

Lesson 11

GIVING



There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet (fittith), but it tendeth to poverty (Proverbs 11:24)

The liberal soul Shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself (Proverbs 11:25).

God's principle and approach to living is totally and diametrically opposed to the outlook of those in the world. The world says, "Get what you can and hang on to it. Look after yourself first, second and last." God says, "Keep giving away what you possess. Give, and you shall receive more."

1. A NEW ATTITUDE IS REQUIRED

A totally new attitude is needed in God's people. We need to ask God to give us generous hearts, hearts moved with compassion to give.

A. Responsibility towards the work of God.

Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also. (II Corinthians 8:7 Amplified).

For further study: Read II Corinthians 9:1-7

B. The right approach to giving.

[Remember] this: he who sows sparingly and grudgingly will also reap sparingly and grudgingly, and he who sows generously and that blessings may come to someone, will also reap generously and with blessings.

C. A ministry in giving for everyone.

Let each one [give] as he has made up his own mind and purposed in his heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves (He [a]takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful (joyous, "prompt to do it") giver [whose heart is in his giving]. II Corinthians 9:7 Amplified).

Note: Giving is NOT an option. God commands we give the tithe (10% of our income) and offerings (Malachi 3:8-11). However, He promises we can PROVE Him in giving! He WILL pour back to us abundant blessing.

D. God repays those who live God's way.

And God is able to make all grace (every favor and ^[a]earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need ^[b]be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation]. (II Corinthians 9:8 Amplified).

For Further Study: Read Luke 6:38

E. Result of our giving.

As it is written, He [the benevolent person] scatters abroad; He gives to the poor; His deeds of justice and goodness and kindness and benevolence will go on and endure forever! (II Corinthians 9:8 Amplified).

NOTE: We cannot put God on a time table! He will give back to us in His own time (Ecclesiastes 11:1)

2. A CALLING IN DISCIPLESHIP

God wants our lives to be given to Him for His eternal purposes. Jesus said:

And Jesus called [to Him] the throng with His disciples and said to them, If anyone intends to come after Me, let him deny himself [forget, ignore, disown, and lose sight of himself and his own interests] and take up his cross, and [joining Me as a disciple and siding with My party] follow with Me [continually, cleaving steadfastly to Me].

For whoever wants to save his [higher, spiritual, eternal] life, will lose it [the lower, natural, temporal life which is lived only on earth]; and whoever gives up his life [which is lived only on earth] for My sake and the Gospel's will save it [his higher, spiritual life in the eternal kingdom of God].

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his life [in the eternal kingdom of God]? (Mark 8:34-36 Amplified)

3. FINANCIAL GIVING TO TEACH US THE PRINCIPLE.

A. Tithing before the law---VOLUNTARY.

(1) Abraham paid tithes---Genesis 14:18-20.

(2) Jacob promises a tenth---Genesis 28:20-22

B. Tithing under the Law of Moses---COMPULSORY

(1) The tithe belongs to God---Leviticus 27-:30-32

(2) Obedience to the law of tithing brings blessing---
Malachi 3:10

(3) Use of the tithes that were collected---Nehemiah
10:37-38

C. Tithing under Grace---WILLINGLY

- (1) We pay our tithes to the priesthood after the order of Melchizedek---Hebrews 7:1-7
- (2) We give cheerfully---II Corinthians 9:7
- (3) We give bountifully---II Corinthians 9:6
- (4) When to give---I Corinthians 16:1-2
- (5) The use of tithes---Matthew 10:7-14
- (6) The use of offerings---II Corinthians 9:7-14

***Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.
(Luke 6:38)***