

GIVE GOD WHAT'S RIGHT NOT WHAT'S LEFT

Acts 20:35 And I have been a constant example of how you can help the poor by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is **more blessed** to give than to receive.'

1. Introduction

1.1. Most of the teachings in churches suggest that BLESSINGS only occur when we RECEIVE something

1.2. You have to differentiate the difference between the **act** of giving and the **consequence** of giving. In our MINDSET, the **act** of giving is associated with **Sacrifice**, but the **consequence** of giving is **Blessing** (we give so that we will be blessed). Since getting something in return becomes our motives, we are hesitant to give when we don't get what we expected.

Jesus did not emphasize on the consequence of giving (although there are a lot of verses in the Bible that contains the promises of blessings associated with giving). But He emphasizes on the ACT of GIVING.

IT MEANS: WE SHOULD GIVE HIM WHAT'S RIGHT, EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T GET WHAT WE EXPECTED.

2. Why we tend to give God what's LEFT not what's RIGHT?

2.1 Lack of understanding of our role as God's steward.

We know that whatever we have belongs to God **The reason we are blessed is so that we can bless others (re-definition of abundant life)**

2 Corinthians 9:10-11 — "Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way **so that** you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." Blessings are overflowing – We are GOD'S STEWARD. YOU CAN ONLY CONSUME RICE, YOU CANT EAT SEEDS (There are portions we can keep, there are portions we must give).

2.2 Lack of Faith

With so many verses in the Bible that we will be reading, it will be surprising to see someone who has understood all these things but still don't give God what's right – then the only explanation would be 'lack of Faith' on the promises of God and the blessings that follow our giving.

3. So What Is Right?

2 Chronicles 2:4 Now I am about to build a temple for the Name of the LORD my God and to dedicate it to him for burning fragrant incense before him, for setting out the **consecrated** bread **regularly**, and for making burnt offerings every morning and evening and on Sabbaths and New Moons and at the appointed feasts of the LORD our God. This is a lasting ordinance for Israel.

3.1 'Consecrated' (reserved) - qadash {kaw-dash'}

Meaning: 1) to consecrate, sanctify, prepare, dedicate, be hallowed, be holy, be sanctified, be separate, to be set apart, be consecrated . This can take forms of: TITHINGS (10%), SPECIAL OFFERINGS, REGULAR OFFERINGS, DEDICATED TIME TO SERVE THE LORD, DEDICATED TIME TO PRAY.

3.2 'Regularly' – *taw-meed'*: to stretch; continuance ; constant

The trend is to give much when we are blessed, and less when we are not blessed. Attend churches and serve God when we are not busy, stop when we are busy. Regularity is more important than temporary spirit, because Christianity is a marathon, not sprint race.

4. Why We Give

4.1 Giving is an act of Obedience (True (Inspired by Spirit, comes from heart, driven by faith) NOT obligatory)

Malachi 3:8 "Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! "But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?' "You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. **9** You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me. **10** Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. **11** I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. **12** "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty.

4.2 Giving is an act of Faith

Those who give with faith look at giving as an opportunity, not a threat

1 Timothy 6:17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but **to put their hope in God**, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

2 Corinthians 9:10-11 — "Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

The MACEDONIAN church makes Paul worried

2 Corinthians 8:1 And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. **2** Though they have been going through much trouble and hard times, their wonderful joy and deep poverty have overflowed in rich generosity. **3** For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford but far more. And they did it of their own free will. **4** They begged us again and again for the gracious privilege of sharing in the gift for the Christians in Jerusalem.

4.3 Giving is an act of Surrender

Mark [12:43-44](#) — “Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, ‘I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.’”

Luke [14:33](#) — “In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.”

BY GIVING GOD WHAT BELONGS TO HIM, YOU SURRENDER WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU (TIME, MONEY, AND ENERGY) FOR GOD’S KINGDOM.