

A Comprehensive Study on

# **New Testament Giving, Receiving, Financial Blessings, Tithing etc**

by

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Giving and Receiving is one of the most abused messages in the church today. So much errors have been taught and are being practiced in many churches today in the name of giving and receiving.

Most of our giving have been characterized with greed, and we have turned God into money doubling machine, no thanks to the prosperity gospel teachers. We have been taught that giving is the way to receive from God.

Hence this teaching is coming at the right time to set things right in the church, especially returning the church into the New Testament model of giving.

Do we give in order to receive?

Does God need my giving in order to bless me as His son?

Does God promise hundred fold returns?

How does the reward in the New Testament work?

Do I need to speak to my offerings in the church and tie it down to a miracle?

Is tithe a new testament required offering?

Do I need to vow in the New Testament?

How should we give in the New Testament?

All these questions were answered in this series.

It is a FIVE MAJOR PART series with several sub-sections in between. You will be so blessed by the message in this comprehensive study, as it unfolds the New Testament's model. In this series, we seek to teach the church to PUT THE NEW WINE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT IN THE NEW WINESKIN, to live the New Testament in the New Testament way.

This message was originally shared as a blessing to the Lord's Body, the church on facebook hundreds of people were blessed by it. We are extending the opportunity to access it beyond the facebook and that is why it is being produced in PDF so it can be printed out or sent as attachments to other people. Please feel free to share with other people, but with the correct references.

If you have any question, or need any help especially on this topic and any other Spiritual related issue and you want to share with us, feel free to write me through my facebook page or through my email address which I will provide below:

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Alight. Let us take this adventurous journey to become more intimate with the Holy Spirit together, it is mind blowing and will inspire deeper hunger for God in you. God bless you as your read on.

Yours faithfully in His service,

Favour Adeyemi Aderinto

# **New Testament Giving, Receiving, Financial Blessings, Tithing etc.." - Part 1 - The New Wineskin.**

**Jesus made a huge statement in Mark 2:22,**

**""And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the wine would burst the wineskins, and the wine and the skins would both be lost. New wine calls for new wineskins."**

Let us compare with Romans 7:6

"But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the NEW WAY OF THE SPIRIT and NOT in the old way of the written code."

The major problem we are facing in the church now is trying to do what Jesus said must not be done. We are trying to put the new wine into the old wineskin. We are trying to run the new testament in the old testament way. That is called mixture. And that is why there has been a lot of bursting in the church.

Today, we want to learn one of those new testament wineskin, so we can serve God in the new way of the Spirit. It is called giving and receiving. First of all, this teaching will have different components and I am trying to put them into a single teaching instead of series. So, keep in mind we will briefly discuss each component.

## **#Section1. The Change in Giving-Receiving Formula.**

The old testament was a performance based testament, where you do something to get something, it is called law of sowing and reaping. You give this, you get that.

You sin. You die. You don't sin, you live.

You give, you get. You don't give, you don't get.

You tithe, windows of heavens are opened unto you.

You don't tithe, you are cursed. etc.

Unfortunately, NO MAN was able to live under this system. Even Moses, who brought the law could not keep it. He eventually broke it and was disqualified from entering the promised land. Eventually, Joshua (meaning "Yeshua" or Jesus in Hebrews) eventually led them to the promised land. This was a clear example that no man can make it under the old testament.

In fact, Bible says that God found fault with that covenant. Because man was unable to keep his own part. Either man was not sowing right seeds, or was sowing wrong seeds. So, the harvest was not fun for man. This was the fault God found with this testament. And thus, He established a New Testament, where He removed the unstable factor, and did it ALL by Himself.

## **Hebrews 8:7-12.**

"7. For if that first covenant had been without fault, no place would have been sought for a second.

8. But when God found fault with the people, He said: "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.

9. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, because they did not abide by My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord.

10. This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord. I will put My laws in their minds, and inscribe them on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they will be My people.

11 No longer will each one teach his neighbor or his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest.

12 For I will forgive their iniquities, and remember their sins no more"

Read the long passage above carefully, you will see that in the New covenant, it was 100% of what God would do. God did not leave any part at all for man to do. In fact, He only said what man would NOT need to do "You won't need to teach your neighbor..." because He would do it all. That is called GRACE. In fact, the faith we used to accept the Gift of God at Salvation was given to us, thru the message of Christ. "FAITH COMES by hearing the message of Christ....." You are not capable of believing Jesus by yourself, He gave you the faith to receive the Gift.

**Now, talking about finances, the same principle applies. Jesus told the disciple the type of harvest we are to do in the New Testament, and while it is different from the old testament harvest.**

**John 4:37-38.**

"37 For in this case the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true.

**38. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for; others have done the hard work, and now you have taken up their labor."**

Did you just read that? We are sent to reap what we have not sowed. We are sent to reap what Jesus worked for. Jesus is not waiting for you to give so that He can bless you back. That is performance-based. So, you don't have to give to be blessed. You have to ask to be blessed.

**"He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, GRACIOUSLY give us all things?" Romans 8:32**

Woow. Did you just read that? What did we do to deserve Jesus? Nothing. God just gave us His Son, the Greatest Gift to humanity. And God is saying the same way, if He has given us His Best, why will He not give us smaller smaller earthly blessings GRACIOUSLY along with Him. Take note of the word "graciously", some versions called it "FREELY". If you have to give to be blessed from God, then that is not gracious, that is performance based. That is give to get.

**Now, what did Jesus teach us on how to meet our needs?**

Matthew 7:7-8

"7. Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

8. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened"

Do you see that? Let us read yet another mind blowing statement from Jesus:

Matthew 6:26 (In fact, read (Matthew 6:25-34)

"26 Look at the birds of the air: they NEITHER SOW, NOR REAP nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

Do you see that? Jesus is simply teaching us the principle of the New Testament. Relate with God as a Father. He is a Gracious Father, He gives graciously and generously.

How many of you earthly fathers, when your child needs something from you, do you tell them to SOW first, before you give them what they need. If you do that, then you are no longer a father, but a work manager, they only get the wages of their works. Surely, no SANE father will do that.

### **Jesus responded by saying**

**"If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ASK him!"** Matthew 7:11 (Not those who sow to Him. Noted?)

Don't you get it? Are we defaming our heavenly Father by claiming we must give Him something to get something from Him. No.

**I repeat again. You do NOT need to give anything to God to have ALL your needs met by Him. You only need to ASK.**

I know for some of you, this is the first time you are hearing such statement. You have been wrongly taught for so long. It is not too late to LEARN, UNLEARN AND RELEARN.

**For your information, the writer of this post is a TERRIFIC FINANCIAL GIVER. So, do not make a mistake that we are advocating for you to give less to God. No. We are rather advocating for you to give RIGHT. In the New Testament, you don't give to get ANYTHING from God.**

Now, let me add unto this that, this Give-Receive Formula Shift is NOT limited to money alone, it includes everything. You did NOT GIVE your life to Christ at Salvation. You received His life. What would He possibly do with your "rotten" life...?

John 1:12

"To as many as RECEIVED Him, to them He gave power to become sons of God"

Do you see that?

Also, on the forgiveness part, many people have thought that God's forgiveness depends on their own forgiveness, because of the clause Jesus said in the prayer Jesus taught His disciples under the Old covenant.

"Forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. For if you do not forgive your neighbors their sins, your heavenly Father will not also forgive you your sin"

**Keep in mind that was a pre-cross era - the law era. This teaching was corrected later in the Epistles. Read below:**

Ephesians 4:32

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Colossians 3:13

"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Do you see that? After Jesus died on the cross. He paid for ALL our forgiveness. So, we forgive others, BECAUSE the Lord already forgave us. Not in order to be forgiven. To be forgiven, you need to simply ask

Jesus into your heart and confess Him as your Lord and Savior. But in the way of the Spirit, we are encouraged to forgive, as the Lord already forgave us.

As I round up section 1, and proceed to briefly discuss section 2, I am going to quickly quote this Scriptural verse from Paul, who was recounting all the good works, the giving and the support He enjoyed from the Philippian church, He ended it with a huge prayer which serves as the lesson for us:

**Philippians 4:18-19 (Pay attention to verse 19)**

"18. I have all I need and more, now that I have received your gifts from Epaphroditus. They are a sweet smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.

**19 And my God will supply ALL YOUR NEEDS according to HIS RICHES in Christ Jesus. "**

After recounting all the wonderful gifts and their financial partnership, **He prayed that God would supply ALL THEIR NEEDS, NOT ACCORDING TO THEIR GIFTS, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES IN CHRIST JESUS.**

Do you see that? Under part 2 of this series, we are going to understand that God wants us to be HUGE GIVERS in the New Testament. But we should not make our giving to God to become SEEDS, which we are borrowing Him to get some fruits. No No No. We should make our gifts, gifts of love to Him and as a response of His love for us.

**NEVER SHOULD YOU EVER PRAY THAT GOD WILL BLESS YOU ACCORDING TO YOUR FAITHFULNESS OR GIVING OR SEED. OR ELSE YOU MIGHT DESTROY YOURSELF.**

Some of us have been the source of problems in our lives. Because we actually tell God to bless us according to our seeds, and seeds go beyond money. So, He rewards some of the other things where you are at fault too, and you are complaining. STOP CAUSING TROUBLE FOR YOURSELF. STAY PURELY UNDER GOD'S GRACE.

## **#Section 2. Giving to Others - in the New Testament**

Now, I know some folks are already thinking about **Luke 6:38**. So let's go right in:

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, shall MEN give into your bosom. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you"

Read this verse in the context from verses 36-38. You will see clearly that Jesus was not talking about giving money. He was talking about "not judging others, not condemning others, but rather forgiving others". So, in essence, He was saying "When you judge and condemn people, they will give you the same back. They will judge and condemn you too" When you judge, you will be judged. Not by God, but by people. If you forgive them, they will forgive you.

Now, listen carefully, LAW OF SOWING AND REAPING STILL HOLDS AMONG PEOPLE. Whatever you do to people, they will do the same to you in multiple folds. That is why Jesus said "good measure, pressed down and running over will MEN give to your bosom."

In fact, He warned in the earlier verses that even the gentiles are pretty good at practicing "Do good to me, I do good to you. Bless me, I bless you. Attend my party, I will attend yours. Smile at me, I will smile at you". That still holds with men.

So, don't take men for God. Men are not gracious by nature. WITH MEN, WHATSOEVER YOU SOW, YOU SHALL REAP.

No wonder the Bible says "It is more blessed to give than to receive" in Acts 20:35, lets quote the whole verse to understand that Paul was referring to giving to men.

Acts 20:35

**"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work WE MUST HELP THE WEAK, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE.' "**

So with men, it is more blessed to give than to receive. But with God, we are ALL receiving, He is doing ALL the giving. He is a Good Good Father and We are His children. He is NOT in need, we are.

**He does not need anything from us. Not even our praise. He is self-sustaining. Don't mind the lie we were told that "GOD'S FOOD IS PRAISE" God does not need your praise to live. Else, He must be hungry some days that we don't give Him praise. That would mean we can actually starve Him to death if we refuse to praise Him. That means He is not self-sustaining, and GOD MUST BE NECESSARILY SELF-SUSTAINING TO BE GOD. HE HAD LIVED IN THE ETERNITY PAST BEFORE HE CREATED ANYTHING. Wise up Son of God.**

We praise Him not because He needs it. But because we can't but praise such a good good gracious loving Dad. His love is EXTREMELY UNCONDITIONAL. HIS LOVE IS WILD.

At this point, I don't know how much more you can take. I still have many more things to cover and I was hoping to not go beyond Part 2. I will see how I can condense these into part 2, at worst, we will go part 3. Here is my request: Please do not ask question on any of those parts which we will cover later, so we are not distracted answering questions before teaching.

These are what are yet to be covered which I am hoping to cover in the other parts::

1. Does God reward us for Good works / Rewards in Heaven? Why it differs from sowing and reaping?
2. Sowing to the Spirit or sowing to the flesh and its rewards/ consequences?
3. Is Tithe, First fruits and other Old Testament offerings required / needed in the New Testaments?
4. What type of Giving are highly encouraged and practiced in the New Testament? etc..

As we come to an end of this Part, I hope you have been TERRIFICALLY BLESSED, NOT only about giving but the New Testament model itself.

**These are the summaries of this part:**

1. God does not need your giving to provide for your need. He only needs your asking. He is a Good Good Father who gives generously and graciously to His children.

2. Let your attitude be to receive from God in this new testament. Don't be hasty to offer sacrifices of fools. When you receive well, you will give well.

3. When you are giving offering in the church, stop speaking to your seed. It is witchcraft. Give freely and joyfully to God, it is supposed to be part of your worship. And when you were giving other parts like singing to Him, you were not speaking to your "SINGING AND DANCING SEEDS". Quite the childish play and worship God in the Spirit and Truth.

4. When dealing with people, the law of sowing and reaping still holds. Don't sow to people what you don't want to reap back, because they will give it back good measures, pressed down, shaken together.

5. Don't ask God to meet your needs according to your giving or seeds, ask God to meet all your needs according to HIS RICHES IN GLORY.

I hope you have been super-blessed by this in-depth teaching, I will look forward to hearing back from you in the comments. While we are trusting God for the other parts soonest.

I LOVE YOU ETERNALLY IN CHRIST.



## **Quick Follow up on New Testament Giving Model - Part 1:**

What of the Giving and Receiving Testimonies? Where people give testimonies, linking their miracles to sowing seeds. Besides, those pastors who specialize in raising money always give 100's of such testimonies to excite their congregations to give?

I gave such testimonies a long time ago too. Most of those testimonies are highly misplaced.

God has given those same miracles to others who simply ASKED without "sowing any seed", even to some who did NOT ask, He gave the same miracles, so who told you it as your giving that made God bless you?

Also, some fund raising pastors have "created" many of those "testimonies" to make people to give. There are those pastors who are professional fund raisers. They will mention 20 cases/ testimonies of people who give to them and got their miracles. Many of those are LIES. Those pastors were PAID to come and raise money. That is their JOB.

A LOT OF MEN OF GOD ARE GENUINE on this regard, and we are NOT trying to generalize things or blackmail anyone. But we are simply saying there are a lot of fund-raising scams people practice in the name of men of God, and they use faceless testimonies to back it up. At the end, people are scammed to their last penny and don't get hundred fold returns that they were promised.

Other Possibility:

IF you have a GIVING HEART, IF YOU ARE A SELFLESS GIVER, you MAY experience some outstanding blessings of God above "normal". NOT as a reward of your giving. BUT BECAUSE GOD LOVES CHEERFUL GIVERS WHO CAN REDISTRIBUTE THEIR RESOURCES VERY SELFLESSLY.

It is a simple common sense, God wants someone who will always meet people's needs, you position yourself to be that person. GOD WILL ALWAYS BLESS YOU NOT TO REWARD YOU BUT BECAUSE HE WANTS PEOPLE'S NEEDS MET... But you WILL definitely enjoy from the EXCESS BLESSINGS TOO..... But remember, you NEVER gave to receive... You NEVER CONVERTED YOUR GIVING TO SEEDS TO BEGIN WITH.. YOU GAVE IN LOVE. BUT GOD FOUND A SERVANT IN YOU, SO HE PASSES THE RESOURCES THRU YOU.... That has been my own experience. AND THAT IS WHAT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE BIBLE, AND THE NEW TESTAMENT.

The boy who gave 5 fishes and 2 loaves of bread DID NOT SOW anything to receive from Jesus. As a matter of facts, he personally did NOT need miracles of food provision at that time because He had more than enough for himself. However, he was a cheerful giver who had people's interest at heart.

Jesus did NOT particularly reward the boy. But he probably enjoyed out of the LEFT OVER. That is the proper Biblical meaning of that parable. YOU CAN NOT EQUATE IT TO SOWING AND REAPING FRAUD. JESUS NEVER PROMISED THE BOY ANY RETURNS BECAUSE THE BOY WAS NOT INVESTING "SEEDS", BUT WAS SIMPLY GIVING OUT OF PURE LOVE FOR PEOPLE.

Can God ask you to give? OH YES, MANY TIMES. Can God bless you around the same time you gave? Definitely He can.

Is it your giving that prompted His blessings? NOOOOOO WAY. He blessed you because He is a good good Father. And if you have a giving spirit, you may always be blessed because He wants people who can be blessings to others and are selflessly and willingly doing so. So, He may pass other people's blessings through you. Meaning those excess blessings are not meant for you to enrich yourself and build edifice on earth, but to continue to be blessings to others..

# **New Testament Giving, Receiving, Financial Blessings, Tithing etc.."**

## **Part 2 - Rewards in the New Testament.**

In this part, we are going to be discussing "Reward in the New Testament" But let me do a quick summary of what we learnt under part 1, because it serves as the necessary foundation.

We learnt that:

1. God does NOT need your GIVING to provide for your need. He only needs your ASKING. He is a Good Good Father who gives generously and graciously to His children.

"He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, GRACIOUSLY (FREELY) give us ALL THINGS?" Romans 8:32

"If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven GIVE GOOD GIFTS to those who ASK Him!" Matthew 7:11

"And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus " (not according to your seeds or giving). Philippians 4:19

2. When dealing with people, the law of sowing and reaping still holds. Don't sow to people what you don't want to reap back, because they will give it back good measures, pressed down, shaken together..

"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 measure withal it shall be measured to you again." Luke 6:38

## **In Part 2, Rewards in the New Testament.**

We want to examine the reward programs under the New Testament. And this will take care of some questions for some of us. We will also be discussing the DIFFERENCE between God's rewards programs and sowing and reaping principle.

### **#Section1: Does God reward Our Good works and Labor of Love?**

Doesn't it look abnormal to have someone who doesn't say "THANK YOU" for a job well done, who doesn't reward excellence and sacrifice of any kind? It surely does. And that is NOT OUR FATHER. He rewards faithfulness.

God rewards faithfulness and sacrifice in the New Testament. Even our earthly parents give prizes at the end of the year or school term to a child who thrives at excellence. Rewards serve as motivation to ANYONE.

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and LABOR OF LOVE, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." Hebrews 6:10

The first thing to note in the verse above is that GOD'S REWARD IS TIED TO HIS RIGHTEOUS NATURE. It means God is putting His righteousness on the line, to pledge reward for our good works and labors of love.

The second thing to note in the verse is that it is OUR LABOR OF LOVE, NOT LABOR OF REWARD, that shall be rewarded. So, our motives should be LOVE, NOT the rewards itself. However, we should keep God's rewards in view also. Jesus takes His reward program seriously, so should we.

"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."  
Revelations 22:12

"But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded." 2 Chronicles 15:7

"The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. " -1 Corinthians 3:8

## **#DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GOD'S REWARDS AND "SOWING TO REAP (WAGES)"**

### **1st Difference. Under Sowing and Reaping (wages), your harvest (pay) is a DEBT.**

But under rewards, your rewards is NOT a debt. It is at the discretion of the Rewarder. He can reward as He likes. He can give you a card, a hug or a cash for rewards. IT TOTALLY DEPENDS ON THE REWARDER.

When you give to God as a seed, you believe God OWES you some returns (fruits). That is why some people pray prayers like this when they are facing some problems:

"Lord, why should I be going through this? I have been very faithful in your house? I have been fasting, praying, paying my tithes and offerings, and even giving to the poor. You said in your word "Givers shall never lack" (Quote the book, chapter and verse).."

Does this prayer sound familiar?

"The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God,... I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess..." Luke 18:11-12

He believed he should be justified before God on the basis of those things he sacrificed. But Jesus said, he left unjustified. The other man who came under Grace left much more justified than this man who was giving to get

"Now to him that WORKS (SOWS) is the reward NOT reckoned OF GRACE, but OF DEBT." Romans 4:4

GOD DOES NOT NEED YOUR FASTING, YOUR PRAYERS, NOR YOUR MONEY. HE IS NOT BROKE. HE DOES NOT BORROW FROM ANYONE, SO HE DOES NOT OWE ANYMAN.

### **2nd Difference: Under sowing and reaping, REAPING IS YOUR PRIMARY REASON FOR SOWING, NOT LOVE.**

But under reward program, your reason of doing good works or giving is nobler, you do the good works out of love and appreciation of God's unconditional love and provision. You do good because it is right to do good. YOU GIVE SIMPLY BECAUSE IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE.

Under sowing and reaping, YOU GIVE TO GET. Under God's rewards program, YOU GIVE TO GIVE.

Have you been in meetings where during offerings, the pastor will always say "Think about your biggest problem, the one that brought you here. Then use your seed to target that problem. Speak to your seed.?"

This is what happens in so many church meetings. You are turning God's house into den of robbers for the god of mammon (money).

His house shall be called house of prayers and fellowship, not a place to calculate how much you will get by giving some offering. Stop doing business in my Father's house. Jesus will come and whip you out, like He did in the temple if you do not stop this practice.

### **3rd Difference: "Sowing and Reaping - Giving" is a SLAVERY MENTALITY. While Giving to God out of love is SONSHIP MENTALITY.**

In the story of the prodigal sons, remember what the elder brother told the Father

"Look! All these years I've been SLAVING FOR YOU and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends" Luke 15:29

Though he was a son, he had a slavery mentality that if he could SOW some obedience and service to his father, the father would pay him with some parties with his friends. What a mentality. A SON, SLAVING IN HIS FATHER'S HOUSE.

But what did the Father tell him "You are always with me. EVERYTHING I HAVE IS YOURS.. you don't have to slave to just get a party with your friend, YOU JUST HAVE TO ASK.

Friends, you don't have to give to get anything from God our Father, that is slavery mentality. YOU JUST HAVE TO ASK FROM YOUR FATHER WHO GIVES ALL THINGS GRACIOUSLY ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES IN GLORY.. SONS ASK TO GET, SLAVES WORK TO GET.

## **#Section 2: The Implications of Giving as Sowing and Reaping, instead of Giving Out of Love.**

**1. When you consider your giving to God as "sowing and reaping" you are cutting your finance off from Grace** because you are putting your finance under the law (Sowing to reap is the Law principle. Reaping what Christ sowed is the Grace principle).

Galatians 5:4 "You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace."

Which means you are technically telling God that "You don't trust His supply of your needs according to HIS RICHES IN GLORY. You prefer it should be according to your seed sown." Do you see that connection?

When you are cut off from Grace in any area of your life, you are limiting your supply to the arm of flesh and you are putting your finance under the curse of the law, from which Christ has redeemed us.

## **2. Your offering does no longer qualify for God's rewards. Because He only rewards LABORS OF LOVE, NOT LABOR OF REWARDS.**

If you sow to reap, then you are simply a business man, you will get your pay but forget God's rewards.

GOD IS NOT YOUR BUSINESS PARTNER. HE IS YOUR FATHER, NOT YOUR EMPLOYER. HE LOVES YOU AND PROVIDES FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS FREELY AND GRACIOUSLY. LIVE LIKE A TRUE SON. DEPEND ON HIM TOTALLY. DON'T SEE YOUR SERVICE TO HIM AS A SEED. GIVE PURELY OUT OF LOVE.

STOP TREATING YOUR GIFT TO GOD LIKE A SEED. DON'T GIVE TO GET, GIVE TO GOD. GIVE TO GIVE. Glory!!!!!!!!!!

### **#Section 3. The Nature of Rewards:**

#### **Hundred Fold Principle? - Matthew 19:29**

"And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life."

Many give-to-get prosperity preachers have used this verse to con many believers, by interpreting it literally to mean "YOU WILL ACTUALLY GET 100 TIMES RETURNS ON WHATEVER YOU GIVE TO GOT THRU THEIR MINISTRIES.

Wow, what a great investment formula? I give \$1000, I get \$100,000. I give one child, I get 100 children. I give one house, I get 100 houses. Wow, I will quit my job and do this business full time.

If that is what Jesus meant, can we produce just ONE TESTIMONY FROM THE SCRIPTURE that confirms this hundred fold literal return? All the 11 apostles of Jesus, did they not literally leave everything to follow Jesus? What record of 100 fold return did they get?

In the early church, believers were sharing all they had, such that no one had anything to himself, and no one lacked anything. Was there any record or testimony of 100 fold return? Later, some churches went thru financial recession that other churches had to contribute for them, what happened to the hundred fold return promise?

I put up those questions to show you that the nature of God's rewards is rather spiritual than physical. Jesus words was true. But He was not referring to LITERAL hundred-folds return.

### **Now, let us examine what Jesus said that confirms the NATURE of our rewards as Eternal and Heavenly.**

#### **Matthew 6:20-21**

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal."

When we give our service, time, money. etc to God as LABOR OF LOVE, God promises to rewards them, but here, He is saying, those resources are being stored in heaven. We are achieving eternal results using earthly resources.

Throughout Epistles, so many things were said about the rewards of the believers. NOT ONE OF THEM SHOWED MATERIAL BLESSINGS. In fact, it was said specifically, that we shall all appear before the judgement seat of Christ for rewards of all we do in the Lord. Paul also talked about how those works will be passed thru fire to test what nature they are made of, none of this picture shows material rewards.

SO, STOP SERVING GOD FOR MATERIAL REWARDS. DON'T GIVE ANY OFFERING FOR MATERIAL REWARDS. IF YOU NEED A GOOD JOB OR OTHER MATERIAL THING, ASK GOD IN PRAYERS OF FAITH AS YOUR FATHER, AND USE YOUR GOD-GIVEN RESOURCES TO GET THEM. GIVE TO GOD OUT OF LOVE, YOU WILL GET YOUR ETERNAL REWARDS.

**We don't know the exact nature of these eternal rewards. But whatever they are, I am satisfied. Epistles used crowns, stars etc. But again, Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 2:19**

"For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? IS IT NOT YOU?" referring to the Thessalonians.

Which means his disciples who he affected with the words of Grace were referred to as his crowns, and his joy when Jesus comes. So, we cannot say for sure what these eternal crowns are.

But whatever they are do not matter to us Sons of God, what matters is that OUR GOD IS GOOD, LOVING, GLORIOUS. HE GAVE US ALL THINGS GRACIOUSLY AND FREELY IN CHRIST. WE CAN NOT BUT ABOUTD BACK TO HIM WITH LOVE AND GIFTS OUT OF LOVE.

**Whether He rewards us or not does not even matter, What matters is that WE ARE CRAZILY IN LOVE WITH HIM AND ARE GIVING OUT OF LOVE FOR HIM. That is what matters. Glory to Jesus.**

This brings us to the end of Part 2. In part , we will be examining the types of giving encouraged in the New Testament and the discontinuation of the Old Testament required offerings like tithe, first fruits etc. We will also look at the characteristics of giving under the New Testaments, so that we can be truly putting the new wine in the new wineskin, to enjoy the benefits of the New Testament to the full.

Share with me in the comments what you learned, unlearned and relearned. Share those specific that bless you the most.

To me, one of biggest take away is to relate with God, as Father, not a business partner. I am not collecting salary (wages/ fruits) for my service to Him. As a good good father, all He has are mine and He gave them to me graciously. I am reaping the fruit of His labor. But He still promised to say "thank you" to me in the form of rewards at the end of the day.

I don't want to put my finance under the curse of the law and don't want to be cut off from God's Grace by counting my giving as seeds that must generate fruits. I want to give out of love, not out of greed. And I am looking forward to His rewards and will be satisfied with whatever they are. I am not doing labor of rewards but labor of love. Alleluyah. Looking forward to hearing from you what part blessed you most.

I love you eternally in Christ as usual.

# **My Story #1 - This is NOT God rewarding me!!!**

A friend of mine from campus, whom I had not seen since 15 years, recently connected with me, and when he saw me and learnt of my present placement in life, wrote me a message, something like:

"God is so faithful o. He is rewarding you for all those sacrifices you made for Him on Campus and all the exploits you did."

## **Great Testimony, isn't it? NOT TO ME.**

I wasted no time before telling him God is NOT rewarding me for my faithfulness at all. I know many others who were equally or even more faithful than me but are presently struggling financially and not as well placed as I am.

We later spoke for like 3 hours straight and I explained to him why it is wrong to make such conclusions. Here is why:

## **1st: We can NOT use health or wealth to judge our relationship with God. Jesus said "He rains on both wicked and the righteous"**

The richest folks in the world are NOT believers. Some of them are even atheists who believe God does not exist.

## **2nd: If I make such conclusion, that means I have something to glory of. Then I am living by law and cut off from God's Grace and I am endangering placing my finance under curse of law.**

**3rd: If I make such conclusion, then I am claiming God is my employer and He paid me for the service I did in His house. No sir. I am a Son, NOT a slave. God is my Father, NOT employer.** My service was service of love and I seek no earthly reward. I will rather store my treasures in heaven where thieve do not break in, where moth and rust do not destroy. I DON'T GIVE TO GET, I GIVE TO GOD. I GIVE TO GIVE (Part 2 of the Giving series)

**4th: The only correlation I could see is that I have a giving spirit, and PROBABLY God is just fulfilling 2 Corinthians 9:10** "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." If you make yourself a venue, God might pass the resources thru you, but NOT a formula.

**5th: THE BEST EXPLANATION FOR IT. I LIVE UNDER GRACE, I DON'T SOW TO REAP. I REAP WHAT CHRIST SOWED. WHEN I NEED SOMETHING, I SIMPLY ASK, JUST LIKE A NORMAL SON WILL DO.**

I hope you learned something from my story? Share with me below.

I love you ETERNALLY IN CHRIST.

## **New Testament Giving, Receiving, ... etc – Part 3:**

### **Exegesis on 2 Corinthians 9:6 plus Galatians 6:7 (Sowing and Reaping Verses)**

Since we started the series on New Testament Giving model, we saw clearly that it is a Christ-centered model, that God does not bless us according to "our seeds" but according to HIS RICHES IN GLORY. And also, that when we need something, God simply said WE SHOULD ASK (not give), because He is our Father and He gives everything to us GRACIOUSLY / FREELY.

We also learnt that our giving should not be done with the intention of rewards, but simply OUT OF LOVE, because God promised to reward OUR LABOUR OF LOVE, NOT LABOR FOR REWARDS. I have had a few questions about those two passages above, and so we want to look at them IN CONTEXT before we released the last part of the Series which will be on Special Old Testament offerings that were carried over. So, let us go:

#### **\*\*\* 2 Corinthians 9:6 \*\*\***

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

This verse has been used many times when money is being raised or even offerings in churches, to mean something like this "As you are about to give this offering, you are sowing your offering and you will reap, remember if you give more money, you will also reap more money. And if you sow less money, you will reap less money. So decide what you will sow..."

But this is what the verse NEVER said. It says you will reap, but reap what? We will see that later as we travel thru this text in CONTEXT.

#### **\*\*\*\*First, let us read the preceding verse, verse 5 \*\*\*\***

##### **2 Corinthians 9:5**

"Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and NOT AS OF COVETOUSNESS." (KJV)

"Therefore I esteemed it necessary to exhort the brothers that they should go before unto you and should complete beforehand your fore announced blessing, THUS THIS TO BE READY AS A BLESSING, and NOT AS COVETOUSNEESS." (BLB)

Do you see in this verse, that the purpose of the giving was to " BE A BLESSING to other members of the Body, NOT as covetousness? So, the motive of giving was NOT to receive, but to be bountiful in blessing others. Glory.

#### **\*\*\*\*Let us look at the next verse, verse 7 \*\*\*\***

##### **2 Corinthians 9:7**

"Each of you should give WHAT YOU HAVE DECIDED in your heart to give, NOT reluctantly or under compulsion, for GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER."



This also emphasizes giving out of love, which means willingly, and cheerfully, not for a reward. All these so far has been showing us that the kind of giving God wants is LOVE-MOTIVATED GIVING.

**\*\*\*\*\* Now verse 8 is highly revealing\*\*\*\*\***

**2 Corinthians 9:8**

**"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, YOU MAY ABOUND UNTO EVERY GOOD WORK" Woooooooooow....**

This is one of my best verses here. GOD IS ABLE TO MAKE ALL GRACE (FREE GIFTS) abound to you, so that you will have more than you need, and YOU WILL ABOUND UNTO GOOD WORKS.

Now, from that verse, Paul was saying "GOD WILL BLESS YOU GRACIOUSLY, FOR ONE PURPOSE ONLY:..... SO THAT YOU MAY ABOUND UNTO EVERY GOOD WORK.

First, notice Paul particularly used GRACE when He was referring to the blessings you receive. GRACE MEANS FREE GIFT. This means God will bless you FREELY, from His own riches in Christ Jesus.

Secondly, according to that verse, what is the essence of God's Blessings? SO THAT YOU MAY ABOUND UNTO GOOD WORKS - GIVING.

So, the principle here is that YOU RECEIVE TO GIVE. YOU RECEIVE GOD'S BLESSING SO YOU CAN ABOUND IN GIVING.

Do you see that? But the Prosperity Gossellers reverse the order by saying: YOU SHOULD GIVE SO THAT GOD WILL BLESS YOU. But here the Bible says, "GOD WILL GRACIOUSLY BLESS YOU, SO THAT YOU CAN BE A BLESSING.

**This confirms " I AM NOT GIVING TO BE BLESSED, I AM GIVING BECAUSE I AM ALREADY BLESSED". Glory!**

\*\*\*Now, let us jump right into verses 9-10 because that is where we will understand verse 6.

2 Corinthian 9: 9 - 10.

"9. As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.

10. 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" (NIV)

10. 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." (KJV)

Now, you can see that verse 9 links our giving to RIGHTEOUSNESS. Of course, I know you are not thinking that when you give you will be more righteous. If you are thinking like that, then "the atheists / unbelievers of the world who are giving are all righteous". THAT IS NOT WHAT IT IS SAYING.

I will link it with Galatians in a minute and you will see a similar verse there that explains what this means...

But MOST IMPORTANTLY, I want us to see in verse 10, that Paul defined what you will reap when you sow according to verse 6.

In verse 6, He says, when you sow generously, you will reap generously... so what will you reap?

Verse 10 has the answer: You will reap **THE HARVEST OF YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS** - or **THE FRUIT OF YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS** .. **NOT HARVEST OF MONEY.**

Paul never meant in verse 6 that "when you give to God, you will get more money back"... That is what the money gossellers read into it... But Paul wrote "**YOU WILL REAP THE HARVEST OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.**" Do we now understand verse 6 in context?

### **\*\*\* The Three Prayer Requests in verse 10.**

Verse 10 was a prayer from Paul. He prayed this prayer for them before they gave their gifts. Now what are the 3 Prayer requests?

**1. The Lord will increase your store of seeds (or multiply your seeds sown.)** - which means the Lord will make more resources available to give. So, if you are a terrific giver, according to this prayer, God will always pass more resources thru you **TO GIVE**. Remember this is seed multiplication, not harvest.

**2. He ministers bread for food. This represents your needs.** Now, here Paul did not relate the bread for food as an harvest. Which means your needs have nothing to do with your seeds, your needs are met by praying "**GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD - BY ASKING..**" . **NOT BY GIVING**" Got it?

**3. The Harvest /Fruits of Your Righteousness. Not Harvest of money.** **THAT IS THE HARVEST WE REAP.** So, what does this mean?

### **\*\*\* Now, what is THE HARVEST / FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS?\*\*\***

Galatians 6:7-8

"7. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

8.For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."

As usual, verse 7 has been taken out of context, either to preach "Sow money to God, and reap more money" or even to preach the **LAW** and **MIXTURE** by saying "God will judge you based on whatever you do". They will add to it by saying "Don't you see that God cannot be mocked. A man will reap what he sows" While this is **GENERALLY** true, it is not true in our relationship with God in the New Testament, We don't reap what we sow. We reap what **CHRIST** sowed. That is **Grace**. So, what is verse 7 saying? Verse 8 will show us.

Thank God for verse 8. For every verse 7 that is misinterpreted, there is always a verse 8, that gives the correct meaning. Alleluiah. I am so excited about this.

Now, verse 8 explains the "**TO WHO** - we are sowing. "

"8.For the one who sows **TO HIS OWN FLESH** will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows **TO THE SPIRIT** will from the Spirit reap eternal life."

The sowing the Bible is referring to here is **NOT** sowing **TO GOD**. but sowing **TO** either **THE FLESH** or **THE SPIRIT**.

Remember 2 Corinthians 9 related giving to sowing and harvesting **RIGHTEOUSNESS**... This is saying the same thing here about **SOWING TO THE SPIRIT OR FLESH**.

## **The Meaning:**

It means Our Giving as believers, is a type of Spiritual Exercise, just like Prayers, Bible study, Evangelism, etc. And whenever we are doing any of these, we are sowing to our Spiritual Life. The result of this is Manifesting Eternal Life here on earth, which is the same thing said in Corinthians - Manifesting the Fruits of Righteousness here on earth. Woooow, do you see that connection?

And if you are not yielding yourself to the Lord in this Spiritual disciplines, you are automatically sowing to the flesh, which leads to LACK OF PRODUCTIVITY, preventing your light from shining, not reflecting your true nature, wasting God's resources.

So, when you yield to the Holy Spirit to invest your time, energy and resources into ANY Spiritual exercise, you are working to reflect outside the FRUITS OF YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS IN CHRIST. You are manifesting God's nature more here on earth, which is ETERNAL LIFE, RIGHTEOUSNESS, HOLINESS etc... You are LETTING YOUR LIGHT SHINE, You are MANIFESTING YOUR SONSHIP.

That is the fruits you reap as you yield yourself to God in giving, praying, fasting, meditation, etc..

You are increasing your Spiritual capacity. You are energizing yourself to manifest your Sonship here on earth. You are GROWING IN GRACE. That is what the Bible is talking about. Wow!!!

Now, hear Jesus said similar thing when discussing money:

"So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?" Luke 16:11. (KJV used unrighteous mammon for worldly wealth)

Do you see that? God gives you money (worldly wealth) to see your faithfulness / trustworthiness so as to give you the TRUE RICHES.

The worldly wealth is NOT the end, friends. God's Blessings does NOT end with money. God's Blessings START with money, and when you are faithful with that, HE WILL GIVE YOU TRUE RICHES - ETERNAL RICHES, ETERNAL REWARDS, ETERNAL BENEFITS, FRUITS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IN CHRIST. Alleluya!!!

Stop giving for the sake of worldly wealth as if worldly wealth is the end. Rather, Use worldly wealth for the sake of the Kingdom, use it to bless many others, use it to advance the Gospel, and thus you are using it for to increase the harvest of your righteousness.

Use worldly wealth to sow FAITHFULNESS to the Spirit.

GIVE RIGHT. GIVE TO GOD'S WORKS. GIVE TO THE POOR. SHARE WITH THE BRETHREN. GIVE TO BLESS MEN OF GOD. BUT REMEMBER, GIVE IN LOVE. DON'T GIVE FOR REWARD. LIVE TO GIVE.

As you do that, you are increasing your Spiritual capacity, you are increasingly manifesting your fruits of righteousness, you are manifesting the effects of Eternal life.

BE FAITHFUL IN HANDLING THE WORLDLY WEALTH SO YOU CAN BE ENTRUSTED WITH THE TRUE RICHES. Glory.

I love you eternally IN CHRIST. (Don't forget to share with me below)

## **My Story #2 - The LAST time I VOWED!!!**

It was couple of years ago, I needed that job so desperately. I applied and I was shortlisted for the 1st level of interview. I prayed and prayed again. Then one day, at my then church, I MADE A VOW. I vowed to buy a certain equipment for the church, IF God would give me that job.

I passed the level of the first interview and the second interview and was offered the job. Woowoow, it worked. I was so happy and even gave the testimony in the church, and fulfilled my vow, bought the equipment - ALL BEFORE I STARTED THE JOB. Because I am aware of how serious God takes vow. So, I went for the job training, which was going to last for months.

In the middle of the intensive training, tragedy struck, the job offer was revoked and I had to leave the training. What? I was so surprised and discouraged. I felt so sad, and betrayed. After all the prayers and the vow? After I gave the testimony and fulfilled my vow to God? Why would God do this to me? I had so many unanswered questions on my mind. Only when I understood God's Grace that I found answers. GOD ACTUALLY USED THAT EVENT TO TEACH ME HOW WRONG I WAS IN MAKING THAT VOW. Thank God, I now know better.

### **\*\*\*Be Warned: God takes vow seriously in ANY testament\*\*\***

"If a man makes a vow to the LORD, or takes an oath to bind himself with a binding obligation, he shall not violate his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth." Numbers 30:2

""When you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay to pay it, for it would be sin in you, and the LORD your God will surely require it of you." Deuteronomy 23:21

"When you make a vow to God, do not be late in paying it; for He takes no delight in fools Pay what you vow! " Ecclesiastes 5:4

"It is a trap to dedicate something rashly and only later to consider one's vows." Proverbs 20:25

""Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving And pay your vows to the Most High;" Psalm 50:14.

### **\*\*\*\*\* Why God takes vows so seriously?\*\*\*\*\***

Vow is a VOLUNTARY PROMISE you made to God. He never demanded it. But out of your free will, you promised God to do something. GOD WANTS YOU TO TAKE YOUR WORDS SERIOUSLY THE SAME WAY HE TAKES HIS WORDS SERIOUSLY. Especially when you made a promise WITHOUT BEING FORCED OR COERCED.

### **\*\*\*\*\*Another Terrible Testimony about Vow\*\*\*\*\***

I was part of a church, where on the 1st of January of a certain year, the Pastor made all members of the church to come out and PLEDGE their allegiance to serve God, and promised to keep His commandment.

During that year, many members of the church lost their jobs. The church lost one of the most committed members to a ghastly motor accident. A very lovely brother.

And later the pastor confessed to me that when he asked God why all those terrible things happened, God told him it was because he was making people to pledge and commit themselves. And since they could not keep their vows, tragedy struck.

The worse thing is that the pastor keeps repeating the deed of making members to vow and pledge to God. I stopped participating in those vows ever since.

### **\*\*\*\* God NEVER commanded VOW, even in the Old Testament\*\*\*\***

Did that surprise you? It surely surprised me. Vow was a common practice in the Old Testament, but strangely enough, God never commanded it, even in the law. He only commanded against DELAY or NOT-FULFILLING it. The only instruction in the law was strict warning against not fulfilling it and how you could redeem it with something else if your vow becomes impossible. BUT GOD NEVER SAID "MAKE A VOW".

### **\*\*\*\*\*Why do men make vows\*\*\*\*\***

#1. People make vows out of zeal to see their prayers answered.

It is some sorts of human effort to impress God to do what they are praying for.

#2. People vowed because of the WRONG TEACHING all over some churches encouraging people to vow. A lot of people fall victim of this in some pentecostal circle, where they hire "MONEY RAISING professionals" to rip people off. I have been in meetings where we were told if you don't have money now, you must pledge. It is so sad.

The other decent pastors that lead people to vow often use the story of Hannah, Samuel's mom, as an encouragement to tell people HOW VOW IS WORKING.

But the critical examination of the story shows that SUCH PASTORS MAKE A LOT OF UNBIBLICAL ASSUMPTIONS in that story to prove their theology.

First, there is NO WHERE in the Bible that declared that God answered Hannah's prayer because of her vow. NO WHERE. It was assumed. Have you considered that Hanna could have prayed that year as seriously as she prayed without making a vow, and God could have given her Samuel?

".....she gave birth to a son; and she named him Samuel, saying, "Because I HAVE ASKED HIM of the LORD." 1 Samuel 1:20 (not because of vow, but because she asked him).

Second, while it is true that God needed a Prophet and Hannah needed a Son, God did NOT need Hannah to vow in order to get his prophet. NO. Hannah could give birth to Samuel and God would call Samuel to Prophetic ministry AFTER birth. God could as well tell the parents that he wanted their child to be his prophet. So, the vow was not the only way God could have called Samuel.

Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, never vowed to have the forerunner of Jesus as a son. Yet, God gave them prophet as Son without vow, and they too did not have child for so long. In my testimony, God could have told me to buy the equipment for the church, without me making a vow. VOW WAS MY OWN THING, NOT GOD.

**\*\*\*\*\* Why Vow is VERY BAD AND TOXIC for you \*\*\*\***

#1. Vow is the GREATEST display of UNBELIEF in the promises of God.

It was understandable in the Old Testament that people vowed, because it was a MAN-CENTERED covenant. Man had to do something to get some blessings.

But in the New Testament, God has already promised to give us EVERYTHING FREELY IN HIM.

"He who did not spare His own Son but gave up Him for us all, how will He not also, along with Him, freely give us all things?" Romans 8:32. Did you read that??? He will GIVE US ALL THINGS FREELY. NO SEED OR VOW IS NEEDED.

"If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!" Matthew 7:11

#2. When you vow, you are putting yourself UNDER THE LAW, because you are indirectly applying sowing and reaping principle to God, except that YOU MADE YOUR SOWING AS A PROMISE" Thus, you are cutting yourself off from Christ in that aspect of your life.

Galatians 5:4

"You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace."

You are endangering that aspect of your life to be cut off from Grace by making the vow. You are flexing some muscles before God.

**\*\*\*\*\* Jesus NEVER asked any of His disciples to vow or make allegiance to Him, He simply told them to follow Him. And from that time, His strength was keeping them on. No allegiance, pledge or vow was needed. THEY WERE KEPT BY THE ETERNAL ARMS OF GOD.**

**\*\*\* STOP PROMISING GOD, THAT IS A VOW.**

**\*\*\* WHEN YOU HEAR A GREAT SERMON, DURING YOUR PRAYERS, DON'T TELL GOD WHAT YOU WILL DO. THAT IS A VOW.**

**\*\*\* TELL GOD WHAT YOU DESIRE TO DO, AND ASK HIM FOR HELP. THAT IS LIVING UNDER GRACE.**

## **Prayer of Mercy**

**\*\*\* IF YOU HAVE MADE A VOW THAT YOU FEEL IS CAUSING SOME PROBLEMS IN YOUR LIFE, YOU CAN COME TO THE THRONE OF MERCY AND ASK FOR MERCY AND GRACE TO HELP IN THE TIME OF NEED.**

The Lord is merciful, HE WILL RELEASE YOU OF THAT VOW BURDEN AND REPLACE THE CURSE WITH BLESSINGS.

(I encourage everyone to pray this prayer, I also did. You don't know if you made a vow unknowingly in some of those meetings and they are working against you. Just consciously declare Galatians 3:13 in your prayer)

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"—" Galatians 3:13

**Lastly,**

**\*\*\*\*\* GOD HAS MADE A VOW (HE SWORE) SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE A VOW\*\*\*\***

Hebrews 6:13-14, 17-18

13. When God made His promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater to swear by, He swore by Himself, 14saying, "I will surely bless you and multiply your descendants."

"17. So when God wanted to make the UNCHANGING NATURE of His purpose VERY CLEAR to the heirs of the PROMISE, He guaranteed it with an OATH.

18.Thus by two unchangeable things in which IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD TO LIE, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us MAY BE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED.

God had to go beyond promising, to swearing by Himself, to show us the unchanging nature / immutability of His promise. God is simply saying "I AM MAKING THE ASSURANCE DOUBLE SURE FOR YOU TO KNOW I AM GOING TO DO EVERY OF MY WORD THAT I HAVE PROMISED YOU. You don't need to swear or vow, God did that for you. TAKE GOD AS HIS WORD.

1 Thessalonians 5:24

"He who calls you is FAITHFUL; He will SURELY do it."

2 Corinthians 1:20

"For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us." (KJV)

"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God" (NIV)

Thank you Jesus for ALL your promises to us in Christ Jesus, they are YES AND AMEN. We bless you for your amazing promises. WE BELIEVE YOU AND WE WALK IN THE REALITY OF YOUR PROMISES, IN ALL PARTS OF OUR LIFE. IN JESUS NAME.

Rejoice, brethren. ALL OF GOD'S PROMISES ARE YES AND AMEN IN CHRIST JESUS. Alleluyah!!!

Share your excitement below and declare God's promises over your life by faith here in the comment. I love you eternally in Christ.

## **New Testament Giving, Receiving, Financial Blessings, Tithing etc.."**

### **Part 4 - TITHE - Comprehensive Exposition on TITHE and other Old Testament Required Offerings!**

Let me emphasize again, that the purpose of this series is NOT to make you to give less or more, but to make you to give RIGHT. For those who have followed the earlier parts and the subsections, you will agree with me. We have clearly shown that in the New Testament, we don't give to receive, we ask to receive. Because we are sons, not slaves. God is our Father, not employer. So, when we give to Him, it should be Gifts of love, not to get something in return. Our givings should not be regarded as seeds, but simply as Gifts. If you have not read the earlier parts, it is good you look for them, before this final part.

In this part 3 of this series, I will take a BIG LOOK at Tithe. And in part 4, I will be discussing the types of giving that is practiced in the New Testament. There are TEN parts under this section. Please read slowly and patiently to the end.

#### **Section 1: TITHE (REQUIRED / COMPULSORY 10%) IS ONE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT COMPULSORY OFFERINGS.**

You must understand that in the law, so many types of offerings were REQUIRED of the Israelites, sin offerings, fellowship offerings, temple tax/ offerings, tithes, first fruits, etc. The characteristics of these offerings was that they were REQUIRED. OR COMPULSORY. And Not giving them appropriately means you are breaking the Mosaic laws and had consequences. They also had specifications of how they should be given.

The truth is that because the Old Testament was the shadow of the New Testament, everything in the Old Testament was symbolic, including the offerings, the Sabbath, and the feasts. THE SUBSTANCE IS CHRIST. NOW THAT WE HAVE THE SUBSTANCE, THE SHADOW IS GONE.

#### **#Point 1. Jesus ended the law and the Old Testament offerings - ALL OF THEM.**

Romans 10:4 "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes"

This is the point: In a matter of the law, you can not be selective. Because if you break one, you have broken all. (James 2:10).

So, dear Christian, you cannot select only tithe and first fruit offering. If you want to keep the law of tithe, then you must give ALL other types of offerings too. Otherwise, you have broken all.

#### **#Point 2. Tithe was NOT required before the law. Abraham did NOT give tithe of His possession. He was very rich, He gave no tithe of His possession. God never asked Him to do such. Let's see what happened in the case of Abraham.**

Rather, according to Genesis 14:8-24, Abraham went to war against many kings to recover His captured niece, Lot, and the King of Sodom where Lot was living. He captured the enemy and took their properties/ loots. He then SWORE not to keep those loots to himself.



When asked by the King of Sodom to keep the goods, see what he said

"22. And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, That I will not take from a thread even to a shoe latchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou should say, I have made Abram rich: " Genesis 14:22-23.

Did you just read that? That was the background for Abraham giving those loots away. He gave 10% (tenth) of the properties he recovered to King Melchizedek and then the rest (90%) to the King of Sodom, except what his men used to maintain themselves during the war.

SO, THE LESSON HERE WAS THAT ABRAHAM SWORE THAT HE WOULD NOT TAKE ANYTHING THAT DID NOT BELONG TO HIM. If King Melchizedek did not come to meet him, he would have given all the 100% recovered loots to the king of Sodom.

For Abraham, giving 10% to King Melchizedek was a matter of hospitality, He saw him as a Divine Person who came to congratulate him for the victory and he shared the spoilt with Him, but as at that time, he did not know that act was symbolic. However, in Hebrews, we saw the substance of that act. We will discuss that under another point later.

SO, CLEARLY, ABRAHAM NEVER GAVE A TEN PERCENT OF HIS POSSESSION BUT OF THE PROPERTIES THAT HE RECOVERED FROM WAR, WHICH NEVER BELONG TO HIM, AND HE RETURNED THE REST 90% TO THE KING OF SODOM. This was not a command, nor a model to follow. The lesson is don't keep what is not yours. Let God bless you clearly and be hospitable.

Another Pre-Law story that Tithe proponents normally refer to is Jacob. What Jacob did in Genesis 28:10-22, was simply a VOW to give back tenth of His possession IF God kept him in his journey. This was NOT something God wanted or require, but a voluntary promise (VOW). But Tithe is NOT a vow, UNDER LAW, TITHE IS REQUIRED. And remember we already dealt with vow in the New testament in this series. SO, AGAIN, GOD DID NOT REQUIRE 10% OF ANYONE'S POSSESSION BEFORE THE LAW OF MOSES.

### **#Point 3. There were different types of Tithe in the Old Testament, not just**

**one.** And if you truly love to tithe, then you should follow all the tithes in the law, not just one. And actually, you should follow ALL the other offerings and sacrifices in the Old testament. I will mention briefly three main types of tithe in the Old testament.

**Type 1 - Levitical and Priest Tithe.** That was the tithe for the Levites. Levites were the tribe in Israel who served in the temple. And priests were Aaron's descendant who served before the Lord on behalf of the Israelites. These two groups were to have no inheritance in the land of Israel and should not do any work, apart from serving in the temple. Their whole family was devoted to the priests work in the temple, from generation to generation.

**Type 2: Festival Tithe.** This tithe was brought once a year to the streets of Jerusalem during the three-annual feast, and it was eaten in the streets of Jerusalem by all the people, as a potluck, and they shared it with strangers and the Levites and the priests. In fact, this tithe could be sold/ exchanged for money and you use the money to buy whatever you wanted for your family, under law.(Deuteronomy 14:22-27)

**Type 3: Tithe for the Poor and Widows. This tithe was commanded to be collected every three years.** It was the ten of their whole crop harvest the third year. Instead of giving all of it to the Levites, it was set apart to be used to feed the poor, the widow and the Levites too, unlike the other years when it was for the Levites alone.

However, the New Testament churches only took one type of tithe and ran with it. As a matter of fact, the Levitical tithe that was being followed was not followed to the letter. First, it is supposed to be devoted to the

family of the priest alone. And all the children of the priests were priests automatically. Meaning, If your Pastor is claiming to be a Levite, then HIS WHOLE FAMILY CANNOT do any other work, the wife, the children cannot train to become a doctor or an engineer. That was the only ground that qualified the Levites to collect the first tithe. THE WHOLE FAMILY HAD NO INHERITANCE, NO FARM... So, if your Pastor's family has one member that is working elsewhere or training in school to work and having other normal privileges, then they do not qualify for Levite's tithe. Simple.

I have a lot of Pastors in my family and so I cannot be against Pastors. As a matter of fact, I am a strong advocate for being a HUGE blessing to the family of Pastors, and believe they have right to enjoy good education and all good things that everyone dreams to enjoy. So, I am not talking down on the great works they are doing in the Body of Christ. GREAT GRACE TO ALL MEN OF GOD WHO ARE FEEDING THE FLOCK OF CHRIST WITH THE GOOD MEALS WE DESERVE.

However, I am simply showing you why tithe, as a REQUIRED offering just does not fit into the New Testament. Because the reason God commanded it no longer applies. PREACHING AND PRACTISING TITHE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT IS EQUIVALENT TO PUTTING THE NEW WINE IN THE OLD WINESKIN. IT IS CALLED MIXTURE.

We are to preach and practice giving in the New Testament. I AM A TERRIFIC GIVER (as some of those reading these posts know). However, Tithe as a required offering is simply a law thing. WE ARE NO LONGER UNDER THE LAW. NO OFFERING CAN BE REQUIRED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. THE RULE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT IS in 2 Corinthians 9:7

"

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

#### **#Point 4: Old Testament Tithe only involved crops and animals.**

I won't spend much time on this. But just note this. And don't quickly say there was no money at that time. Money was mentioned more than 30 times in Genesis and other parts of the Old Testament. (Genesis 44:2, 47:14-15, etc) Infact, the other type of tithe could be exchanged for money. People performed services and collected wages / salary, there were carpenters, builders, etc those days. And they were paid in wages, / money and not required to tithe using money.

#### **#Point 5: Did Jesus command tithe?**

The tithe proponents often quoted Jesus as commanding people to pay tithe while on earth. When I did not understand the New testament, I used to say the same too. But when you look at those verses referred to, it was obvious He was talking to those under law, to keep law. Let us see Mathew 23:23

""Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former."

First of all, do you see who Jesus was addressing? THE TEACHERS OF THE LAW AND THE PHARISEES. HE WAS NOT ADDRESSING HIS DISCIPLES TO WHO HE WOULD COMMIT THE NEW TESTAMENT AFTER CROSS. He was simply rebuking them for not keeping the whole law.

Second, He was actually exposing their hypocrisy, by selecting the part of the law they wanted to keep. They were keeping the tithe part but neglecting the WEIGHTIER MATTERS OF THE LAW. That is exactly what

the law believers are doing today, they are selecting the part of the law they want to keep, and the type of tithe they want to keep, and yet, the condition for the Levites and Priest were not satisfied.

Third, apart from the fact that Jesus particularly addressed the Law teachers and Pharisees, this statement was made under the law. Jesus lived under the law. His blood was not yet shed, for the New Testament to begin, and Hebrews 9:16-17.

He did many things under the Old Testament, paid the temple tax which was required under the law. He celebrated feasts of Passover and other feasts with His disciples. He did everything required under the law. He never spoke against the law.

While He was on earth, all the animal sacrifices continued in the temple, and Jesus did not speak against them or stopped them. WHY? BECAUSE HE LIVED UNDER THE OLD TESTAMENT. SIMPLE.

### **#Point 6: Non-tithers -Cursed by Malachi?**

This is the favorite verse of those who MANIPULATE the church of CHRIST about Tithe. First of all, I know of many beautiful pastors, who though believe in Tithe, rarely preach it, and they will never curse the Lord's people. Even though they have not understood it from the New Testament perspectives, they would not use Malachi to COERCE or MANIPULATE God's people in this regard. To such pastors, I will say God bless you.

But I have a word of rebuke to those who seek to manipulate or coerce God's people by invoking curses on them. You have not done well, by trying to manipulate the Lord's people - these are the people for whom Christ died, and you are bold enough to try to curse them, all because you feel they are not contributing some money to your edifice that you call church? If it is the church of Christ, Christ does not curse His own children to build His own church. Because His children are His church. WE ARE THE MEMBER OF HIS BODY, NOT THE BUILDING, BUT HIS PEOPLE.

As a matter of fact, if you understand the New Testament, there is no need to consider Malachi at all. First, ALL BELIEVERS HAVE BEEN REDEEMED FROM THE CURSE OF THE LAW.

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree” Galatians 3:13

Jesus has redeemed us from every curse resulting from the law. He simply became the curse for us. SO, THERE IS NO SUCH A THING LIKE A BELIEVER BEING CURSED FOR NOT GIVING TITHE OR ANY OTHER OFFERING.

For your information: Malachi was addressed to the Farmers who refused to bring food to the temple. The open heaven promised was showers of rains upon their crops. And the devourers were simply pests.

### **#Point 7: Hebrews 7: Christ after the Order of Melchizedek:**

Some people have used this chapter to argue that Hebrews mentioned tithe. BUT THAT WILL BE A GROSS MISINTERPRETATION AND MISAPPLICATION OF THAT CHAPTER.

Hebrews 7 has nothing to do with tithe BUT THE CHAPTER SHOWING THE SUPERIORITY OF CHRIST'S PRIESTHOOD. The chapter is prophetically interpreting the reason why Abraham did what He did unknowingly.

Hebrews established that all the Priests and Levites who collected tithes from the Israelites also paid tithe INSIDE ABRAHAM when Abraham gave the tenth to the king of MELCHIZEDEK.

The principle is that the LESS IS BLESSED BY THE GREATER (Hebrews 7:7), meaning MELCHIZEDEK WAS GREATER THAN ABRAHAM, that was why He blessed Abraham, and in turn Abraham gave Him some portion of the loot.

Jesus's priesthood was compared to the order of Melchizedek priesthood, which means JESUS PRIESTHOOD WAS GREATER THAN LEVITE'S PRIESTHOOD. Because the Levite's priesthood (Old Testament) paid tithe to Melchizedek (Christ's priesthood), and Christ priesthood blessed him, showing Christ's superiority. That is the message of that chapter... And in fact, it is one of the riches chapter, explaining the Power in the Priesthood of Christ.

### **#Point 8: The Early Disciples Did Not practice Tithe or any REQUIRED offering from the Old Testament. THEY PRACTISED WILLING OFFERING ONLY.**

As we can see in the New Testament, after Christ died and ascended, the church started doing away with Judaism practices of the Old Testament and was embracing the PURE NEW TESTAMENT practice. God used Apostle Paul a lot on this regard.

The most amazing truth is that IT WAS VERY CLEAR TO THE APOSTLES THAT TITHE AND OTHER OLD TESTAMENT OFFERINGS WENT AWAY WITH THE OLD TESTAMENT. Not one place did they ever mention tithe again to be collected in the church.

Not even Peter, or Jude or any other Apostle brought this up. IT WAS SO OBVIOUS TO THEM THAT ALL REQUIRED SPECIFIED OFFERING WAS GONE WITH THE OLD.

The Holy Spirit gave them the new order of giving: IT IS CALLED WILLING GIVING - NOT REQUIRED GIVING.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

That is why Tithe does NOT qualify in the New Testament. Because tithe is compulsory and required and that is reviving the spirit of the law which has died. SO, WE CANNOT MESS AROUND WITH THIS.

Remember our aim is NOT giving less or giving more but GIVING RIGHT. WHEN YOU GIVE "TITHE" as "TITHE - REQUIRED 10%", you are NOT giving right. Because you are messing with law.

Some people claim that because the believers gave everything, that was why there was no tithe. BIBLE NEVER SAID "THEY GAVE EVERYTHING" , but the Bible says "THEY SHARED EVERYTHING". They made their resources available for ALL BELIEVERS to demonstrate ONENESS, and to help those who were poor.

### **#Point 9: Now, How did Tithe find its way back to the church?**

I wont spend much time here. But the church history makes it clear that Roman catholic church leaders revived the practice of tithing sometimes around 7th century, then it was mild and the intention was just to encourage the members to bring Agric products to sustain the clergies. It actually evolved into monetary values and became a strong message hundreds of year later. And now our generation is not only practicing it, but LEGALIZING it. That is why God is raising many sons who can understand and teach the New Testament models in everything, including giving. WE MUST RETURN THE NEW WINE BACK INTO THE NEW WINESKIN. Glory.

## **#Point 10: Frequently Asked Questions:**

I know some of you reading this note, who though have seen clearly that Tithe is no longer a New Testament offering might still have some questions. I will answer one or two such question ahead now, as we bring this to a close.

### **Question 1: Some people claim that because the believers gave everything, that was why there was no tithe?**

Answer: BIBLE NEVER SAID "THEY GAVE EVERYTHING" , but the Bible says "THEY SHARED EVERYTHING". They made their resources available for ALL BELIEVERS to demonstrate ONENESS, and to help those who were poor.

And please note that this account of "SHARING EVERYTHING" only happened at the beginning of the church. As times went on, they restored orders and structures. They were collecting offerings THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK (SUNDAYS) when they gathered. And it was for specific purposes - to bless other believers and other churches who were in need. IN ALL THESE, THERE WAS ONLY ONE RULE - WILLINGNESS, WHICH DISQUALIFIED REQUIRED 10%.

### **Question 2: DO I GET BLESSED BY PAYING MY TITHE?**

I know some believers want to play safe and say, "Okay I understand that I cannot be cursed because Christ has redeemed me from the curse of the law. BUT AT LEAST DO I GET SPECIALLY BLESSED FOR PAYING MY TITHE?"

That question is like saying "Even though Christ has redeemed us from circumcision, can I still circumcise, Just may be, to play safe. Just in case"

Paul had to deal with such a case at a point, when some people were teaching circumcision to the Galatian church, hear Paul:

"I testify again to EVERY MAN who accepts circumcision that he is OBLIGATED to keep the WHOLE LAW. You who are trying to be justified by the law have been cut off from Christ; you have fallen away from grace." Galatians 5:3-4

So, the rule is clear. IF YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT ONE PART OF THE LAW, YOU ARE UNDER OBLIGATION TO KEEP THE WHOLE. And the result is that YOU ARE CUTTING YOURSELF OFF FROM CHRIST'S SUPPLY AND ARE MAKING YOURSELF TO FALL FROM GRACE.

So, you don't need to pay tithe to be blessed. YOU ARE FREELY BLESSED IN CHRIST.

Galatians 3:14

"14. He redeemed us (from the curse of the law according to verse 13) so that the blessing promised to Abraham would come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit"

THE REASON WHY YOU HAVE THE BLESSINGS OF ABRAHAM WAS NOT BECAUSE YOU KEP THE LAW, BUT BECAUSE OF CHRIST WHO FULFILLED THE CONDITIONS FOR US. Alleluyah!!!

So, you have all the blessings in Malachi and every place in the Old Testament, not because you fulfill the condition but because Christ fulfilled the law and credited us with the blessings. Alleluyah!!!

### **Question 3: Can I still Give 10% of My Income Monthly to God thru the Church?**

**Answer: YES AND NO.**

NO, if you regard that 10% or any percent as REQUIRED OFFERING - which is what TITHE is. If in your mind, you still see it a debt that must be paid or "not trying to steal from God", then you are back into the law, and cutting yourself from Christ's Free Grace.

YES, if you CHOOSE to adopt 10% or ANY PERCENT as your FREE WILL offering to the church. NOT AS REQUIRED OR FOR BLESSINGS OR CURSE PURPOSE. But if you attend a church where tithing is always mentioned and prayed for, the purpose will be defeated, because you are actually misclassifying the so-called 10% WILLING OFFERING. You can NOT call it Tithe but simply WILLING OFFERING, no matter the percent IF you want to LIVE THE PURE FORM OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

#### **MY TESTIMONY:**

Before we changed our church, after I received the New Testament revelations, it took me MONTHS to migrate from "Tither" to a "Free will Giver" and it was gradual. The first thing was that I stopped labeling our check to the church as tithe, I changed it to offering. If the Pastor said "If you are giving tithe, raise your hand" I would not. When he prayed for tithers differently from the general offering, I would disconnect my mind and just focus on GIVING TO GOD IN LOVE AND WORSHIP GOD WITH MY OFFERING, even though I was still doing the 10%.

Later, I started giving a bit above or below 10%, because I just needed to take off tithe from my system.

Lastly, I praise God that since we are now attending a GRACE CHURCH, I don't have to worry about Tithe thought. I give our offerings as PURE WILLING OFFERING. Because my GRACE CHURCH does NOT collect tithe. THEY COLLECT MANY PURPOSEFUL OFFERINGS, especially for missions, and helping brethren. THIS IS COMPLETELY WILLING OFFERINGS TO THE LORD.

### **Question 4: Can a church survive without tithe?**

O yes. Many churches are not only surviving, but THRIVING. My church is an example. I know of many other Grace pastors who stopped collecting tithes. BUT THEY STILL PREACH GIVING in the correct New Testament way, and still raise offerings for specific purposes. BUT DO NO LONGER TAKE A REQUIRED OFFERING CALLED TITHE OR FIRST FRUIT, etc.

Conclusion: I hope you were terrifically blessed reading this piece on Tithe. I also know that some of you will take time to really process this. I will say read again, and very slowly. It will get clearer as you meditate on it slowly.

We still have one more part to cover. I will be discussing briefly the "first fruit issue" and then spend more time on THE TYPES OF GIVING HIGHLY ENCOURAGED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, and why every believer needs to be a giver and grows in our giving, as the Lord enables us.

Leave me your comment on what part of this note blessed you the most, your ha-ha moment. I believe most of the questions are already answered in the note.

However, IF you still have another unique question, ASK NICELY and WITH A TEACHABLE SPIRIT, and I, or some other seasoned teachers will answer your question when chanced.

I love you eternally in Christ.

# **New Testament Giving, Receiving, Financial Blessings, Tithing etc.. (THE FINAL PART - SO LOADED)**

## **Part 5 – Giving Kinds in the New Testament: The Types and the Features**

This will be the last part of the series on the New Testament giving, and I believe you have been terrifically blessed since the beginning of this series.

As a reminder, Our giving is NOT to provoke God's blessings. But our giving should be provoked by God's blessings. Our faith in God's Fatherly Gracious Free provisions provoke God's blessings. When you need something, ASK.

Your giving to God should be out of love. Don't give to get, give out of love. Look forward to eternal rewards, not money for money schemes. Specified required offerings do no longer apply in the New Testament, but FREE WILL offerings. You can give ANY percentage, but must NOT give to avoid curse or attract blessings, because Jesus has redeemed you from the curse of the law and gave you the blessings freely.

Before I go into today's grand finale, let me also say that first fruit offering is also an Old Testament required offering. No such thing like the first fruit offering in the New Testaments. Every place the first fruit was mentioned in the New Testament, it refers to the Believers, as the FIRST FRUIT to God or the First fruit of the Spirit.

**IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, WE DON'T GIVE FIRST FRUIT. RATHER, WE ARE THE FIRST FRUITS.**

You can read James 1:18, Romans 8:23, 2Thessalonians 2:13.

We are the church of the First Born. Jesus is the First Born and We are IN HIM. That is why we are referred to as the FIRST FRUITS to God. That is the actual substance of first fruits, I will be sharing more in the message "From Shadow to Substance.

## **GIVING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT:**

### **#Point 1: You a Born Giver. Giving is in Your DNA.**

Now, let me say emphatically that even though there is no longer REQUIRED OFFERINGS in the New Testament, God actually expects us to be GREAT GIVERS.

God is a Terrific Giver, He who gave His ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, to us. He gave HIS ALL. And as His Sons, we have His DNA within us. We are terrific givers by birth. If you are not giving, then you are not living out your true nature. God would rather give than to receive. No wonder He said to us "That it is better to give than to receive".

Regarding the resources of this world, God does not want us to be attached to them, but to use them for Eternal purpose. I shared a subsection which exposed 2 Corinthians 9 ,and Galatians 6, where our giving was related to Fruit or Harvest of righteousness, and sowing to the Spirit, leading to harvest of Eternal life.

Jesus said we are to use the worldly wealth well so as we can be entrusted with TRUE RICHES, which are essentially Eternal. So, as believers, we must see money that way.

Whatever your financial status is, you can be a giver in some capacity, in your own little way. And just like you seek to grow in your Bible study, prayer life, we should also seek to grow in our giving life.

Read what Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 8:7

"But since you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you --see that you also EXCEL in this GRACE OF GIVING"

Did you just read that? As you can apply grace to different part of your life, you need to apply Grace to your giving life also. YOU MUST SEEK TO EXCEL IN YOUR GIVING ALSO.

There is a connection between where you store your resources and where your heart will be. Jesus said so in Matthew 6: 19 - 21

"19. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

20. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

21. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Don't seek a name for yourself on earth. This place is too temporal to store the most important part of your life. Invest into eternity.

BE RICH TOWARDS GOD, DON'T BE LIKE THE RICH FOOL WHO TAUGHT ALL HIS BLESSINGS ARE FOR HIMSELF.

Read Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 6:17-18

"17. Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be proud and not to put their hope in the uncertainty of wealth, but in God, who richly provides all things for us to enjoy.

18. Instruct them to do good, to be RICH IN GOOD WORKS, and to be GENEROUS and READY TO SHARE,"

Personally, I have made it my ambition to help others out of the treasures the Lord has given me. I choose to believe that I have no right to keep heaping up money in my savings or buying many cars that I do not need while some other people that I know cannot afford life's basics, like food, education, etc.

The Spirit of the New Testament is the Spirit of Giving. I want to challenge everyone of you who have been with me in this series to live a selfless and a giving life.

"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness." 2 Corinthians 9:10



## **#Point 2: Characteristics of Giving in the New Testament:**

1. Your giving must be out of a willing mind, it must be what you personally decide to give, without being coerced or hyped up, or compulsion or necessity or promised a reward. 100% WILLINGNESS.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

2. It must be LOVE motivated, NOT GREED or reward motivated. If at all you think of rewards, think of ETERNAL, NOT temporal rewards.

"God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them." Hebrews 6:10

3. Give according to what you have, not what you don't have. DON'T BORROW TO GIVE.

"For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable ACCORDING TO WHAT A PERSON HAS, NOT according to WHAT HE DOES NOT HAVE." 2 Corinthians 8:12

4. Don't give to hurt yourself to a cause that does NOT really need or deserve it. GIVE TO A WORTHY CAUSE. GIVE TO MEET NEEDS, NOT WANTS OF PEOPLE..

"It is NOT our intention that others may be relieved while you are burdened, but that there may be equality. At the present time, your surplus will meet their need...." 2 Corinthians 8:13-14,

5. You CAN give ABOVE and BEYOND if you are LED and given the Grace to do so. But that is NOT the standard.

Paul testified about a particular church who did much beyond his expectation, because they even gave out of their poverty.

**BUT THIS MUST BE OF YOUR OWN ACCORD. NO PASTOR SHOULD TELL YOU TO GIVE BEYOND YOUR MEANS.** Paul did not tell them to do it, He was actually surprised and impressed they did that. It is God's personal dealings on them.

2 Corinthians 8:1-3

"1. Now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace God has given the churches of Macedonia.

2. In the terrible ordeal they suffered, their abundant joy and deep poverty overflowed into rich generosity.

3. For I testify that they gave according to their ability and EVEN BEYOND THEIR ABILITY. ON THEIR OWN ACCORD"

## **#Point 3: TYPES OF GIVING PRACTISED AND ENCOURAGED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT:**

**1. Giving to the Pastors who are feeding you Spiritually. Giving to Men of God generally. I am NOT talking of the hype-giving of dropping money in the feet of some prophets, or giving to get the anointing, and some crazy non-Biblical giving.**

BUT GIVING OUT OF LOVE AND SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO YOUR SPIRITUAL LEADERS. They labor over you in prayers and watch over your souls. They carry the burdens of so many believers in addition to their own.

Some of them even hardly have time for their own families. They deserve our gifts and support with honor.

Galatians 6:6

"Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches."

Philippians 4:15-16

"14. Nevertheless, you have done well to share in my affliction.

15. And as you Philippians know, in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church but you partnered with me in the matter of giving and receiving.

16. For even while I was in Thessalonica, you provided for my needs once and again"

In some of those denominations with BAD STRUCTURES where all the "tithes" and offerings go to some headquarter or area offices while the local pastors suffer for resources, IT IS BETTER YOU FOCUS YOUR GIVING to the Local Pastor who is directly over you, not send your money to some over-rich State pastors.

SHARE WITH YOUR LOCAL PASTORS. PERSONALLY GIVE TO THEM, FOR THEIR WELL BEINGS.

In addition to your local pastors, you can choose some other genuine men of God who were once your pastors or they are doing great works in the Kingdom and give to them, as the Lord lays in on your heart and in your hands.

**2. Giving to support your local churches. That is a kind of partnership to ensure your local church always have finance available. Jesus had a group of women who were financing His ministry.**

"Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means." Luke 8:3

This is where the regular offering comes in. You can decide to give a particular percentage or amount. Again, there is no fast rule BUT IT MUST BE WILLING AND FLEXIBLE, NOT RIGID. Don't see it like you owe God. But as God enables you, be as generous as possible.

**3. Sharing among Believers. Giving to your brethren in need.**

This was the most practiced in the New Testament. At the very beginning, they shared all they had, such no one was in need. Help the household of faith.

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Galatians 6:10

"17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth" 1 John 3:17-18

#### **4. Giving to the Poor, the widows and those who are highly disadvantaged financially.**

"Supply the needs of the saints. Extend hospitality to strangers." Romans 12:13

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Hebrews 13:16

"...If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need." Ephesians 4:27-28

#### **5. GIVING TO YOUR RELATIVES AND FAMILY MEMBERS.**

You can see that I capitalize this for a strong emphasis. This is one kind of giving that many people in the church has neglected. AND IT HAS ONE OF THE STRONGEST LANGUAGES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

Anyone who does not provide for his family and relatives is WORSE THAN AN UNBELIEVER AND HAS DENIED THE FAITH. Paul said so in 1 Timothy 5:8

"Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. " 1 Timothy 5:8 (NIV)

"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." (KJV)

"But those who won't care for their relatives, especially those in their own household, have denied the true faith. Such people are worse than unbelievers."

Please take care of your family members and relatives to a great extent. THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD. Some of the money you are giving to some rich pastors should be used in taking care of your family, especially your parents, spouse, children, siblings, and some relatives when you can.

THIS SHOULD BE PRIOTISED ABOVE ALMOST ALL GIVING. You can not be a great giver in the church while your parents are dying of hunger and basics, or your very blood. This is condemned in a very strong terms. IT ACTUALLY LOWERS YOUR LIFESTYLE TO BEING WORSE THAN AN UNBELIVERS. Because even unbelievers will take care of their own.

#### **6. Partnering with Specific Missionaries or Mission Groups. Paul had people who partnered with Him.**

Many missionaries sacrifice so much to take the Gospel to a strange life. Some of them loose their lives, and their children suffer because of such lifestyles.

WE SHOULD GIVE TO THE MISSIONARIES. We are actually doing evangelism with them as we do that. WE SHARE IN THEIR SUCCESSES.

When a soul comes to the Kingdom thru them, we are part of the great works. There is no greater joy than to be part of those who convert many to righteous.

## **7. Giving to Support Our Persecuted Brethren who are persecuted for their faith in Christ and for preaching the Gospel.**

All over the world, there are those who are killed, tortured, jailed, for their faith in Christ. We need to identify with them in their suffering for the Gospel. Supporting them financially is one method we can identify with them:

"32. But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, 33. Sometimes you were publicly exposed to ridicule and persecution; at other times you were partners with those who were so treated"

There are groups like VOM - "Voice of Matrys" who specialize in taking care of these persecuted brethren all over the world. You can give to them thru such groups.

## **8. Giving to Worthy Causes:**

There are different groups who are pursuing many good and noble causes, like helping the disabled children, helping the drug addicts to recover, helping the poor, providing medical needs to some rural areas, etc..

We can give thru all these genuine groups, even if they are not Christian groups. You are giving to the poor, thru them.

## **Conclusion:**

As we come to the end of this series on New Testament giving, I believe the Lord has shown us the right ways to give in the New Testament, putting the New Wine into the New wine skin.

The aim of this series is to help you to give right, to give with the right motive. And also to help you to receive right. To receive God's Gifts FREELY and GRACIOUSLY. And to stop trying to earn God's Blessings.

Another aim of this series is to show us clearly what the Bible teaches about the Old Testament REQUIRED OFFERINGS like Tithe and First fruits, and to understand that such offerings are no longer required in the New Testament. Instead, the Lord wants us to give WILLINGLY and CHEERFULLY, not by compulsion or required.

Another aim of this series was to teach and challenge pastors and clergies to understand the New testament models and to effect the same in their respective fellowships. Many have made this transitions. WE ARE RAISING A BREED WITHOUT GREED IN PRACTICAL FORM.

Lastly, the Aim of this series is NOT just to educate you about giving, but to make givers out of you. To challenge you to WORK OUT the SEED OF GIVING that is inside of you by God's DNA. And to produce a people zealous /eager for good works.

"He gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, ZEALOUS FOR GOOD WORKS"

I am confident these aims have been achieved in you and are being achieved as you put these messages into use prayerfully.

It is time to rejoice and share with me/ us how blessed you are in this series, especially this last part. Share the parts that blessed you the most.

I love you forever in Christ.

## **LAST ADDENDUM: BE GENEROUS IN GIVING TO YOUR LOCAL CHURCHES**

We DON'T give less in the New Testament, we give RIGHT . We give with the right motive. Not to get but IN LOVE.

Part of your giving is to ACTIVELY support your local churches, especially those who are propagating the True Gospel of God's Grace. We must know that the church is NOT meant to be sponsored by the government or the outside people but by her members.

While tithe and prescribed offering is no longer required in the New Testament, GIVING IS THE CULTURE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT. Check all through the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles. People give to support the church community, to support missionary and men of God.

In fact, the Father of Grace, Paul, instructed that "Those who minister to us in Spiritual matters deserves our physical and financial ministrations.

**WE MUST NOT PROMOTE LOW GIVING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. NO. WE ARE TO TEACH ON GIVING RIGHT, NOT LESS.**

You can choose to give a percentage or not. But give to support your local churches. I DO SO TOO. DESPITE MY GIVING TO MANY OTHER NEEDS AND PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD, I DO NOT NEGLECT MY LOCAL CHURCH. Like Paul, I will say: Follow my example in this.

Think about it this way. If nobody give or if everybody gives almost nothing, will you even be able to have the minimum needs of your local church met?

Though I know there are people who misuse resources, however if you attend a local church where the right things are emphasized, NOT cathedrals but the preaching of God's Word and building people's lives in Christ, then please support your church community as God strengthens you.

It's not a matter of compulsion or obligation but a matter of responsibility. And we are not promising or cajoling you with 100 fold returns. But I know that my God shall continue to supply your needs, NOT according to your giving, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS OWN RICHES IN CHRIST JESUS.

I love you eternally in Christ!