of what you have.”
- The spirit of poverty says, “You should be ashamed of yourself.”

Both are traps focusing on things rather than on God. How do you respond when someone compliments you on your watch or outfit? Pride says, “It’s imported from Europe.” Poverty says, “I got it at half price.”

The spirit of pride makes us believe we paid more than we did. The spirit of poverty wants us to think we paid less. Poverty feels the need to justify purchases and possessions because it equates blessings with evil. It causes you to believe that you are not spiritual when you spend a lot of money. ***Can you see the trap?***

OUR HEARTS MATTER

God uses physical items and possessions to test our hearts and reveal what is inside. He uses not only our own stuff, but other people's stuff as well. How we respond to someone else being blessed says a lot about the condition of our hearts. The tenth commandment forbids coveting your neighbour's possessions. Covet in Greek is "to set the heart upon", which is similar to the word "**lust**". Setting our hearts upon things is a problem, as we should set our hearts upon nothing but God. God doesn't mind that we have stuff, but He minds if stuff has us!

TESTING THE HEART

Do I trust God to meet my needs, or do I trust people? Do I get angry and resentful when people don't help me as I want them to? Do I blame others for my circumstances?

When we are looking to men rather than to God as our source of provision, we will ultimately be disappointed in people. We will become **discouraged** and **bitter**. We must also discern the spirits of pride and poverty in our lives. It is vital to our spiritual health and effectiveness in God's Kingdom that such spirits be replaced with a heart of **gratitude**. An attitude of thankfulness always acknowledges God's provision.

- Pride says, "I deserve more."
- Poverty says, "I should feel guilty."
- Gratitude says, "Thank you."

When someone says, “Wow, you have a nice house”, what is your response?

- Pride says, “We are going to build a bigger one.”
- Poverty says, “It was a foreclosure.”
- Gratitude says, “Thank you. The Lord has blessed us.”

When someone says, “That’s a nice car.”

- Pride says, “I have three of them.”
- Poverty says, “It’s a company car.”
- Gratitude says, “Thank you.”

Pride wants people to think that we paid more for something than we did. Poverty wants people to think we paid less. Gratitude doesn’t care what people think, but what God thinks. **Pride** causes us to compare **ourselves to others**. **Poverty** causes us to compare **others to ourselves**. When someone pulls up beside you in a less expensive car, Prides says, “Mine is better.” But when somebody pulls up in a more expensive car, Poverty says, “That’s a waste. He is probably a crook.”

Pride and poverty have in common that both convince us to compare ourselves to others. In sharp contrast, a person with a heart of gratitude compares himself to God and says, “Thank you.” When you compare what you have done for God (which is nothing) to what God has done for you (which is everything), your heart naturally overflows with gratitude. Don’t fall into the comparison trap. Pride says, “I earned it.” Poverty says, “I shouldn’t have it.” Gratitude says, “**I received it by grace.**”

As we have seen, the key to resisting the spirits of mammon, pride, and poverty is remembering a few things. We must remember that we were

once slaves to sin. We must remember the work God has done in us by grace and that, although we have worked hard, it has been His blessing on our lives that has produced anything good. This is what God told the children of Israel before they went into the Promised Land.

*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*

We must remember our God. He gives us the power to get wealth!

“Dear God. Please forgive me for being selfish, prideful and covetous. Please forgive me for listening to the unholy spirits of mammon, pride, and poverty. In the Name of Christ Jesus, I break them off me, off my family and off my descendants. From this day on I declare and decree that I will be generous, and an extravagant giver to the kingdom of God in Jesus Name. Amen!”

Acknowledgment: Robert Morris: “A Blessed Life”

THE NEW WORLD ORDER

I'd like to touch on biblical prophecies of a new world order. As Nimrod tried to establish a new world order after the flood, so did the Pharaoh in the time of Joseph, Nebuchadnezzar again in the time of Daniel, then Alexander in Greece and the Romans during the time of Jesus' crucifixion. As God came down and destroyed the Tower of Babylon, so He will return to destroy the New World Order of the UN. This deception will come through our political, religious and banking systems.

In Revelation, it speaks of the beast rising out of the sea (a political figure) and another beast coming up out of the earth (a religious figure), which will force all nations under one government and one religious system. This one world order will also introduce a one-currency system to be used over the entire world.

*And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a **beast rise up out of the sea**, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.*
Revelation 13:1 KJV

*And I beheld **another beast coming up out of the earth**; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.* Revelation 13:11 KJV

God is in control, and He has been working things out since the beginning. All this is to allow the son of perdition (the antichrist), Satan himself, to assemble the nations and their riches in one place, so that the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords can destroy them all at once.

Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy. Zephaniah 3:8 KJV

All the gold and silver will be destroyed when Yashuah returns with His armies of heaven for the battle of Armageddon.

*And Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the heathen round about shall be **gathered together, gold, and silver, and apparel, in great abundance.*** Zechariah 14:14 KJV

Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. Zechariah 14:3 KJV

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. ¹² His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. ¹³ And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. Revelation 19:11-16 KJV

If you trust in your wealth, it will very soon be destroyed!



PART 2: BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

INTRODUCTION

The second part of the “Gift of Giving” is about the biblical principles God laid down for us to prosper. There is a huge misconception about Kingdom Wealth and Kingdom Finances. A good understanding of the foundation of giving, as discussed in the first part of this book, will illuminate the principles in this part.

Once the enemy has darkened 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

The reason for the darkening of our understanding is to keep us in captivity. Satan is the father of lies. He has been a thief and a murderer from 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 of 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. Do not allow old ideas to keep you from seeing the truth. May the Holy Spirit open your

heart to these truths, because the truth will set you free, and it will change your life forever. Amen!

THE PRINCIPLE OF “GOD FIRST”

God has laid down profound principles and laws for us to give, but also to walk in divine wealth. The most important law God has laid down, I believe, is the principle of “**FIRST**”.

God says, “***I am the King and I am FIRST***”. If He is not first in our lives, we can be likened to a fish out of water that has died. Nobody killed it, but it died because it was taken out of the medium it was created to live in, which is water, in this case. Likewise, when you do not put God first, you will self-destruct and die. God cannot be blamed, since you have removed yourself from the medium you were designed to love in!

This is a law like the law of gravity. Gravity was created for our benefit, but when the law of gravity is violated, the same law that was created to keep us alive is responsible for our death. God wants us to put Him first in everything we do. “Put Me First! I am your KING!”

*In everything you do, **put God first**, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success.* Proverbs 3:6 TLB

The reason Adam and Eve did not realise they were naked was that they were so God-conscious that they did not even think about themselves. God wants us to know, acknowledge and recognise Him as our King, and wants us to honour Him with our wealth and everything we own. Let us

give the first to Him - the first of our crops, livestock and income. He is our King, and wants only the best!

Let us read the following scriptures in various translations.

*Trust in and rely confidently on the Lord with all your heart And do not rely on your own insight or understanding. ⁶ In all your ways **know and acknowledge and recognize Him**, And He will make your paths straight and smooth [removing obstacles that block your way]. ⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord [with reverent awe and obedience] and turn [entirely] away from evil. ⁸ It will be health to your body [your marrow, your nerves, your sinews, your muscles--all your inner parts] And refreshment (physical well-being) to your bones. ⁹ Honor the Lord with **your wealth** And with the **firstfruits of all your crops (income)**; ¹⁰ Then your barns will be **abundantly filled** And your **vats will overflow** with new wine. Proverbs 3:5-10 AMP*

*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. Proverbs 3:5-10 MSG*

*In all thy ways **acknowledge him**, and he shall direct thy paths. ⁷ Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. ⁸ It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. ⁹ 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 3:6-10 KJV

Our King gave His First-Born Son as a sacrifice without blemish, as required in the Old Testament.

For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. Romans 5:10 KJV

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16 KJV

By this sacrifice, we are also sanctified!

And we know [with great confidence] that God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan] for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan and purpose.²⁹ For those whom He foreknew [and loved and chose beforehand], He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son [and ultimately share in His complete sanctification], so that He would be the firstborn [the most beloved and honored] among many believers. Romans 8:28-29 AMP

That is why the Lord can, without reasoning, demand from us to seek first the Kingdom of God, with a promise that to those who obey the King's commands, all other things **shall be added**.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33 KJV

If you have entered the Kingdom through a true born-again experience, you have also been raised with Jesus Christ from the dead into a new life, and it is not possible to walk after the flesh anymore. Our minds are not on temporal things, but on the King and His heavenly things!

Therefore if you have been raised with Christ [to a new life, sharing in His resurrection from the dead], keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.² Set your mind and keep focused habitually on the things above [the heavenly things], not on things that are on the earth [which have only temporal value]. Colossians 3:1-2 AMP

We should love the Lord with everything we have.

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. Matthew 22:37 KJV

We cannot afford to lose our focus and walk in the flesh. We should become so focused on God that nothing else matters.

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. Romans 8:5 KJV

Putting God first means it is impossible to share Him with anything else!

No man 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. Matthew 6:24 KJV

Just as God requires of us to put Him first in our lives, He also gives the same principle of "**first**" to us and requires the first of whatever we receive.

He takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servants! Remember, the wealth of the King is measured in the wealth of His servants. This is profound!

Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant. Psalm 35:27 KJV

God does not need anything from us, as everything already belongs to Him. The principles He laid down are to help us prosper.

How can this be? God knows mankind's heart and uses the unrighteous mammon to teach us righteousness. In our spirit, we are just as generous as the King because we were created according to the image and likeness of our Father. He is a giver, and He wants to establish the same attitude in our hearts. It is much better to give than to receive!

*Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more **blessed to give than to receive.** Acts 20:35b KJV*

The firstfruit offering found its fulfilment in Jesus.

*But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the **firstfruits** of them that slept. 1 Corinthians 15:20 KJV*

Jesus' resurrection has paved the way for our resurrection. Significantly, if Jesus was killed on Passover, His resurrection on the third day would fall on Nissan 16—the Feast of First Fruits.

First fruits are mentioned in several ways in the New Testament. Romans 8:23 says, "*Not only the creation but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits*

of the spirit..." As in other passages, Paul uses "firstfruits" as a metaphor for the **first appearance of a promised blessing**. Here, it is the Holy Spirit, the Helper, whom Jesus promised in John 14:26. The first followers of Jesus were also the first to experience the blessing of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. They received the "firstfruits" of the Holy Spirit's work in their lives.

Paul makes a confusing statement about the rejection of Jesus by the Jews.

For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: ¹⁴if by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them. ¹⁵For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead? ¹⁶For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. Romans 11:13-16 KJV

It was always God's intention to bring salvation to the Gentiles (non-Jews). It was not His plan that the Jews would reject that salvation. But since they have, God hopes that His new relationship with the Gentiles will make the Jews jealous and envious and cause them to desire that relationship for themselves. Apparently, some Gentile Christians turned their acceptance of Christ into pride and harassed the Jewish Christians. God is for all, and the believing Gentiles should not have treated the few Jewish Christians arrogantly.

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

The phrasing is odd, but it's believed that the "**dough**" refers to the first Jewish Christians and the "**whole lump**" to Jews in general, meaning that God did not abandon the Jewish nation indefinitely. If the first Jewish Christians were redeemable, then the Gentiles had to remember that every Jew was redeemable. "*Firstfruits*" is used as a metaphor to mean the **first part of the harvest** of Jewish souls that are to be saved through Christ's sacrifice.

1 Corinthians 15:20 and 23 refer to Jesus as the "firstfruits" of those who will be raised from the dead. He is the firstborn Son of the Father, and His resurrection is the first of the promise that all who follow Him will also be raised. He is a guarantee of our future blessing.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 and James 1:18 call New Testament saints "firstfruits". They were the first to follow Christ, as a promise that there would be more to come. In fact, James 1:18 infers that the Christians in the early church were the "firstfruits" of all of creation and the promise that creation itself will be restored.

The final mention of first fruits in the Bible is in Revelation 14:4. It speaks of the 144 000 Jewish witnesses who will spread the Gospel during the Tribulation. They will have a special role in Heaven and are claimed by God and Jesus as special representatives of those who are saved.

Although the term "firstfruits" is used in the New Testament, it does not refer to giving, whether to the Temple or the church. **It acts as a metaphor to mean those who experience God's blessing first or especially.**

“Firstfruits” symbolises God’s harvest of souls. It illustrates giving to God from a grateful heart, and it sets a pattern of giving back to Him the first (and the best) of what He has given us. Not being under the Old Testament Law, the Christian is under no further obligation than to **give cheerfully** and **liberally**.

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. ⁷ Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 KJV

Paul taught the Corinthian believers to set aside a collection on the first day of the week and, just as the offering of first fruits was an occasion of thanksgiving, so the Christian is to give with gladness.

*Upon the first day of the week let every one of you **lay by him in store**, as **God hath prospered** him, that there be no gatherings when I come.*

1 Corinthians 16:2 KJV

BLESSED OR CURSED

I want to clarify the concepts of **“blessing”** and **“curse”**. Many will say that New Testament believers are not under the curse, as we are now living under God's grace. I also found this confusing, and to be honest, God gave me understanding by revelation, and I pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal the truth to you as well. **“Blessing”** is the consequence of obedience, and **“curse”** is the consequence of disobedience.

This might sound surprising, but it ties in perfectly with the truth about Kingdom Finances that God revealed to me. The principles are the same as those needed to be healed of sicknesses and diseases. Jesus bore our sins, sickness, sorrow, pain and shame on the cross. Scripture tells us we have been redeemed from the curse of the law.

Christ purchased our freedom [redeeming us] from the curse (doom) of the Law [and its condemnation] by [Himself] becoming a curse for us, for it is written [in the Scriptures], Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree (is crucified); [Deut. 21:23.] Galatians 3:13 AMPC

Without a doubt, Jesus bore all of those things and more on the cross. God Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness.

*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: **by whose stripes ye were healed.** 1 Peter 2:24 KJV*

Notice the past tense – we **were** healed. God used this verse to reveal the truth to me.

Have you sinned since you became a believer?
Have you been sick since you became a Christian?

Isaiah prophesied and Matthew quoted that Jesus took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.

That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

Matthew 8:17 KJV

The question remains - why do we still get sick? Why do we still struggle under the curse of sickness? We are saved by grace through faith, **not by grace alone!** Yes, the Lord paid the price so we do not have to be lost, sick or living in financial poverty.

*For by **grace are ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:* Ephesians 2:8 KJV

If we continue living under grace but without faith, we will experience some effects of the curse. God still loves us very much and does not curse us, but He cannot override His own words, laws, and statutes.

If we disobey the Word of God, we can still experience the effects of the curse. This applies to our finances just as surely as it does to our physical bodies. Can we, if we wilfully violate God's principles of first fruits, see our finances come under a curse? Yes, we can. I experienced it in my life!

God does not force us to do anything. He always gives us a choice. This is really profound, and I hope you are grasping the importance. God sets before us “**life**” and “**death**”, “**BLESSING**” and “**CURSE**”. What do we choose?

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live. Deuteronomy 30:19 KJV

The ISV says that after God has set life and death, blessing and curse before us, He also directs us and says:

***Choose life**, that it may be well with you—you and your children.*

Deuteronomy 30:19b ISV

God gives us the reason for instructing us to choose life – that it may be well with us and our children. Praise God!

While I was writing these truths, I was stuck between the two beliefs that we cannot be cursed and that we can be cursed. I asked God for understanding of the truth, and He reminded me of these verses.

*For by **grace are ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.* Ephesians 2:8 KJV

I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life. Deuteronomy 30:19 KJV

Grace alone does not save us. We also need to believe and have faith in His promises. Likewise, God gives us the choice, and He will not force anything onto us.

The good news is that we have the wonderful promise of Malachi 3 that God will “**rebuke the devourer**”.

And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. Malachi 3:11 KJV

What a wonderful God we serve. When we obey His commandments and co-operate with Him, we come under **His blessings** and live a blessed life.

A **very important point** I would like to stress here is that when I refer to giving, first fruits, and tithing as laws, I am not referring to them as the Messianic Law of Moses in the Torah of the Old Testament, but as governing laws. They are laws, such as the law of gravity.

God's grace is really amazing. Yet, few Christians truly understand what grace is or how it operates. For one thing, the righteousness of grace always exceeds the righteousness of the law, as we see in Matthew 5.

*Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, **but to fulfill**.¹⁸ For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.¹⁹ Whosoever, therefore, shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.²⁰ For I say unto you, **That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.** Matthew 5:17-20 KJV*

A HIGHER STANDARD

Every time Jesus points to an Old Covenant law, He sets a higher standard under the New Covenant of Grace. Exodus 20:13 commanded

not to commit murder, but in Matthew 5:22, Jesus says anyone angry at his brother is in danger of judgment. This is an even higher standard!

The law prohibits adultery (Exodus 20:14), but Jesus says to not even look at a woman lustfully (Matthew 5:28). This is a higher standard!

The righteousness that grace demands (Jesus is Grace) goes further than that which the law demands.

Can you still say, “I am not tithing because I am not under the law, but under grace?” By saying that, you must give according to the law of grace. This means you must give more than 10%!

THE PRINCIPLE OF FIRST FRUITS

My search for the truth about Kingdom Finances (giving, tithing and first fruits) ended in confusion. I reached a dead end because of the differing viewpoints of the three main groups.

The **first group** believes you are to tithe as God instructed, and failing to do so means you are robbing God and living under a financial curse. The **second group** tithes but does not believe that New Testament believers could be under a curse. The **third group** does not tithe at all, as they believe this is an Old Testament concept.

God showed me through the writings of Dr Henry Wright how sickness and disease are still a reality in believers' lives. When we disobey God's Word and yield ourselves under another law, in this case, ***the law of sin***,

sickness and disease enter our lives. Is it God who curses us with sickness? **Most definitely NOT.** But why are we still sick if the Word of God tells us that Christ purchased our freedom and redeemed us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse for us?

Christ purchased our freedom [redeeming us] from the curse (doom) of the Law [and its condemnation] by [Himself] becoming a curse for us, for it is written [in the Scriptures], Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree (is crucified); [Deut. 21:23.] Galatians 3:13 AMPC

Jesus became a curse for us. Why are we then living in poverty when we violate the financial laws God put in place for our benefit? Why are we in constant financial poverty, even when we make millions? This should prove something to us.

Many people who don't obey these financial laws live in poverty. But I have never seen a believer truly living by these Kingdom financial laws, not walking in abundance. Do not be trapped by circular reasoning about this, and allow yourself to stay stuck in financial bondage. *That is where the enemy wants you to be.*

Using scriptures, we will give life-changing answers to these questions. **God showed me how sickness and disease operate. Everything else, including money, prosperity, and wealth, works the same.**

SACRIFICED OR REDEEMED

God established a very important precedent in Exodus 13.

*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

The firstborn are His. They belong to Him.

*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 either sacrificed or redeemed. There was no alternative. Every time a livestock animal delivered its firstborn, it was to be sacrificed. If it was designated unclean, it had to be redeemed by a clean, spotless lamb.

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

Jesus was God's Firstborn Son. He was clean, perfect and unblemished in every way. On the other hand, each one of us was born as an unclean sinner with a fully active sin nature. The law God gave in Exodus 13 required that every clean firstborn animal was to be sacrificed, but if the firstborn was unclean, it was to be redeemed by a clean animal. God laid everything down for us perfectly, and even He cannot violate His own laws.

Jesus Christ, the Firstborn of God the Father, was born as a pure, spotless Lamb. He was sacrificed to redeem us.

He redeemed us by His sacrifice to bring us back to God. He was the Firstfruits Offering. In a very real sense, ***He was the Father's tithe***. God gave His ***tithe*** in faith before we ever believed. He gave Jesus to us before we 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 it down for our benefit so we can be blessed!

THE TITHE

This principle of the firstfruits offering is also known as the “***tithe***”. It is vital to understand that the concept of ***tithing*** is much deeper than just an Old Testament ***tenth of our income***. It is a principle of “***firstfruits offering***”, and just as God the Father gave Jesus as His ***Tithe***, similarly, we should give our tithe to the Lord! God gave Jesus in faith so He 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 still sinners mocking Him and spitting in His face while He

was dying. God didn't wait to see if we would first change or 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. He paid the price in full; even so, many do not come to collect and accept this precious gift of eternal life.

All the firstborn died in the final plague described in Exodus, because God had a legal right to take every firstborn. Every firstborn of the Egyptians and Israelites belonged to Him. But the firstborn of Israel didn't die that night, because a lamb was sacrificed to redeem them. A spotless, perfect lamb took their place. God instructed Moses to apply the blood of the 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 very powerful. Every first thing given is never lost, but every 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

We find this principle throughout the Bible.

Tithing is giving our first to God!

By tithing, we declare we are giving God the "first" and are trusting Him to redeem the rest. It always requires **faith**. We give Him the first of our flock and trust Him that there will be enough left. This means giving to God first, even **before** we see whether there is enough left. By tithing, we say, **"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 to prove that God is first. The first portion is the redemptive portion. When the first portion is given to God, the rest is redeemed.

FIRST OF THE FIRST

The firstborn belongs 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. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.*

Exodus 23:19 KJV

God goes further by explaining how His laws of blessing work. Not only does He want the first fruits, but the first of the first fruits belong to Him. This means **the last of your first fruits isn’t acceptable**. It’s not the tenth portion of your first fruits that counts, but the **first portion of your first fruits**. The 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 Israelites were instructed to take over Jericho, the Lord declared that all the spoils from Jericho belonged to Him. Why did He say that all the silver and gold had to be given to the Lord’s house? Because it was the first city conquered in the Promised Land. It was the first fruits. They had to bring the first fruits to His house and could keep the rest. It took faith for them to do so, and so does tithing.

However, there was a man named Achan who took some spoils for himself and became accursed (Joshua 6:18). Throughout the Bible, the tithe is either consecrated or cursed. It is consecrated when given to the Lord and the Lord's House, but cursed when taken for ourselves, because it is then stolen.

ARE WE ROBBING GOD?

In the well-known Malachi 3, God says that we are robbing Him if we keep the tithe to ourselves. But, not only the tithe, also the 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 it is from the Old Testament, so we 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 the New Testament believers missing something important?

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

When God says that we are robbing Him, it means we are taking from Him that which has a considerable volume.

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

If God does not change (Malachi 3:6), when did the requirements supposedly change? Many other things under the law are still valid for the New Testament believers under grace. Adultery was forbidden under the law. Is it acceptable under grace? There are eternal principles throughout the Word of God, and tithing is one of them. **The first fruits, the firstborn, and the tithe belong to God.**

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 sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden, He still ministered to them. He was still instructing Cain and Abel and laid down the principle of offerings. When they brought their offerings, God could not accept Cain's offering. **You might be surprised that** the reason God could not accept it was that Cain did not apply God's principle of first fruits.

Let us explore this in the Scripture. Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock, as the Lord had instructed them to do.

*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

But see what the previous verse says about Cain's offering.

*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 when and what to bring to the Lord (*in the process of time*). This was not a firstfruits offering, but an offering under his own terms and conditions. God could not accept it, because He never goes against His word. Violating 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

The tithe is our first fruit and must be first.

*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

ABRAHAM AND MELCHIZEDEK

A full 430 years before tithing was a part of the Mosaic law, Abraham tithed to Melchizedek. Abraham is our spiritual father, and Melchizedek is a type of Jesus Christ. Some prominent Bible teachers believe he might even

have been 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

In Hebrews, Melchizedek is a type of Christ.

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

Chapter 7 shows how Jesus is the fulfilment of all the types and shadows embodied in Melchizedek. It 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, our spiritual father, tithed to Melchizedek, who was either Jesus Christ or a symbolic representation of Christ. Moreover, this occurred 430 years before the law.

When you tithe, you may think you are giving it to your local church, but in a very real, spiritual sense, true tithers have their offerings received by the Lord Jesus in heaven. Wow!

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 lives, as the scripture says.

Hebrews 7:8 GNB

What a privilege! What a holy thing! And what a loss for those who 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

This promise came 400 years before the law! Like his grandfather, Abraham, Jacob wanted to give God the first 10% of his first fruits. Having experienced the sweetness of God's presence and the goodness of His favour, Jacob wanted to bless Him. It was a heart thing. We need to

reach a point where the tithe is a way of living and not just a law. This point will be one of the greatest joys of your life.

BEING PROSPEROUS

In Leviticus, God considered the tithe holy. 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 God's tithe, and it is not for us to determine what to do with it.

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

Once you understand that the tithe is holy, you wouldn't want it in your house! You would want to get it to the house of God, where it belongs. You won't use part of it for your vacation or your children's school tuition. Holy means set apart!

*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”

Matthew 23 convinces me without a doubt that we have to tithe.

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

*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

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of

the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Matthew 23:23 KJV

Jesus confirms the tithe in this most amazing scripture. No one with a soft heart towards God could negate this.

Someone told Robert Morris that he believed the phrase “*these ought ye to have done*” referred to justice, mercy, and faith. Robert replied, “Let’s assume you are right – then what does the rest of the verse say? ‘*Without leaving the others undone?*’” See, I’ve got you either way. This is Jesus speaking here. Even the original text in the Greek language is very specific that Jesus was talking about the tithe.

Of course, tithing isn’t a grim duty. It isn’t a dry religious exercise, and it isn’t a punishment. It is an amazing opportunity that brings tremendous benefits to the tither.

BLESSED

When the people started to bring the tithe to the House of the Lord in the time of Hezekiah, an amazing story unfolded. When he saw how much they had given, Hezekiah was concerned that they might not have enough 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

The priest informed the king that since they had started tithing, the Lord had blessed the people even more so that they had enough leftovers for themselves. Not only had it blessed God's people, but it also brought provision into God's house. King Hezekiah commanded the people to bring in the tithe so that the priests might devote themselves to studying the Word of God.

Bring ye all the tithes (the tenth) into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house. Malachi 3:10 KJV

IT MUST BE FIRST

If your tithe is not first, God cannot accept it as a **tithe**, as with the offering of Cain. To make it practical, let's assume you receive 10 x R100 bills.

Let's agree on a 10% tithe. Now the question is which of the 10 bills is the tithe? ***You should immediately say, "The first one!"*** Ok, but which one is the first one?

Is it possible to give 10% or even more of your income and still not be tithing under God's principle? ***Absolutely.*** And herein lies the mystery of ***giving***. **The tithe is the first note that leaves your hand.** The first one that you spend or hand out represents your ***first fruits***. This is where the act of faith comes in. Giving the last R100 after all has been paid is not faith. The first portion we spend, the first amount going out of our account, should be the tithe. The first portion is the redemptive portion. It 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 that go along with tithing, but it is the principles of putting ***God first*** and of ***faith*** that initiate the blessings. They are the triggers. The first portion redeems the rest.

The first portion carries the blessing.

This concept will be critical when we discuss the principle of multiplication later on.

This concept is why you don't want to give the first portion to the mortgage company. Unfortunately, many Christians fear the banks more than they fear God. We respect them more than we respect the Lord. The thither

says, ***“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.”***

Much more than money was at stake when God asked Abraham to offer his firstborn son, Isaac. Abraham’s faith was challenged. Tithing also requires faith. In faith, we must give God the first of what we have. When God asked for the firstborn lamb, Israel had to give it in faith, with the promise and hope that the ewe would produce more lambs. It is easy to say we are putting God first, but tithing proves our words to be true. It is not what we say that is our testimony of faith, but what we do.

Unless God is first in our lives, our marriages, health, finances, family, job, career, or ministry will not be in order. Our bank accounts prove who is first in our lives. Our spending patterns will prove who is first.

When you are a tither, you can say with confidence to the accuser: *“I am a tither and God’s Word says that He will rebuke the devourer for my sake. God is first in my life, and He is redeeming and protecting everything else in my life.”*

A lack of understanding of these profound principles prevents us from walking in God’s blessings. Paul instructs us to give every week in relation to what we 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

We should give to God in direct proportion to the size of our paychecks. The reason churches have so many special offerings and fundraising activities is that the members are not bringing God's tithe to the storehouse.

PASSING IT DOWN

God instructed Israel to pass down the principle of the firstborn to future generations, so that, when the children ask about the firstborn lambs being sacrificed, they could say, “**Let me tell you about Egypt.**”

*And it shall be when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, **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*

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

I have come a long way. As the saying goes: “It is not about where we are, but where we come from.” Although I had been serving the Lord my

entire life, many hidden sins kept me in bondage, and I had to be delivered out of Egypt by the mighty right hand of the Lord. My whole life changed after that. My heart changed toward God, and He revealed more truths to me. I now gladly give God the first of everything He blesses me with - my first thought, my first act, my first word. He is now first in my daily walk, and I gladly hand over to Him my first fruits.

Maybe you have not yet tasted deliverance. Maybe you have not experienced what it is like to stand at the Red Sea with mighty warrior soldiers behind you, and to be overcome by anxiety because there is no way of escape. Maybe you have not yet experienced God separating the mighty waters of the Red Sea so you can walk through on dry land, your enemies being destroyed behind you. Unless you have experienced such deliverance, your heart cannot consider this deep truth! (See my "New Song of Victory" in the book, "Dispensation".)

We should not give out of duty or compulsion. We gladly give our tithe because we want to prove that He is first in our lives. 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.

Acknowledgment: Robert Morris

WHERE SHOULD I GIVE?

*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. [Mal. 2:2.] Malachi 3:10 AMPC

In the Old Testament, the tithe was given towards the work of God or brought directly to the Temple. The tithe was directed to the ministers. That was how God supported those who were doing His work.

...to give what was due to the priests and descendants of Levi, so they could be strengthened in the LORD's Law. 2 Chronicles 31:4b ISV

Most pastors teach that the storehouse is your local church and every other institution meant to be supported by offerings. Offerings are over and above the tithe. But there are three options where we can give.

1. Wherever you are being fed spiritually. Technically, a storehouse is where you keep your food. So, give your tithe where you are being fed, even if it is not your local church.

2. Your local church. Churches do more than teach the Word. It fosters the community and is an important part of spiritual growth. We need the maturity that comes through fellowshiping with other believers. Churches offer one-on-one counselling and also marriage counselling. Local pastors help us deal with grief and get us through hard times. The local church does much more than a TV or a travelling minister could do. If you are part of a good local church that is preaching the Word, helping widows and orphans and doing what a godly church is supposed to do, you should tithe at that church.

3. Other options. Many churches do not preach the true Gospel or do the right things. How would you know that your local church is putting God first? Look at their bank accounts and financial statements!

Few local churches and ministries understand these principles. When you peruse the budgeting and financial statements of these institutions, you soon realise that the vision and spending patterns do not line up. I believe it is because those who lead do not have a personal testimony of God's supernatural provision.

In his book, "The Blessed Life", Robert Morris shares many stories of how God miraculously and supernaturally moved in people's lives when they obeyed His instructions. What struck me was when Robert shared what he believed was the reason for their church and ministry being so blessed. The Lord led them to bless the Jewish people, and now the very first cheque each month goes to Jewish evangelism. According to Romans 11:15, there will be a worldwide revival when the Jewish people accept their Messiah. They take the Gospel to the Jews first (Romans 1:16), and it is visible in their bank account.

Robert told his business pastor, "On the first day of every month, I want you to write a check 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 check we write each month is not to the electric company or even to pay the staff – the first check we write is for Jewish evangelism." He says, "Our very first service is for the Jewish people. We give in 42 countries all over the world. We are taking the gospel to everyone, but we're taking it to Jewish people first. This is God's prescribed order. When

we give to the Jewish people first, the rest is blessed. I believe that's why God has blessed us as a church. Because we decided to give to the Jews first."

Because of a lack of good options, many attend churches that are not good. A good local church meets the needs of its members.

IT MATTERS WHERE YOU PLANT YOUR SEED

People believe that they will reap a benefit from their giving, regardless of what their money is used for. But that's NOT true. This attitude will make you a poor farmer. A farmer cannot cast seed onto a pavement and expect a harvest. We should not sow our money into something we do not agree with. You should tithe where you are being spiritually fed. We should not support false teaching and lies.

To a degree, your return depends on how fruitful the soil is into which you are sowing. Many preachers are begging for money or performing emotional coercion. The Body of Christ is empowering those preachers and perpetuating their manipulation by giving money to support them.

PARTNERSHIP

Someone I know meditated on Philippians 4 for a year to trust God to break strongholds in his life.

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

We need to look at the entire chapter to discover the deeper meaning. Paul wrote this letter to people who partnered with him in spreading the Gospel. He was talking about the special blessing of partnership.

*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 here means “**koinonia**”, which is **partnership**. Paul was thanking the Philippians for their partnership in spreading the Gospel. They gave more to Paul than any other church did. They were eager to care for him and provide for his needs.

*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 regular supporters of Paul as he carried the Good News to other areas around the world. For about three years, his location was

constantly changing. He was imprisoned in Jerusalem and shipwrecked on his way to Rome. They did not always know where to send their money. The moment they heard he was in Rome, they sent him clothes, finances, and supplies. They were eager to help him.

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

Paul learned to live a life of abundance. No other churches assisted him financially to preach the Gospel, but the Philippians! The word Paul used in verse 15 is "**communicated**", which suggested **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

*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

And you Philippians yourselves well know that in the early days of the Gospel ministry when I left Macedonia, no church (assembly) entered

into a **partnership** with me and ***opened up [a debit and credit] account in giving and receiving except you only***. Philippians 4:15 AMPC

Many churches helped him, but as soon as he left their towns, he was on his own again. Only the Philippians blessed Paul 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

The Philippians were helping Paul to establish God's Kingdom. He rejoiced because he knew God was prospering him to establish His covenant. Paul understood that their giving would result in a supernatural return because God always provides seed for the sowers.

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, “**God will supply all MY needs**”, which is true because God does supply our needs, but in this context, it is all about ***partnership*** with somebody to bring the Gospel to the world. When you partner, *God will supply **YOUR** needs!*

The Lord wants to bless us. He sends the sun and rain on the just and the unjust alike (Psalm 35:27; Matthew 5:45; 3 John 2). But Philippians 4:19 talks about people who partnered with Paul in sharing the

Gospel and helping to establish God's covenant upon the earth. They were not just giving, but they were also receiving from him.

If you really want to be blessed, partner with a ministry that has a big vision and is doing a great job at spreading the Gospel. Money passes through the hands of the partners first, and as the money passes through, there will be plenty left for you. The best way to prosper is by partnering with a ministry that is powerfully anointed by God. This is why 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 this person go around the world and spread the Gospel", God can prosper you to do that. He gives money to people who will use it 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 over for the giver. When you partner with a ministry and give deliberately, you can partake of the blessings of that ministry. It is not about partnering to receive, but about helping you to get where you want to go. When you do that, it starts a supernatural flow of God's finances towards you so that you can meet your own needs and also abound in 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, the motives of the heart are more important than the gift itself. When your heart is right, partnering with a ministry to spread 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 cannot prosper in God's economy until we start sowing into His Kingdom.

MY TEST

For the past 13 months, I have been sitting in my office studying the Word of God and reading many books. At one point, I was reading some astonishing Bible truths shared by Andrew Wommack, and I decided to write him an email.

Ever since my childhood, I've had this deep desire to be a pastor, but for some reason, I never studied theology. In 2000, I heard the Lord's voice calling me into full-time ministry. In 2010, we decided to sell everything we owned. At that point, I received a prophecy that a buyer was on his way and that the money for our farm would be for ministry.

In June 2013, the Lord spoke to me from Deuteronomy 10 and said, "As the Levites were involved in temple service, so I am calling you for My service. I want you to bless my people to whom I will send you. The Levites did not own any land, and neither will you possess any land again. Be faithful to ME and I will provide for all your needs."

After my email to Andrew, God tested my heart more than once. In a vision, I saw how God sold the property and put a substantial amount of money in my hand. 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".

The next morning, I realised it was a personal test for me. I told my wife about the vision, but struggled to speak as the emotions took over. Imagine arriving in a foreign country, giving everything away and trusting God to be your provider? It was a hard test for me, and it took me a few weeks to clear this issue with the Lord.

We must trust God fully as the One who supplies our needs.



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 Kingdom Finance teachings I have read, I would recommend this book above all others.

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 traveling 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 is the largest love offering this little church has 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 I You 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 check?” 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?" I replied to him: "She left it out in the car." Then in a low voice the man said: "The check 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 check. The amount to the penny – 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.

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 by saying that the people needed to rest and get something to eat, He responded, “**You give them something to eat**”. 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 in considering 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 the people into groups of 50. They were probably trying to figure out how Jesus was going to provide for these 5 000 households (which were 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.

Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, **looked up to heaven and blessed them**. He **broke them in half** and then **into 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 baskets of leftovers, and the disciples each received a "doggy bag" to take home!

PRINCIPLE 1: 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

The principles of putting God first and of faith initiate the blessing. The first portion carries the blessing. When we give the first, our tithe, the rest is blessed. By doing so, your money can now multiply. Jesus, who receives our tithes, is the only One who has the power to bless them so they can multiply. This is the first principle of multiplication.

PRINCIPLE 2: ONLY WHAT IS GIVEN AWAY CAN MULTIPLY

After Jesus had blessed the bread, it had the potential to multiply. If, at that point, they ate 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 having their fill, with 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 have plenty left over for yourself!

GIVING

This brings us to the next very important part of the gift of giving! There is a difference between “**tithing**” and “**giving**”. Tithing is not giving! When examining scriptures, we see that **tithing is simply returning to God what is His anyway**. The Word says to bring all the tithes into the storehouse. Giving our first fruits, our first 10% to the Lord, is what causes what is left to be blessed. The Lord laid down this principle (law) in the harvest patterns of 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 about harvesting. 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. "You are not to boil a young goat in its mother's milk." Exodus 23:19 ISV*

The first fruits point to Jesus as a firstfruit 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 specifically referred to the corners, instructing the owner of the field not to harvest them but to leave them 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 that were captured by Satan to the Father as a first fruit.

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 John. When Jesus first appeared to Mary, He told 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 took all the saints since the beginning of mankind, ascended to the Father and presented them as first fruits. Later, Jesus stood among the disciples and invited Thomas to touch His wounds so he could believe. Jesus could be touched then, 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 what doesn't belong to you. The first fruits are the Lord's, and the rest is yours to keep or give away as you choose. The portion that you give away is your offering. Malachi 3 speaks of the **tithes** and **offerings**! Tithing isn't giving. It is returning to the Lord what belongs to Him. Thus, the second principle of multiplication is that finances over and above the tithe must be shared before they can be multiplied.

In Matthew 25, Jesus tells a parable of three stewards.

*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

One steward doubled the amount entrusted to Him, and the Lord called him a good and faithful servant. The last servant returned to the Lord only 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 ISV

It does not mean that you are lazy if you only tithe and do not give, but it illustrates that we are supposed to give over and above our tithe. If you are currently tithing, that is the right place to start. Tithing breaks the curse and brings the blessing on the balance of our finances. Tithing causes God to rebuke the devourer and opens the windows of heaven. It is the

foundation on which giving is built. When God said we are robbing Him, He referred to the tithe 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 ISV*

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

**We give to the Lord first so that 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 firstly returning the tithe to the Lord so that He can bless it and redeem the portion we keep. Secondly, we need to give away a part, which will be multiplied by God. This is the difference between tithes and giving.

PAINFUL GIVING

There is also a third level of giving called a "**painful offering**", which is extravagant giving. Let us see what the scriptures say. King David gave an extravagant offering for the building of the temple. He knew he would

not build it, but Solomon would. Still, he 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 large sums of money. On a single day, they gave 190 tons of gold and 375 tons of silver. Combined, these 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

*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

(1 Kings 3:4-5) and said, “**Ask me anything!**” God appeared to him on the same night he had offered this huge sacrifice.

When Abraham was ready to sacrifice his son Isaac, the Bible says that 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 extravagant and painful giving as a sacrifice to God!

A sacrificial seed will cost you. See the story of the widow in Mark 12:41-44 and of David in 1 Chronicles 21:23.

Here are more examples of people who sowed sacrificial seeds of faith.

- **Hannah.** She promised to give God her son if only He would let her conceive - 1 Samuel 1:11.
- **The widow of Zarephath.** She gave up the last plate of food that would save her and her son from starvation, and 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.

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

You might think the people mentioned 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 from her because she sacrificed all she had. Hers 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

The amount you give is not what matters, but the heart with which you give!

THE FATHER'S PAINFUL GIFT

Not far from the hill where Abraham had offered up his first and only son, Isaac, God Almighty offered His first and only Son as a sacrifice for our freedom and lives. What a painful, extravagant gift!

God is generous, and He wants to make us more like Him. Jesus raised Martha and Mary's brother, Lazarus, from the dead (John 11). In the next chapter, Mary poured very expensive perfume on Jesus' feet and hair.

Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. ³ Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. John 12:1-3 ESV

Is it possible that after Jesus had raised her brother from the dead, Mary received a new perspective? If somebody were to raise your spouse or child from the dead after four days, wouldn't that change your values and priorities? Material possessions would not seem so precious anymore. Seeing what Jesus can do for the people we love changes us. Our perspectives must change as Mary's did. After all, if you know Jesus, you've been raised from the dead yourself!

Shouldn't we have the same perspective as Mary had?

*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*

JESUS' BODY ANOINTED

When Mary anointed Jesus' feet and hair with very expensive perfume, Judas complained that it could be sold and the money given 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 His crucifixion, there was no time to anoint His body with perfumed oils or spices as they normally did in biblical times. The reason for the women visiting His grave on the third day was to anoint Him, but the angels told them He had risen (Luke 24:1-5). Now, think about it! The only person on earth who had the privilege of anointing Jesus' body for burial was Mary. She didn't know it until Jesus said, "*She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial*" (Mark 14:8). Sometimes we do not realise the significance of our extravagant gifts. 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, Wheresoever 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 went on to say, "***This will make Mary famous one day. They will be talking about this for years.***" She did not even realise what she was doing. She was simply expressing her love for Him. She did not expect anything in return. Generosity doesn't give to receive, but God always

rewards it. When you give, God will bless you. Nothing can stop it. Like any good parent, God desires to reward His children.

CORNELIUS' GIFT

God revealed to me something godly from the story of the centurion captain of the Italian Regiment in Caesarea, Cornelius (Acts 10:1). The centurion was not a Jew but a Gentile, and the Gospel had not yet been spread to them. But Cornelius and his family were hungry for the Word of God. He was a devout man, and he 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.

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

The next day at noon, Peter, the very religious apostle of Jesus who was staying in Joppa at the house of Simon Peter, a tanner, 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

While in the trance, Peter saw unclean animals, which God instructed him to kill and eat. Jewish tradition forbade the eating of unclean animals, and Peter rebelled. **"Absolutely not, Lord. I have never eaten anything unclean."** This happened three times before the sheet quickly moved back into heaven. Peter was still thinking about the vision the Lord had given him when the Spirit told him that three men were looking for him.

Peter was still thinking about the vision when the Spirit told him, "Look! Three men are looking for you." Acts 10:19 ISV

The previous day, during Cornelius' vision, an angel of God told him to send men to Joppa and call for Peter.

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 ISV

The Holy Spirit told Peter that the men had come looking for him.

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

Peter went down to meet them. They told him about Cornelius' vision and invited Peter to come and preach the good news of the Gospel. The next day, Peter arrived at Caesarea and met with Cornelius.

*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 ISV*

Jewish people were not allowed to eat unclean food and were also not allowed to enter the house of a Gentile, because it would make them unclean. But the Holy Spirit convinced Peter that what God had declared clean was clean (Acts 10:15). The Spirit prepared the way for Peter, a Jew, to bring the Gospel to Cornelius, a Gentile. This is good news! We, as Gentiles, have heard the Gospel and received eternal life!

THE REAL REASON

When Cornelius responded to the Lord, the angel had a profound message!

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

Cornelius's sacrifices and acts of giving came up before the Lord as a good and fragrant aroma. God said, "Cornelius, I saw the precious gifts you gave. I saw your pure heart and your desire for Me. Now, because of your actions, I, the Lord, am opening the door to bring the Kingdom of God to you and your family and all the Gentiles."

Let us move one step further. The TLV (Tree of Life) uses the word "**tzedakah**", which brings a deeper meaning to what Cornelius did. Remember that he was not a Jew and, therefore, not bound by Jewish laws 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*

Tzedakah is an obligation, although 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 (צדק, **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 are important parts of living a spiritual life. Maimonides says 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>

Was Cornelius tithing? Most probably, yes, as we can see that **tzedakah** was an obligation, *in contrast with a charity, which was a voluntary gift*. **Tzedakah** had to be performed regardless of financial standing, even by poor people!

While Peter was preaching, the Holy Spirit fell on all who were listening. He was amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on Gentiles even before they were baptised in water, and they all started speaking 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

No doubt that Cornelius, a non-Jew with a loving heart towards God, understood the deep principles of giving. He probably had the gift of

giving. He did not give voluntarily, but as an obligation. As a Gentile, he gave to God as an offering (**“tzedakah”**) what belonged to Him anyway. That **opened** the door for you and me **as Gentiles** to enter the Kingdom of God! Amazingly profound! Hallelujah! **Praise God!**

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

GOD DESIRES TO BLESS US

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, a mere shepherd, was made the King.

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 influence the spiritual realm. When you give, it opens doors for you. They create opportunities and bring you before powerful people.

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA

The Queen of Sheba from Ethiopia visited King Solomon. She brought him gifts of 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 for herself.

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 10:6-7 KJV

Trying to meet a country's president would be nearly impossible today. But a gift such as that of the Queen of Sheba opened the door to let her

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

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

She not only spent time with King Solomon, but also dined with him and saw all the various aspects of his kingdom! Her gift opened the door and brought her before the greatest man of that time. That is the positive power of a gift! He gave her all her desires and also 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

She probably received more from the king than she had given him.

- She did not give to King Solomon to help him, but to help herself!
- She used it to gain entry and partake of his wisdom, favour and anointing.
- She ended up leaving Jerusalem with all the bounties King Solomon had given her.
- On her return, she still had tremendous wealth. She had the wisdom and anointing needed to build her entire nation!

Acknowledgement: Andrew Wommack

THE HEARTS OF MARY AND JUDAS

Judas complained that the expensive perfume should have been sold and the money given to the poor, but he did not care for the poor.

*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

What a contrast of hearts displayed between Mary and Judas.

Mary had a generous heart.

Judas had a selfish heart.

Three hundred pence was a year's wages. Imagine spending a year's income on perfumed oil and then pouring it onto someone's feet and hair. As explained earlier, Mary did so because Jesus had raised her brother, Lazarus, from the dead. That incident changed her attitude for the rest of her life.

Why did Mary's act of love bother Judas so much? There is a breathtaking selfishness at work in Judas's heart, and it manifested in his comments about Mary's offering. He did not care for the poor but was a thief, although he was also one of Jesus' disciples.

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

Judas pretended to be concerned about others while he was concerned only about himself. It is an old cover-up for selfishness. It is sad, but it is still going on today.

- “How could anyone in good conscience drive a car that expensive?”
- “She could have helped many people with the money she spent on that coat.”
- “I could sure do a lot of good with the money they spent on that...”

All these remarks are selfish and are jealousy dressed up as religious superiority, and it is ugly. This was Judas’ attitude. He saw a year’s wages being **wasted** instead of being put in his money box, so he could pilfer a good chunk of it. That was basically how Judas viewed a grateful woman’s beautiful act of sacrificial worship – a waste. At that stage, Judas had most probably already worked in the background with the religious officials who wanted Jesus dead. He possibly knew that Jesus would soon be killed. If so, Judas would have believed that the money in the box would ultimately be his to keep.

The bag that verse 6 refers to was the money box, which resembled today’s offering boxes. This bag held the offerings people gave to support Jesus’ ministry. Jesus used the money to bless others, but Judas was stealing from the bag. Can you imagine the nerve to steal from Jesus? But Jesus said, “*Yet you are robbing me! But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' By the tithe and the offering*” (Malachi 3:8).

Is it possible that we are also guilty of robbing Him by failing to put into the offering box what has been rightfully His in the first place?

I know this is hard to accept. I am not condemning you, but bringing you the truth that will set you free. You are reading this book for a purpose. Jesus wants to bless you far above what you can imagine, dream, hope, pray or desire. You only need to mix your faith with His promises, obey His Word and walk out in freedom. Hallelujah!

Judas was hanging out with Jesus for **what was in it for him**. As soon as Jesus did not come through for the Jews in the way he had hoped, he betrayed Him. This was no different from what we are still doing today. We follow God based on the “**what is in it for me**” principle. As soon as He “disappoints” us by not coming through for us in the way we wanted, we get upset and quit church.

Selfishness, by its very nature, cares about nothing but the self. A selfish person will sell out his friends if it helps him get what he wants. A selfish person will always find good reasons not to be generous. That’s exactly what Judas did. His mindset was that Mary could not waste that expensive perfume on Jesus. It could be turned into cash and the money given to the poor.

Selfishness is focused on the **extravagance** of others. It criticises the blessed owners of smart houses and cars. Selfishness always points out someone else.

YOUR WEAKNESSES

Jesus knew Judas was stealing from Him. Why did He still give Judas the responsibility of carrying the bag, knowing that he was a thief? **Believers**

will always be tempted in their weaknesses, as Judas, with a weakness for money and prestige was given the responsibility for the money bag.

God gives us responsibility in the area of our weakness because He is setting us up for success, not failure. **The only way we can truly succeed is by confronting our weaknesses and overcoming them.** When God gives you some responsibility in the area of your weakness, He is taking you through a growing 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 our greatest victory. Thus, Jesus would give a thief responsibility for the money and, by doing so, allow him to overcome his selfishness and greed. But Judas failed to do so.

God is using the unrighteous mammon to teach us righteousness!

Money is a much bigger test than you think. In fact, you are being tested with money right now. The responsibility you will have in the Kingdom is directly proportional to how you manage your 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 ISV

The prize for passing the test is true riches, which are people. We receive words of knowledge, gifts of healing, faith and miracles to minister to people. True riches are helping others who have spent their entire lives in bondage because of depression or oppression to experience freedom for the first time. True riches are souls! This is why the spiritual act of giving is so important.

When you give, people get saved. When you give your first to Him, God takes what belonged to the unrighteous mammon and redeems it. As you give offerings, He turns them into true riches – people.

There is a battle going on inside each of us – a battle between selfishness and generosity. Which one is winning?

Acknowledgment – Robert Morris

DEMONIC FORCES

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 and **enslaved them**. He also *took the **gold and silver*** and brought them into the house of his gods, and he took the next generation captive (*not only the children of Israel*). He took *good-looking, intelligent men and trained them in his*

ways. That is how Daniel and his friends ended up under his control. **So, Nebuchadnezzar stole the tithe!** (See the complete discussion in the book, “In Bondage?”)

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 still wants the tithe and the next generation so he can keep us in bondage and teach us the Chaldean tongue. He is influencing God's people in every way possible to not pay what belongs to Him, and to not study the Word of God.

“You are enslaved when you heed the 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

The enemy puts us in bondage by implanting carnal 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

The lust of the flesh: What you put into your body and what you do with your body.

The lust of the eyes: What you put in your mind by trying to make yourself smart.

The pride of life: Any person who does not tithe is arrogant and prideful, because he believes he can make it on his own. We are arrogant to steal from God.

When we do not tithe, we are opening doors for demons!

Remember that Satan is a thief. We allow him to steal when we do not tithe. He will try to make you steal what belongs to God! I am not condemning you, but trying to help you keep the doors closed!

GUARANTEED RESULTS

I have done a lot of research and am convinced more than ever that the principles explained in this teaching are effective. In the 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 a 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 goes through 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 do so without violating 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 takers; we are born-again givers. Now it's our responsibility to renew our minds. God wants us to be generous, gracious, kind-hearted and compassionate. When God does that work in our hearts – when we begin to give simply because we want to – then we actually will be rewarded so that we can give even more to the kingdom of God.”

TRUST AND OBEY

I'd like to share a similar story with you from Robert Morris about God testing hearts to give everything away. When 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 came up to me who were seemingly broken before the Lord. 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 check for all the money they had in the world. Now they were bringing me the check, 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 anything that I want with it?’ 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 were never the same. They had passed a major test of obedience. To this day, I don’t know how much money it was, nor do I care. 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.”

The Blessed Life: Robert Morris



SUMMARY

The truths in this book have changed my life, and I hope it will do the same for you. When you acknowledge these principles and trust God enough to apply them to your life, I believe with all my heart it will set you and your family free from bondage and slavery.

*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 have to overcome the devil, his image, and his mark. The antichrist of the end times is the Spirit of Mammon. We must overcome this spirit, as it will not allow you to buy or sell. It is time to destroy and break the demonic forces of this spirit – the god of riches, the spirit of greed - as an evil master that enslaves, the spirit who oversees a cave of worldly wealth, the materialist spirit of the 19th century.

God gave the Body of Christ motivational gifts empowering us to help, assist, spread and preach the good news of the Gospel around the globe. With violence, we will spiritually take the Kingdom of God!

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

Stop tolerating the works of the devil and use your godly anger to break these forces and their lies and deceptions in your life.

We are all born as “takers”, but we are now born-again givers. Now, it is our responsibility to renew our minds. Let our hearts be transformed to be generous in giving, rather than selfish, believing that our possessions are ours and have nothing to do with God. Nothing can or will occur in our lives without faith. Christ cried out on the cross, “It is finished! Tetelestai!” (John 19:30). With this cry, Christ Jesus paid for everything - your salvation, health, wealth, prosperity, joy, peace, self-control, etc. His grace stands forever and ever.

BUT grace alone does not save us. Grace alone does not keep us in divine health and wealth. No, we need to participate and mix our faith with God's grace and then, by grace through faith, we are saved (Ephesians 2:8). Similarly, by grace through faith, we are healed, and by God's grace through our faith we prosper! When unbelief arises above our faith, and we don't mix our faith with God's promises, we are sent back to the wilderness into captivity. That is not God's choice, but the evil spirit of unbelief. Then the Word preached to you did not profit you, and you will never 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

Hearing these words and acknowledging their truths alone will not accomplish much. You need to implement them. 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

Scriptures instruct us to meditate on God's Word day and night and to do according to all that is written therein. There is a promise from God that when we do, we shall prosper and have success.

*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

The law of reciprocity is the exchange 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 walk into a field to pick up grain for your family, you would probably put in a good measure first, then press it down to compress the grains together to create more room. Then, you would shake it to eliminate any air pockets between the grains, and after this, you would probably 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 that with the same measure you measure, it shall also be measured to you! It will

be given back to you in the same measure. 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? Do you have the hearts of Mary and Cornelius, or is your heart full of selfishness like that of Judas, who, instead of overcoming his weaknesses, betrayed the Lord and hanged himself? Remember that God always sets us up for success.

Let us overcome the demonic forces of mammon, the beast, his image and his number and stand on the sea of glass to sing 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 ISV



A Word from the Author

This book is about Yashuah HaMashiach. If not for Him, where would I be? With His kindness, long-suffering and indescribable love, He constantly drew me closer to Him and taught me to pitch my tent with Him as He is pitching His tent with me. When we allow the Holy Spirit to do His work in us, something significant happens on the inside. The Ruach HaKodesh is a master of heart transplants, sanctification, purification, holiness and restoring us to wholeness. When the people closest to you remark with great astonishment how you have changed and transformed for good, that is the final death of the old man and a new life in the spiritual man. Then you realise: "How great is our God!" YEHOVAH Elohim took me out of darkness, out of Babylon (sometimes with force), into the light, and He perfectly orchestrated my life to change into His image. There are no words in the human vocabulary to express my overwhelming thankfulness, joy, peace and love for what I have received from Him. I could not even imagine in my wildest dreams the good works He had in store for me! I am only His vessel. Therefore, all the glory to YEHOVAH Elohim, who is the author of this book!

El-Azar

The most precious gift that the human race on Planet Earth can ever receive, is the free gift of "SALVATION". Unfortunately, there is only one person in the Universe who can give this free gift to you and His name is "YAHSHUA HAMASHIACH", the Son of the Father, "YHWH."

The Father gave His only beloved Son, who willingly destroyed Himself on the Cross as our Passover Lamb. The Father accepted this first fruit offering of the Son and declared that I AM now the way, the Truth and the Life and that no one can come unto the Father but by Me. I am the door, if you accept My precious gift, I will come in and eat with you and
I will abide in you and you in ME forever.

This act of both the Father and the Son was a universal declaration of love, demonstrating the pure heart and attitude of Elohim. Likewise, we need to allow the works of the "RUACH HAKODESH" in us, to change and to transform our hearts – a heart transplantation – to have the same heart and attitude of Elohim. Only then can we also "GIVE" unconditionally.



www.berashithministry.co.za