

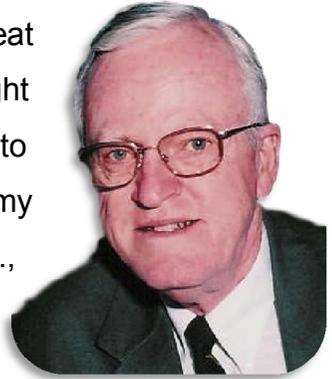
**How to get
MORE MONEY
from GOD**



ABOUT THE AUTHOR, Melvyn L. Brown

Dear Reader,

I was born in 1935 at the end of the great depression and from a child my parents taught me to work from the get-go. They taught me to pick up my toys, hang up my clothes, make my bed, clean my room, take out the trash, etc., etc., etc. Back talk was never tolerated and they would expect me not to delay in their



commands. I had a drug problem; my parents drug me to school, to the dentist, to the bathtub and to church. I am so glad they took their responsibly seriously and stayed faithful to see to it that I carried out their wishes. They had the Bible in one hand and a switch in the other and that is not a bad thing. What was expected was inspected.

Our family of six was considered to be middle class. We never had the luxury of having a new bicycle and wore hand-me-down clothes. We did odd jobs around the neighborhood like, mowing grass, washing cars, selling fruits and vegetables door to door to make ends meet. I had my first paper route when I was in the second grade. I began to buy my own clothes around 12 years of age. I bought my first automobile with the money I had saved since the second grade.

I became a Christian on November 5, 1946. I learned from my parents how to tithe and of course from my church. I do not believe in Prosperity Theology because the Bible does not teach it.

However the Bible has a lot to say about money and how we are to handle it and use it.

As always, I am very transparent and candid when I speak or write. I am not a “politically correct” person. That sort of thing puts a muzzle on a person’s mouth from telling the truth.

I strongly suggest that you begin with chapter one and continue to chapter two and so on. Please do not pick and choose or skip any chapters as you read and study this book. You need to understand it completely and teach it to your family and friends.

My philosophy has been that of the late Robert Glover who said, ***“The first impulse in every healthy mind, upon hearing a good thing, is to pass it on to others.”***

I am not publishing this book for profit or income, but to help you and others to grow in faith and glorify God for what He has in store for you.

This material will work with individuals, businesses and churches. I have proven it as an individual, in my Television Sales and Service business and in the churches I have founded and pastored.

Some names have been changed to protect their privacy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The late Rev. Antonio F. Ormeo, former pastor of the First Baptist Church of Manila, gave me permission on April 30, 1988 to do what I wanted to with his book [HOW TO GET MORE MONEY FROM GOD](#). He said I could reprint it or change it as God directed me. I have chosen to use the same title and many of his illustrations and graphs in this edition.

My wife, Carol has spent many hours of proof reading and assisted me throughout the preparations of this book. I am grateful to her for helping me make this book a reality. Much lasting fruit has come to many who have read this book and have put it into practice.

**“All scripture is given
by inspiration of God, and is profitable
for doctrine**

**(that is what is right),
for reproof**

**(that is what is wrong),
for correction**

**(that is how to get right),
for instruction in righteousness**

(that is how to stay right):

**That the man of God may be perfect, throughly
furnished unto all good works.”**

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scriptures are taken from the King James Bible.

FORWARD

The Bible has a lot to say about money and the stewardship of money. Money is something that we cannot do without in order to make things move in the right directions. It takes money to get the things we need to survive from day to day. Food, clothing, housing, schooling, medical assistance, and on and on requires money.

After entering the ministry in the summer of 1966 I became aware of the lack of money both in our homes and in our churches. I was always a little backwards about taking offerings or letting the financial needs of the church be known to my people. To preach or teach on the subject meant hard looks from my congregation, criticism and maybe even losing a member or two. One church member and his family even got up in the middle of my sermon and walked out the door and never returned because I mentioned something about money. Things like this have kept many a pastor from teaching his people regarding this matter of money.

There have been two significant men who have made a great impact on my life and ministry. The first was Dr. Dolphus Price who is well known as an evangelist out of the Highland Park Baptist Church



in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The other is Dr. J.B. Buffington who pastored the Calvary Baptist Church for many years in Lakeland, Florida. Their messages stirred my soul and the souls of my people and got our hearts and minds in the right direction regarding money. I am indebted to these two men of God. They have been a great blessing to me over the years. At this writing both of them are with the Lord.



A good book, **GOD'S MIRACULOUS PLAN OF ECONOMY**, written by Jack R. Taylor, was sent to me some time ago by a pastor friend. I am sure you will benefit by reading and even preaching through Taylor's book.

It is senseless and unnecessary to have a church that is lacking financially regardless of its location. We must put the "buck" where it belongs, that is, on the Pastor. Dr. Lee Roberson, pastor emeritus of Highland Park Baptist Church, Chattanooga, TN says "Everything rises or falls on leadership."

Let's face it, Pastors and Missionaries, the reason our people and churches are short of money is because we have not taught them about Bible Stewardship. Perhaps the reason we have not taught our people about money is because we are ignorant of this subject ourselves.

I know the many arguments that come to your mind as you read this forward. I have said the same thing myself many times. I know what I am talking about and I know that you can experience the blessings of getting more money from God.

My wife, two sons and I arrived in the Philippines July 1, 1980. Before coming here I had pastored four churches in the Southern part of the United States. Upon arrival in the Philippines I saw the extreme poverty and quickly acquired the mentality that these people were too poor to build churches and do the work of God without money from abroad. I noticed that almost all the churches were built and maintained by the American dollar.

I expressed my views in the presence of Dr. J.B. Buffington while he was visiting the Philippines in the early 80's. What he said to me and other like-minded missionaries while there transformed my ministry. Because of that encounter we now have over 100 churches, and 60 plus Bible Institutes and one national mission board all supported by Filipino pesos. Each of our Pastors has taught this material to their Sunday School. The Pastors have made copies of each chapter and given each person a copy to follow and take home with them to read and study. These Pastors have not made this a light thing but a serious matter with their people.

We have seen the windows of heaven open, as Malachi 3:8-10 promises. The devourer has been rebuked, Malachi 3:11, and our "poor Filipinos" are experiencing the blessings of God. My faith has been enlarged because of this experience. It was Henry Ford who said, "Think you can or think you can't, either way you are

right." Remember "Everything rises or falls on leadership." Dr. Lee Roberson said. I suggest you let this book get hold of you. Once it has taken hold of you, make announcements at every service four weeks before you begin to teach it in your Sunday School. Tell your people what you are going to teach them. Be open about it.

When you start, have copies ready to give to each person on the chapter you are going to teach. Let them follow you in their material as you go through the lesson. Tell your people to take the lesson home and read it again and again until it gets hold of them.

Teach every lesson in the order it is written and do not skip anything and make sure you finish what you start. You might get some dirty looks but keep on with it. The rewards will be wonderful for you and your people. Your people will love you for the truth. They will become richer financially than before. Pastor, you may even get a raise in salary and there will be enough money to paint your church inside and out. What do you have to lose?

May God bless you as you do His work,

Melvyn L. Brown, BIMI Missionary



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Mat 22:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

Mar 12:24 And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?

Or “Why don’t you understand? Don’t you know what the Scriptures say, and don’t you know about the power of God?”

A FEW SUGGESTIONS

Here are some suggestions I want you to follow if you decide to teach this to your people:

1. It is best if you, the Pastor, teach this to your people in the Sunday School for 9 consecutive weeks. Do not teach this in a short time period, like 9 consecutive days. It needs to have time to be digested.
2. Be sure you give it ample promotion several weeks before you begin and continue to promote it until you have finished.
3. Make sure your people are motivated to be there each week on time.
4. Give each family a copy of the lesson you are teaching for that Sunday. It is important you make a good copy for them so they will take it home and read it again and study it during the week.

You can download the Teacher’s Lessons and Student hand-out copies at:

<http://bama4u.org/How%20to%20get%20more%20money%20from%20God%20.pdf>

5. During this series, preach messages on FAITH. Your people need to have faith in God in order to give to God. **You can download hand-out copies at:**

<http://bama4u.org/FAITH%20SERIES/The%20Faith%20Series%20202.htm>

I would suggest you teach [this Money series](#) in Sunday School and preach [the Faith series](#) in the morning worship service.

As you and your people increase in faith the more you/they will trust God in the matter of giving. The two go together.

May God bless you as you teach your people how to trust God and to obey Him in their giving. Someone said, "If you want to keep your people poor, don't teach them how to give."

This material really works well. All our churches in the Philippines, planted by our graduates, are self-supporting.

6. Show the **CERTIFICATE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT** at every service. This will help motivate them to remain faithful in their attendance.
7. I would only allow one or 2 absences at the most if they are to receive the certificate.
8. Have their name and church name printed in by someone who can do a good job.
9. Make every effort to make this the biggest thing you have ever done.

10. Take a picture of the group who received the certificate and give a picture to each person. The investment will pay great dividends.
11. Make sure you are well prepared and full of the subject and filled with the Spirit before you teach. If you make any short cuts and fail to keep this going in a big way you will only hurt your people, your church and yourself. Please contact me if I can be of any help at bama4u@bellsouth.net.

Melvyn L. Brown

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THE PROBLEM

I. NOT ENOUGH MONEY

It makes no difference whether the economy is up or down, the family and the church still lack enough money to meet their needs from week to week. Yes, we do get our wages increased now and then but at the same time there is a rise in food, gasoline, clothing, rent and the utilities. Not enough for a better doctor, better dental work, or a better education for our children. We never seem to get caught up on our bills and have a little left over for a treat at Dairy Queen. There must be an answer to this burdensome problem.



Many Pastors and Workers do not receive enough money to meet their needs. Many churches cannot send missionaries of their own because they do not have enough even for their local needs. Most churches in the Philippines have been built with dollars from America. Most of these churches are still being maintained by outside dollars. If the U.S. churches were to cut off their missionary support to the Philippines, a great number of churches could no longer operate. Our homes and churches are in a bad state of repair.

"The members are too poor" is the often heard excuse. Yes, Christians are generally poor. It is because they often come

from the lower strata of our society. People who are rich in the things of this world do not get converted very easily.

The Lord said so in **Matthew 19:24** *"And again I say unto you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God."*

There might be **several reasons** why the church members are poor. Let me mention a few:

1. The members have not been taught about finances and stewardship from the Bible.
2. The average pastor is too shy and perhaps fearful to teach his people about money. He feels the people will think he is asking for money for himself.
3. The pastor's mentality may be, "My members are too poor to give." Many pastors are going to the U.S. to raise money for their churches. This should not be.
4. People may be ignorant about the subject of money. It is very possible for a man to complete his Bible College training and never be taught about money and stewardship.

Mat 22:29 *"Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God."*

Mar 12:24 *"And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?"*

Or: "Why don't you understand? Don't you know what the scriptures say, and don't you know the power of God?"

The Apostle Paul addressed his congregation as being ignorant. *"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren..."*

I Thess. 4:13

Someone has said, "Probably the largest denomination in the world is the "denomination of the ignorant brethren." This occurs when preachers and teachers fail to teach their students or their students are not listening or refusing to learn.

I have been guilty of all the above reasons since entering the ministry some 51 years ago. The best way for a pastor to keep his people poor is for him not to teach his members how to give. The pastor not only keeps his members poor but he also keeps great blessings from coming their way. The real reason why church members are poor is, the pastor has not taught his people properly about money and stewardship.

Let's not forget that genuine Christians are the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ. **Gal. 3:26** *"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."*

They are born again into the family of God after they have repented of their sins and have received Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and Lord. With a rich God as the believer's Father, the children ought not to remain in poverty all the days of their earthly lives.

Does not the Word of God say, **Romans 8:32** *"He (God) that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him (Jesus) up for us all: how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"*

God is therefore willing to give His children "all things" freely, which includes material things. No one will doubt the fact that God is withholding "all things" from His people today. Why is this true? God must have a good and sufficient reason for His actions.

II. RICHES BY RIGHT MEANS

As a general principle, however, God wants every believer to gain riches honestly.

Jeremiah 17:10-11 says, *"I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. As a partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right (means), shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool."*

James warns the rich men about their riches.

James 5:1-5 *"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. Ye*

have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter."

Riches must be gotten by the right means.

God said in **Exodus 20:15,17** "*Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.*"

It is not one's right to take or steal what rightly belongs to others. That is why gambling is stealing; the same principle is practiced in both. It is desiring to have the money of someone else against his will. To gain riches this way is wrong. It is contrary to the divine principle relative to possession of earthly riches. Playing the lottery is gambling and should be avoided.

What about false weights and scales?

Deuteronomy 25:15 "*But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have: that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.*"

Leviticus 19:36 "*Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I am the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt.*"

Proverbs 13:11 "*Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished (decreased): but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.*"
(Dishonest money dwindles away, like buckets with holes in it.)

III. GOD IS RICH

It shouldn't be necessary to prove that God is rich. But for the doubters we will quote several Scripture references:

Psalms 24:1 *"The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."*

Psalms 50:10-12 *"For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof."*

Haggai 2:8 *"The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts."*

1 Chronicles 29:12 *"Both riches and honour come of Thee, and Thou reignest over all; and in Thine hand is power and might; and in Thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all."*

Ecclesiastes 5:19 *"Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God."*

Hosea 2:8 *"For she did not know that I (God) gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, which they prepared for Baal."*

James 1:17 *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."*

Deuteronomy 8:18 *"But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day."*

Romans 8:32 *"He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"*

Yes, we are faced with a real problem, that is, **NOT HAVING ENOUGH MONEY TO MEET OUR NEEDS**, in our homes or in our churches. Because of this problem both the husband and the wife are forced to work. The children are put in the care of a nursery school or baby sitter and are deprived of their parent's presence. Stress enters and often the result is a broken home. Sometimes the wife is in danger where she works around other men. The husband also starts to look at other women. Many fathers and even mothers feel they have to go abroad to earn dollars. This should not be. The children grow up not having the proper training. The home is not what it used to be. The two main reasons for a broken home are: money and in-law problems.



REVIEW:

1. We lack enough money to meet our needs.
2. We should get money the right way.
3. God owns all the money.

CHAPTER - Lesson 2

We learned in Chapter #1:

1. Most of God's children do not have enough money.
2. We should get money the right way. Work hard and be honest.
3. God is rich because He owns everything.



TODAY'S LESSON: **WHY GOD WITHHOLDS FINANCIAL PROSPERITY FROM HIS CHILDREN?**

God withholds financial prosperity from His children because they do not know or believe these **FIVE VITAL TRUTHS:**



Vital Truth #1

YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD IF YOU ARE A TRUE CHRISTIAN.

The truth is, **Galatians 3:26** says "*For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.*" *Not by your good works or your religion.*

★ **The opposite is also true.** If you do not have faith in Jesus Christ and what He did on the cross for you then you are not a child of God. If you do not yet have this saving faith, please consider the following five things:

FIVE THINGS GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW:

- (1) **You need to be saved.** *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* **Romans 3:23**
We have all broken the Laws of God.
- (2) **You cannot save yourself.** *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He Saved us."* **Titus 3:5**
- (3) **Jesus has provided for your salvation.** *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever beliveth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* **John 3:16**
"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." **Romans 5:8**
- (4) **You must accept Jesus for salvation.** *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."* **Acts 16:31**
"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them them that believe on his name." **John 1:12**
- (5) **Now is the time to accept Jesus as your Saviour.**
"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."
2 Corinthians 6:2
"Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." **Proverbs 27:1**

Now, if you will receive Christ as your only Saviour, simply pray this prayer from your heart and mean it....

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and that You died for me and rose again. I now ask You to forgive me for my sins and come into my heart and save me. Thank You, Lord, for saving me. In Jesus Name I pray. Amen.

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The following chapters are only profitable for those who are born again believers. You must be in the family of God to receive and enjoy God's promises to His children. More details in Chapter 9.



Vital Truth #2

AS A CHILD OF GOD, BELIEVE THAT GOD IS YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER.

John 1:12 *"But as many as received Him (Jesus Christ), to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"*

Galatians 4:6 *"And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father."*



Vital Truth #3

BELIEVE THAT YOUR FATHER IS VERY RICH.

Psalms 24:1 *"The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."*

Haggai 2:8 *"The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts."*



Vital Truth #4

SINCE YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS RICH, BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE ALSO RICH BEING HIS SON, except for the fact that you have not enough money. Remember, you are a child of the KING.

Revelation 2:9 *"I know thy...poverty, but thou art rich."*



Vital Truth #5

BELIEVE IN YOUR FATHER'S PROMISES THAT HE WILL GIVE YOU HIS RICHES.

Romans 8:32 *"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"*

To Timothy, Paul said, **1 Timothy 6:17** *"...trust...in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy"*

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

WHY then, are most Christians poor? **WHY** do not most children of God have enough money? The answer is: **GOD WITHHOLDS FINANCIAL PROSPERITY FROM HIS CHILDREN.** Now, God is kind and loving, and is willing to give His children riches. The reasons why He does not are recorded in the Holy Scriptures for our guidance and admonition.

GOD WITHHOLDS FOR TWO MAIN REASONS:

FIRST: God withholds financial prosperity from his children **BECAUSE THEY CANNOT BE TRUSTED WITH HIS MONEY.** He mentions four cases:

A. PRIDE - Some of God's children, when they prosper become proud.

Deuteronomy 8:14 *"Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;"*



When God gives us a large sum of money we do not thank Him for the blessing. We begin to think we got the money because of our hard work or intellect. We then think we are better than others because we have more money, better clothes, a nicer car, and a bigger house. We go and buy a larger flat screen TV. (Note: the way to have a larger TV is to move the TV and your chair closer together.) Some even join social clubs because their heart has been lifted up with pride. How deceitful can we be?

Jeremiah 17:9 *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"*

B. FORGETTING GOD - Some of God's children, when they prosper forget the LORD their God.

Deuteronomy 8:14 *"Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage"*

Yes, we receive all these good things from the hand of God and neglect to thank Him for the (His) blessings. We are not thankful when we forget the Person Who gave us what we have. We are so ungrateful that we forget to say "Thank you".

HERE IS A SERIOUS WARNING IS GIVEN:

Deuteronomy 8:11-18 *"Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: 12 Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; 13 And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; 14 Then thine heart be lifted up (PRIDE), and thou forget the Lord thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; 17 And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. 18 But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power*

to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he swore unto thy fathers, as it is this day."

The reason we do not thank God is because we have not learned to thank men. It takes humility to say "**THANK YOU**".

C. LOVING MONEY - Some

of God's children, as soon as they prosper quickly transfer their love from God to His money. We read in



1 Timothy 6:10 *"For the love of*

money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

The Lord's story of the Prodigal Son, is the best illustration here.

Luke 15:11-24 *"And he said, A certain man had two sons: 12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. 13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. 14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. 15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto*

him. 17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, 19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. 20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. 21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. 22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: 23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry."

The younger son asked from his father his inheritance then he gathered all his belongings together, and took a long trip. He went away from home and away from his father. He, no doubt, transferred his love from his father to his father's money. While away he wasted his inheritance in riotous living. Here is evidence he could not be trusted with money.

Doesn't that sound like most of us today? God's generous hand gives us good things daily and we become proud and ungrateful. We even forget Who gave us what we have. We stop reading the Bible and spending time in prayer. We become too

busy loving what God has given us and no longer have time to attend church on Sunday morning, Sunday evening and Wednesday night. We stop showing our love to Him. We are just like the Prodigal Son when, "he took his journey into a far country, away from home and away from his father."

D. WRONG SPENDING - Some of God's children when they become prosperous spend their money on evil things, selfish and foolish things and worldly pleasures.

James 4:2-3 *"Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. 3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss (wrongly), that ye may consume it upon your lusts (evil purpose, sensual pleasures)."*

The prodigal son, in his love for money left his father and home and went to a far country and there *"wasted his substance with riotous living"*, maybe, wine, women and song, until he was penniless. Christians like him cannot be trusted with money. Their desires are evil and selfish.

So, in all this, God must be saying, "It is better that My children have just enough for their needs, than to have more and prosper and become proud and forget the Lord their God. Then they cease to love Me but love My money instead. Then they use My money for their selfish, evil, foolish pleasures. They have no wisdom. (Wisdom is knowledge used correctly) Maybe someday, when they grow and mature in their Christian lives, they can be trusted with My material riches."

How often have I seen a brother, who was down and out, come to Wednesday night prayer meeting. He asks for special prayer that God would give him a job or a better job so his needs would be met. We all pray together and soon the prayers are answered. God Who has mercy and grace delivers what is needed. In most of the cases, we never see the person again. We are concerned and seek to find him to see what the problem is. The person who was in great need now lives just like the Prodigal Son; proud, ungrateful and forgetful of what God has supplied. He has fallen in love with the gift rather than the GIVER, the Lord. He has no time for the church now because there are no pressing needs. He shows no wisdom because he is spending God's money on evil, sinful things. We do not see this person again until he is "down and out" again. And it usually happens that way.

Some times God uses a shortage of money **as a means of chastisement in order to get our attention**. Be very careful about giving a brother in Christ money. He may be backslidden and God is dealing with that person. You may be getting in God's way if you loan him money.

It was not the apple in the tree that was the problem in the Garden of Eden but the pair on the ground.

Brethren, can you be trusted with money? Will your heart be lifted up with pride? Will you forget the Lord your God? Will you love money, the gift, more than the GIVER? And will you use God's money for evil purposes?

If you can be trusted, God will surely keep His promise in
Romans 8:32 *"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"*

So you do your part, and God will keep His promises.

SECOND: God WITHHOLDS financial prosperity from his children
BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HAVE FAITH IN HIM.

What is faith? The simple definition is: **FAITH IS TAKING GOD AT HIS WORD.** That is, doing just exactly as God's Word says. God has given specific instructions in His Word, the Bible, on how His children should get money from Him. The problem is, most of God's children do not faithfully follow His simple instructions. These instructions are God's secrets to financial prosperity.

Luke 5:4-6 *"Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught (load or catch). 5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. 6 And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake."*

We read here of a time when Peter and the other disciples went fishing. That was their occupation. They toiled all night and caught nothing.

NOTICE THE COMMAND OF JESUS WITH A PROMISE:

Luke 5:4 *"He said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a draught (load or catch)."*

That was the Lord speaking. God's Word or instruction was given. Did Simon take the Lord at His Word? Yes, he did.

WE NOW SEE THEIR OBEDIENCE:

Verse 5 *"Simon answering said unto Him, Master, we have toiled all night and have taken nothing: nevertheless at Thy word, I will let down the net."*

This is faith - faith in action - true faith. And the result:

THE LORD'S PROMISE FULFILLED:

Verse 6 *"And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake."*

They had plenty of fish (much money and food) because of their faith in God. They were taking God at His Word. They did what God said to do.

I can hear some people saying: "Lord, you are a carpenter and I am a fisherman. What do you know about fishing?" or "Don't you know Lord, that fish only bite best at night time?" or "Please mind your own business and let me do it my way." Remember that God knows best. Put your trust and faith in Him.

We should not only hear the Word of GOD, but we should also do what GOD tells us to do.

James 1:22-24 *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only,"*

*In **Mark 11:22-24** we read, "And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. 23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. 24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."*

Going back to that miraculous draught (load) of fishes (**Luke 5:4-10**) it is worth noting that when the disciples enclosed a great multitude of fishes that their net broke. They then beckoned to their partners who came and filled both their ships. Their thoughts must have been filled with fish, fish, fish; food, food; money, money. They must have forgotten the Lord, the Giver of those blessings and they must have forgotten to thank Him for it. Why? Because "they began to sink". It looked like they were going to lose everything. But, *"When Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' feet saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord."* This confession and humility generated mercy from Jesus who saved Peter and the other disciples and their ships and the fishes from getting lost in the sea. *"And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all and followed Him."*

Yes, money did not mean anything to them now as long as they had the Lord. They had learned their lesson the hard way, but at least they did learn their lesson.

And so, Christians must have faith in God. Why? Because we read in

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

Also in **Romans 14:23** *"And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin."*

BLESSING THROUGH FAITH

Faith is taking God at His Word. God's promises are true. God, Who cannot lie, has made promises and God's children must believe and act on His promises. This is very true in all phases of life, both spiritual and physical. We must relate God's Word to financial prosperity. Christians must do just as God says. Here are some of God's precious promises:

Paul told the elders of the Ephesian Church:

Acts 20:35 *"I have showed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

So according to our Lord, there are more blessings in giving than in receiving. But man's concept is, it is more blessed to receive than to give. Man does not readily understand that rich blessings are the result of giving. As the saying goes, **"If you want to get, then GIVE."**

Luke 6:38 *"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."*

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

Proverbs 11:24-25 *"There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. 25 The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself."*

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 *"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:"*

Malachi 3:8-12 *"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. 9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. 10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. 11 And I will*

rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts. 12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts."

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

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

Lesson #1

1. Most of God's children do not have enough money.
2. We should get money the right way. Work hard and be honest.
3. God is rich because He owns everything.

Today's Lesson #2

1. God withholds financial prosperity from His children because they cannot be trusted:
 - a. they get proud.
 - b. they forget the Lord, the GIVER.
 - c. they transfer their love from God to the money.
 - d. they spend God's money on sinful things. That is poor stewardship.
2. God withholds financial prosperity from His children because they do not have faith in God.
 - a. they will not listen to His Word.
 - b. they will not obey His commands.

QUESTION, DOES NOT GOD HAVE GOOD REASONS FOR WITHHOLDING FINANCIAL PROSPERITY FROM HIS CHILDREN?

We need to stop blaming the government, the economy, or anything else for the reasons we are short of money. The economy has nothing to do with it. Let's be honest about this problem. The fault really is ours isn't it? **WE HAVE NOT OBEYED GOD.**

(This is for classroom use: If you are late or absent you will be the loser. Let me suggest you read, re-read and study this material. By doing so, you will change your thinking. As your thinking changes, your actions will also change. You will start doing what God wants you to do and then you will get more blessings from God.)

LESSON 3

GOD'S STEPS TO FINANCIAL PROSPERITY

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?

Lesson #1

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 - b. they will not obey His commands.

TODAY'S LESSON: **GOD'S STEPS TO FINANCIAL PROSPERITY**

GOD'S STEPS TO FINANCIAL PROSPERITY are clearly defined in His Word. It is not farfetched to say that these are ways by which Christians can be sure of enough money to meet all their needs.

**"GIVE A MAN A FISH
AND HE WILL EAT FOR A DAY.
TEACH A MAN HOW TO FISH
AND HE WILL EAT FOR A LIFETIME."**



THE BASIC FOUNDATION of financial prosperity is "FAITH IN GOD".



Let us set our hearts on taking God at His Word, that is, doing just exactly as God's Word says. We must follow His instructions to the letter. Here are the steps to financial prosperity - God's way.

STEP #1:

The first step is to ASK GOD FOR A JOB or a means of livelihood, especially if you have no job at all. If your job is not pleasing to God, you must ask God for a change. It must be His job for His child.

God has set down some regarding the work that we do.

Guide Line #1 Pray and ask God to give you a job or a better job. If you need a better job, do not quit the old one until you have another. There are exceptions to this rule. If you have a job that is not in agreement with the scriptures as stated below, then I would give your company a two week notice and resign. Be sure to leave with a good testimony.



Some culture problems: Men will not work if they do not have to. And, those who have a job feel they have to support every body who comes their way.

Guide Line #2 Go and look for a job now. The job will not come to you. One young man said to me some time ago, "I have prayed for a job and now I am going to wait for God to bring it to me." This kind of thinking is not only stupid but also cowardly. The young man is still waiting and will be waiting until the end of time.

Begin at 8 a.m. and continue until you have found work. You may not find the job that you want the first day but it is important that you find some kind of work now so you can earn some money. You can look for the job of your dreams later.

Make sure you are dressed properly. Men, have a neat hair-cut. First impressions are very important and are most lasting. Do not act afraid; walk and speak with confidence. Be positive about what you are doing. You have asked God for a job and by faith you are going to get the job He has for you. God is going to answer your prayers.

Guide Line #3 Make sure you do not work on the Lord's Day, Sunday. Obey the commands of God in

Exodus 20. Verse 1 *"And God spake all these words, saying, 2 I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: 11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and*

earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it..”

Deuteronomy 11:26-28 *”Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; 27 A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: 28 And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day,...”*

**THESE ARE COMMANDS FROM GOD,
NOT SUGGESTIONS.**

God wrote these commands for our benefit and for our good. It is always wise to do your best to follow them all the time.

I would suggest you inform the employer in your interview, after he shows interest in hiring you, that you will not work on Sunday because this is a religious conviction. Don't worry about losing the job at this point. Fear not man but fear God and have faith in God. The employer will have much respect for a person who is able to stand up for his convictions. Tell the boss that you will work hard and do your very best six days a week but the seventh day, Sunday, belongs to God.

Of course in an emergency, you can make an exception.

Luke 14:5 *”And (Jesus) answered them, saying, Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day?”*

Just be careful that emergencies do not happen every week.

If the boss does not hire you because of your convictions then you can be assured that this is not the job that God wants you to have. God has a better job for you. Just keep on looking.

Romans 8:28 *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."*

Question: What do you want? A job that will work you on Sunday and have the curse of God on you or a blessing? The choice is yours. The title of this lesson is **"GOD'S STEPS TO FINANCIAL PROSPERITY"**. If this is what you want then do it God's way.

I can tell you story after story about people who gave in to the employer and did not follow God's simple command about working on Sundays. Let me say this in short, **YOU CANNOT BE A GOOD CHRISTIAN AND HAVE THE BLESSINGS OF GOD ON YOUR LIFE IF YOU WORK ON THE LORD'S DAY, SUNDAY.** Working on Sunday will destroy your spiritual, physical, mental and moral life. Trust and obey God, my dear friend.

YOU CANNOT BE A GOOD CHRISTIAN AND HAVE THE BLESSINGS OF GOD ON YOUR LIFE IF YOU WORK ON SUNDAY, THE LORD'S DAY.

WORKING ON SUNDAYS IS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

John 15:5 *"I (Jesus) am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."*

I was a business man for many years before I entered the ministry. One of the reasons God blessed me more than others is because I refused to work on the Lord's Day. It is again your choice. A blessing or a curse? A blessing if you obey God. A curse if you disobey God.

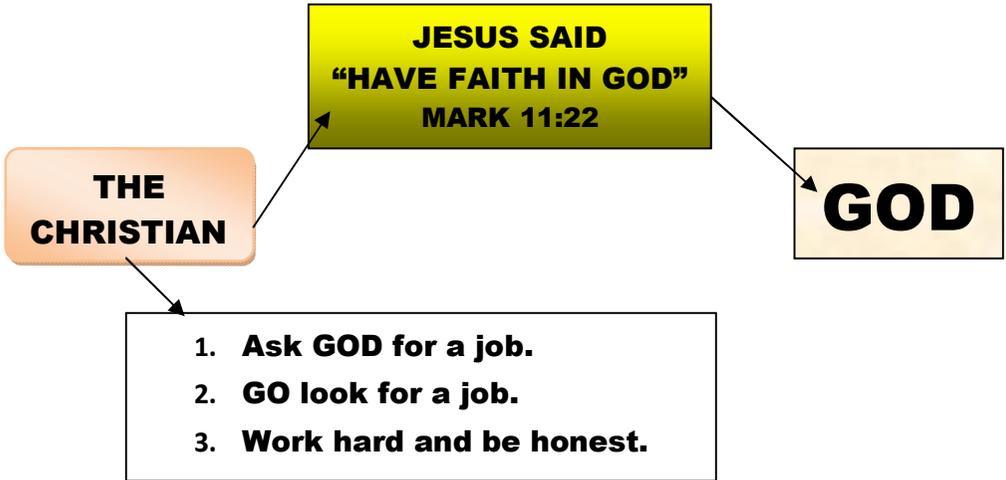
Guide Line #4 Do not accept a job that will not bring glory to God. Selling or serving beer, cigarettes, working in a bar or casino, or a movie house would be wrong for a Christian.

1 Corinthians 10:31 *"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."*

Habakkuk 2:15 *"Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him,..."*

Ask yourself this question **"Would Jesus do this?"** If the answer is no or you are not sure, then do not accept the job. "WHEN IN DOUBT, DON'T DO." We are after the "BLESSINGS" not "THE CURSE".

Now that God has given you the job or means of livelihood, you are ready for the next step.



STEP #2:

WORK HARD AND BE HONEST. This is a general principle for all people. Long ago when Adam sinned, God gave to him and his descendants the following punishment:

Genesis 3:19 *"In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."*



No lazy man should expect to prosper.

Study the following Scriptures:

2 Thessalonians 3:10 *"For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat."*



Proverbs 10:4 *"He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich."*

Proverbs 23:21 *"For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags."*

1 Corinthians 4:12 *"And labour, working with our own hands:"*

1 Thessalonians 4:11 *"And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;"*

1 Timothy 5:8 *"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."*

RESPONSIBILITY and HEALTH

Someone said, "**He that would eat the nut must crack the shell.**" If I am going to enjoy good health, I must eat. If I am going to eat I must work.

God gives every bird its food, but He does not throw it into the nest.

RESPONSIBILITY and HONESTY

Ephesians 4:28 *"Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."*

2 Thessalonians 3:11-15 *"For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. 12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread. 13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. 14 And if any man obey not our word by this*

epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. 15 Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother."

You are to work your very best. Your employer has purchased your time (40-50 hours per week) and you are to do what he tells you to do as long as he does not ask you to commit sin. Sin is anything that displeases God.

Acts 5:29 *"Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."*

Leave your house early enough so you will arrive at work before starting time. Work as if Jesus Christ were your visible boss. Do the quality of work for your employer that you would expect if you were in his shoes. Do it for Jesus sake.

Ephesians 6:5-8 *"Servants (employees), be obedient to them that are your masters (employers or boss) according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; 6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; 7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: 8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free."*

Colossians 3:23-24 *"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."*

Men, if you are not getting the wages you feel you deserve, find out why. Ask your employer if you are doing the quality of work he expects. If you are, ask him for a raise in pay. If he does not pay you what you are worth, then ask God for a better job. Do not complain, work less or go on strike. Go out and find a better paying job. There are better jobs but you will have to ask God for them and then put some feet to your prayers and go out and find a better job.

NOTICE THESE INTERESTING POINTS:

THIRTEEN REASONS WHY MOST PEOPLE FAIL

1. Unwillingness to cooperate with or help others.
2. Unreliability, lack of dependability.
3. Discourteousness, rudeness, indifference to the other fellow's interests, wants, desires, point of view.
4. Carelessness, indifference - the "so what" attitude: "I'll get by."
5. Sarcasm - "cutting the other fellow down to size", too free with the stinging rebuke and the humiliating remark, making fun of others.
6. Desire to domineer, wanting to boss others, acting superior.
7. Trouble-making, agitating, always dissatisfied, having a "the world owes me a living" attitude.
8. Laziness, loafing on the job, habitual lateness.
9. Disagreeableness, lack of respect for others, the "I'm right, but the world's all wrong" attitude.
10. Misconduct, violation of rules, unwillingness to conform to prescribed standards recognized as essential for the well-being of all.
11. Drinking any type of alcohol.

**TWELVE THINGS TO REMEMBER
IF YOU WANT TO GET AHEAD**

- 1. The value of time.**
- 2. The success of perseverance.**
- 3. Do not be discouraged, no matter what the problems seem to be.**
- 4. Get pleasure out of your work.**
- 5. The dignity of simplicity. Too many people want to dress up things beyond their worth and really destroy what worth they have.**
- 6. The worth of character. Read the book of Proverbs often. One chapter a day will do wonders for you.**
- 7. The power of kindness.**
- 8. You must set the standard. God's standard, the Bible.**
- 9. The obligation, duty and wisdom of economy.**
- 10. The virtue of patience. There is nothing more important right now than patience.**
- 11. The improvement of talent.**
- 12. The sincere and real joy of originating something.**

PUNCTUALITY

Famous authors share their wit and wisdom on the subject that's close to all of us.

"I could never think well of a man's intellectual or moral character, if he was habitually unfaithful to his appointments."

Emmons

"Appointments once made, become debts. If I have made an appointment with you, I owe you punctuality; I have no right to throw away your time, if I do my own." Cecil

"I have always been a quarter of an hour before my time, and it has made a man of me." Lord Nelson

"I give it as my deliberate and solemn conviction that the individual who is habitually tardy in meeting an appointment, will never be respected or successful in life." W. Fisk

"Better to be three hours too soon than one minute too late." Shakespeare

When the secretary of Washington, excusing himself for being late, said that his watch was too slow, the reply of Washington was, "You must get a new watch, or I must get a new secretary."

"Nothing inspires confidence in a businessman sooner than punctuality, nor is there any habit which sooner saps his reputation than that of being always behind time." W. Mathews

"The most indispensable qualification of a cook is punctuality. The same must be said of guests." B. Savarin

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?

Lesson #1

1. Most of God's children do not have enough money.
2. We should get money the right way. Work hard and be honest.
3. God is rich because He owns everything.

Lesson #2

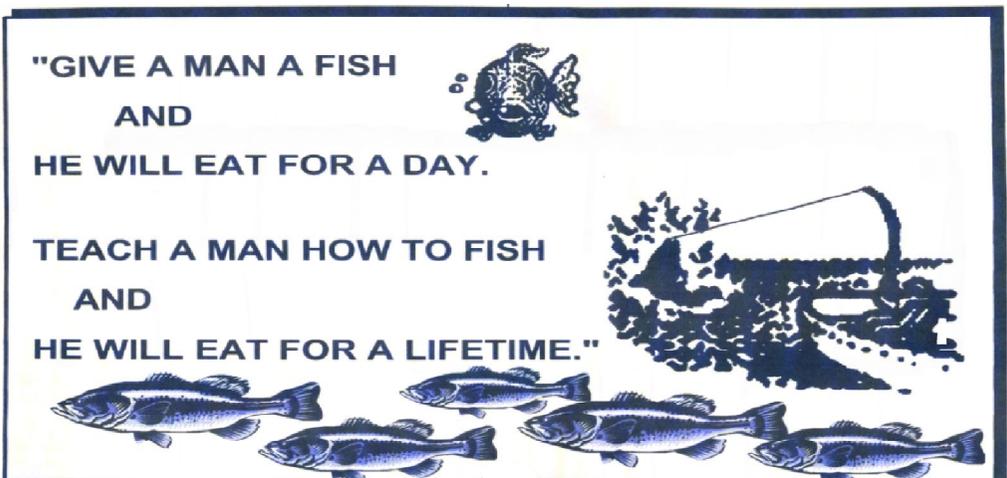
1. God withholds financial prosperity from His children because they cannot be trusted:
 - a. they get proud.
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2. God withholds financial prosperity from His children because they do not have faith in God.
 - a. they will not listen to His Word.
 - b. they will not obey His commands.

Today's lesson #3

STEP #1 We need to get a job.

- a. ask God for the right job.
- b. go out and look for the right job.
- c. do not work on Sunday. Avoid the curse.

STEP #2 Work hard and be honest.



LESSON 4

GOD'S STEPS TO FINANCIAL PROSPERITY CONTINUED

WHAT ABOUT WORKING ABROAD? **IS IT RIGHT?**

I am glad you asked this question. Let me answer your question by asking you the following questions:

1. **What is your motive** for working abroad?

Money? Opportunity?

If your answer is yes then you have the wrong motives. You will find money and opportunity here in your own country in the will of God.

2. **Is it right** for you to leave your wife and children?

Yes or No? The Bible answer is no.

1 Peter 3:7 *"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them (your wife) according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."*

Ephesians 6:4 *"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture (correction and discipline) and admonition (teaching) of the Lord."*



How can a husband or father obey the above verses in another land? It's impossible. You say "my family needs the money". God gives a great promise to provide what you need in the following verse:

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

What did Christ mean when He said **"all these things"**? The answer are found in the following verses:

FOOD and **WATER** in verse 26

CLOTHING and **SHELTER** in verses 28-30

Matthew 6:25 and 31 are almost the same. *"Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?"*

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

When a man leaves his wife he is in great danger of falling into temptation and sin. He becomes unfaithful to God, especially in most Muslim lands because there are not Bible believing churches there. Bibles are usually confiscated at the airport and witnessing is forbidden. He often becomes unfaithful in his marriage and has a second family. A man needs his wife.

On the other hand the wife is left without her husband who is suppose to meet her needs. She also finds herself in great temptation. The wife becomes a target of other men. The children

are deprived of having a father image in the home. Often times the boys become effeminate because they are raised only by their mother.

3. **Is it worth it** to gain dollars and in turn destroy your family?

Show me one God fearing, God honouring family where one of the parents works abroad.

Mark 8:36-37 *"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul (wife, children, blessings)? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul (wife, children, blessings)?"*

The only time it is right for a man to leave his wife and family is to defend his country in a war. Otherwise, the family is to be together as a single unit.

Let's learn from the Bible how we can get money from God and not from the wrong source. Let's do this the best way, the right way, God's way. Let's seek God first. **"WISE MEN STILL SEEK GOD"**

MOTHERS ARE TO BE HOMEMAKERS and not work outside if at all possible. Let the husband work and provide. If both work than both should share in the responsibilities in the home. I know this is against our modern thinking regarding the place of the woman but God's Word has not changed. Take a look around you, there are more broken homes, wayward kids, etc. today than three or four generations ago.

The mother is to be a homemaker. This is the best profession for a mother.

Titus 2:5 *"To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."*

A mother's first responsibility is to make a good home for her husband and her children. The greatest ministry she has is to fulfil this responsibility. Let's don't get responsibility confused with opportunity. Responsibility is duty.

The children and the husband need a Godly mother and wife to be there when they come home from school and work.

Children are a gift and a heritage from God.

Psalms 127:3 *"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."*

I am thankful for a Godly mother who made a Christian home for me and my two sisters and one brother. My mother set the right example before her children. No one can fill the shoes of a Godly mother. There should be no substitutes when it comes to raising your children. (yayas, grandparents, older children etc.)

REMEMBER,
**FAITH IN GOD MEANS BELIEVING
HIS WORD & OBEYING IT.**
Real faith always produces action.



If you are holding a job, be honest with your time and effort. If you are in a buy-and-sell business, be sure that a kilo is a kilo.

Deuteronomy 25:15 *"But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have: that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."*
(This is a command with a promise)

Avoid any form of cheating. Follow this policy:

Luke 6:31 *"And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise."*

Remember this:

Galatians 6:7-8 *"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."*

Do not lie about your prices. Be a person of **TRUTH**.

Honesty is always the best policy.

Proverbs 19:5, 9 *"A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape. 9 A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish."*

Do not strive to be rich overnight. Do the best you can the right way and God will honor you.

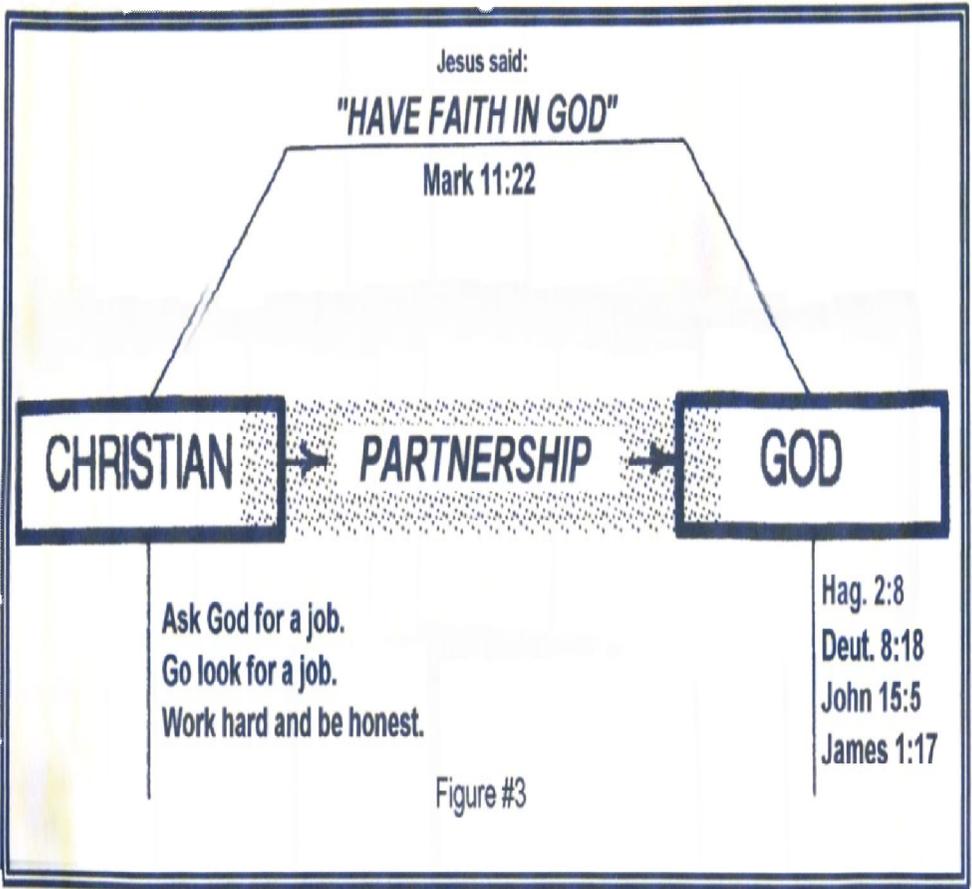
Proverbs 11:18 *"The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward."*

THIRD STEP:

MAKE GOD YOUR PARTNER

IN YOUR OCCUPATION OR PROFESSION.

Make a covenant with God and ask Him to be your partner or co-laborer whatever your occupation. In the practice of your occupation, it is imperative you covenant with God that you will be partners.



Why must Christians covenant with God that they be partners?

➡ **First: God owns every thing.**

Haggai 2:8 *"The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts."*

➡ **Second: We can't do anything by ourselves.**

John 15:5 *"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."*

Deuteronomy 8:18 *"But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is He (God) that giveth thee (you) power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day."*

➡ **Third: God gives us everything we have.**

James 1:17 *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."*

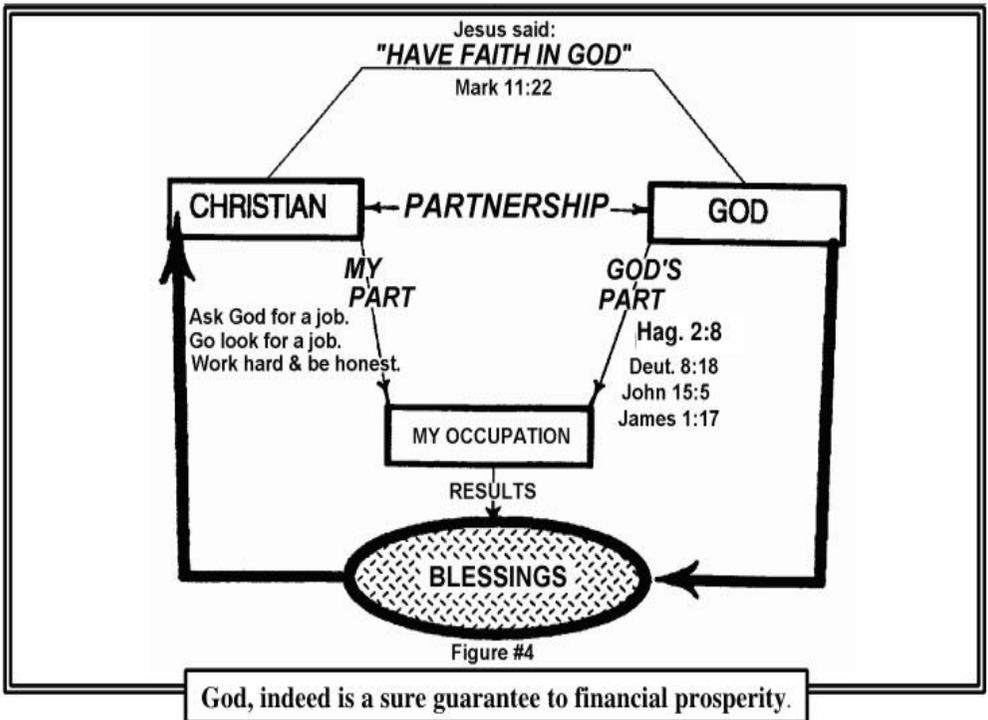
What do these verses tell us? God owns the money; He gives His children the power to get it; and He Himself gives it. No wonder He could say in **John 15:5** *"Without me ye can do nothing."*

"IT'S TOO HARD, I CAN'T DO IT", you may say.

God never asks us to do something we are unable to do. If He did, God would be an unfair God.

Paul said: **Phil. 4:13** *"I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHICH STRENGTHENETH ME."*

Therefore, if you are a farmer, make God your co-farmer; if you are a businessman, make God your co-businessman; if you are a surgeon or a physician, make God your co-surgeon or co-physician. Do not operate without Him assisting and holding your hands. If you are a driver, make God your co-driver, etc., etc.



With God and the Christian working together, **BLESSINGS**

WILL SURELY COME.

Proverbs 10:22 *"The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it."*

Whenever God is your partner, success will come.

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?

Lesson #1

1. Most of God's children do not have enough money.
2. We should get money the right way. Work hard and be honest.
3. God is rich because He owns everything.

Lesson #2

1. God withholds financial prosperity from His children because they cannot be trusted:
 - a. they get proud.
 - b. they forget the Lord, the GIVER.
 - c. they transfer their love from God to the money.
 - d. they spend God's money on sinful things. That is poor stewardship.
2. God withholds financial prosperity from His children because they do not have faith in God.
 - a. they will not listen to His Word.
 - b. they will not obey His commands.

Lesson #3

STEP #1 We need to get a job.

- a. ask God for the right job.
- b. go out and look for the right job.
- c. do not work on Sunday. Avoid the curse.

STEP #2 Work hard and be honest.

Today's **Lesson #4**

STEP #3 Make God your Partner.

LESSON 5

SHARING THE PROFITS WITH YOUR PARTNER

In the last two lessons we learned three STEPS TO FINANCIAL PROSPERITY. They are:

With God's help, get the right job.

Work hard and be honest.

Make God your Partner.

FOURTH STEP TO FINANCIAL PROSPERITY is to SHARE YOUR PROFITS (blessings) WITH GOD, YOUR PARTNER.

In an equal partnership, how are the profits usually divided? 50/50, right? Of course we couldn't say our partnership with God is an equal partnership. God gives us the health and strength to work and brings the opportunities to us. He's the One who makes it all happen. He has a right to claim 99% of the profits.

As amazing as it sounds, God has always claimed only 10% of the profits, or a tithe. The tithe is 10% of your gross income (before taxes). That is all the money that comes to you from any source. Whether earned, or gifts from abroad, any inheritance, or goods received. If your hen lays 10 eggs, one of them belongs to God. Honesty is always important.

There are Christians who refuse to tithe by saying that it is only for the Jews and not for Christians; that it is only for those under the law and not for those under grace. A careful study of the Scriptures will show that tithing was practised before the law, reiterated during the law, and adopted by the Christian church during the present age of grace.

A. TITHING WAS BEFORE THE LAW.

Long before God gave the law to Moses; Abraham, the Patriarch (father) of the Hebrew Nation, gave tithes of all to Melchizedek, King of Salem, who was also a priest.

Genesis 14:20 "And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all."

Jacob, Abraham's grandson, vowed a vow to the Lord. He was running from his brother's wrath and needed God's protection and help. He said:

Genesis 28:22 "*And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.*"

He made this vow before God gave him anything.

Abraham and Jacob were both abundantly blessed by God.

Gen. 13:2, 5, 6 "*And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold. 5 And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents. 6 And the land was not able to bear them,*

that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together."

Genesis 30:43 "And the man (Jacob) increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses."

B. TITHING WAS DURING THE TIME OF LAW.

The Children of Israel, according to the law, were required to give three tithes to the Lord:

The first tithe was for the Priests and the Levites, God's servants, who served in the temple day and night. God said:

Numbers 18:21 "*And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.*"

2 Chronicles 31:5 "*And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of corn, wine, and oil, and honey, and of all the increase of the field; and the tithe of all things brought they in abundantly.*"

Nehemiah 10:37 "*And that we should bring the firstfruits of our dough, and our offerings, and the fruit of all manner of trees, of wine and of oil, unto the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and the tithes of our ground unto the Levites, that the same Levites might have the tithes in all the cities of our tillage (farming)."*

Numbers 18:21 *"And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation."*

The second tithe was a yearly tithe of the harvest increase. It was designated for expenses during feast days.

Deuteronomy 14:22-23 *"Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year. 23 And thou shalt eat before the Lord thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the Lord thy God always."*

The third tithe was for the Poor and the Needy. It was given once every three years.

Deuteronomy 14:27-29 *"And the Levite that is within thy gates; thou shalt not forsake him; for he hath no part nor inheritance with thee. 28 At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay it up within thy gates: 29 And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the Lord thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest."*

This tithe was to be taken from their increase at the end of the third year. It was to be placed within their gates.

WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT THE PERSON WHO WILL NOT TITHE?

In **Mal. 3:8-12** we read: "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? ***In tithes and offerings.*** ***9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.*** ***10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*** ***11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.*** ***12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of God.***"

The curse comes because of disobedience.

Disobedience always brings a curse (chastisement).

Deut. 11:26-28 "Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; ***27 A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day:*** ***28 And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God,...***"

Let me share with you a true story which happened in one of my pastorates. Mr. & Mrs._____ were faithful members of our church but began to backslide. They became unfaithful in the church and would only come occasionally. Several months later they returned and were faithful like before. They told their story of what happened at a testimonial service .

They said: "We became cold and indifferent towards the things of God. We stopped our tithing and were not faithful to all the services of our church. During this period of time one of our three children became sick and needed doctor and hospital care. (the curse-chastisement) During this sickness the Lord began to convict us of our backslidden ways. They said, "Pastor, the total of the bills, doctor, hospital and drugs, equalled the amount of our tithe which we did not give to God."

**REMEMBER THIS – YOU ARE GOING TO
PAY YOUR TITHE SOMEWHERE.
Blessings only come when the tithe
is given to the Lord first.**

In my early years, I owned my own TV repair business. I had been taught to tithe and practised it before this time. Later I decided that tithing was only taught in our church because the preacher wanted more money for himself. I decided not to tithe. Immediately my business declined. The phone stopped ringing. There was no business that whole week (the curse). That Sunday I paid my tithe

and the following week I had all the business I could handle (the blessing). I thought this was only a coincidence. I did not tithe my earnings of that great week of business. Again, my phone stopped ringing and there was no business (the curse). I paid my unpaid tithe and God again gave me a good week of business (the blessings). I repeated the same dumb mistake of not tithing the third time. You guessed it, no business. Robbing God will always bring you a curse/chastisement.

From that day until now I have found that I cannot afford to rob God (not to tithe.) God's promises are true. The blessings will come when you are obedient to Him. God says what He means and means what He says.

The blessing or profit, which is the result of the joint-effort of God and the Christian, must be shared by both, as partners or co-labourers. God had already determined His share, that is, 10% of all. This is the condition which God imposes in the partnership. And the Christian who does less work, shares 90% of the blessings. If this is not done, God is robbed of what is His, and He said He is going to curse with a curse the Christian for robbing Him of what is rightly His share. (Malachi 3:11) To farmers, devourers destroy the fruits of their ground and the fruit of the vine falls in the field before it is ripe. Other forms of devourers may be the borrowers who refuse to pay back, thieves, pickpockets, swindlers, sickness, accident, etc.

MORE BLESSINGS:

With the tenth given to Him, God promised the following blessings:

 **1st.** God will change the curse, brought on by robbing God of His tithe, into a blessing.

Malachi 3:10 *"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse (God's true church), that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."*

Perhaps He multiplies the tenth in heaven and gives it back to the tither. This means more blessings. If the tithe is not brought to Him, then there is nothing for Him to multiply in heaven for you.

 **2nd.** God will give the farmer good weather.

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

 **3rd.** God will give peace and favor with other nations.

Verse 12a *"And all nations shall call you blessed."*

 **4th.** God shall delight in the land and keep it safe and fruitful.

Verse 12b *"For ye shall be a delightsome land,"*

So we see that tithing was practised from Abraham, through the time the law was in force, and up to the present day (the church age). Just a further note about Jesus and His practice of Tithing.

It is not hard to prove from the Scriptures that our Lord Jesus Christ gave tithes and offerings. The facts are plain.

 **First:** Jesus declared He came to fulfil the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 5:17-18 *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. 18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."*

The Law of Moses teaches strict observance of the giving of the tithes and offerings. The prophets of the Lord, likewise, did the same. As one who cannot sin, who came not to destroy but to fulfil, Jesus strictly gave tithes and offerings.

 **Second:** Jesus, at the age of 12 years, attended the Feast at Jerusalem. The family gave their Festival Tithe which they used for expenses while in God's place of worship.

Luke 2:41-42 *"Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast."*

 **Third:** Christ's enemies found no fault in Him of which they might accuse Him.

We read in **Luke 6:7** *"And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the sabbath day; that they might find an accusation against him, that the Scribes and the*

Pharisees were watching Him closely all the time trying to find fault with Him." See also **John 18:19**

And in **Matthew 22:17-21** *"Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? 18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? 19 Show me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. 20 And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? 21 They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."*

What was Jesus saying but, "pay your taxes; pay your tithe".



Fourth: He personally taught and insisted that tithing was just as important as other moral laws.

Jesus in **Matthew 23:23** *"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."*

In other words, Christ said, You ought to tithe and at the same time observe the other matters of the law as judgment, mercy and faith.

In **John 10:27** *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me"*

If we are to follow Jesus, that simply means that if He practised the giving of the tithe, we must do the same.

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?

Lesson #1

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STEP #2 Work hard and be honest.

Lesson #4

STEP #3 Make God your Partner.

Today's Lesson #5

Sharing the profits with your partner (tithing).

LESSON 6

GIVE BEYOND THE TITHE

The 5th. STEP TO FINANCIAL PROSPERITY is to
GIVE BEYOND THE TITHE

We said in our last lesson that in an equal partnership, the profits usually are divided 50/50. However, God claims only 10% of the profits, or a tithe. The tithe is 10% of your gross income (before taxes). That is all the money that comes to you from any source. Whether earned or gifts from abroad or inheritance or goods received. Honesty is always important.

SHARING, THE PRINCIPLE OF TITHE-GIVING:

It is not hard to see the principle that governs tithe-giving, and that is SHARING. This is a generally accepted principle. When two parties are involved in any endeavor, both share in the fruit of their labours. Likewise, when a Christian and God labour together, whatever blessings may result from such joint-effort, must be shared by both God and the Christian. When the Christian, therefore, fails to give to God His due share, he is indeed robbing God. And God is justified in cursing with a curse those who rob Him.

Malachi 3:8-9 *"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.*

9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation."

Proverbs 3:9 "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits (give to God first) of all thine increase:"

THE CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE IN GIVING

The right Christian attitude in tithe-giving should be:

1 Chronicles 29:9-14 "Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the Lord: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy. 10 Wherefore David blessed the Lord before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel our father, for ever and ever. 11 Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all. 12 Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. 13 Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. 14 But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee."





The result was great rejoicing with thanksgiving, praises and prayers to God.

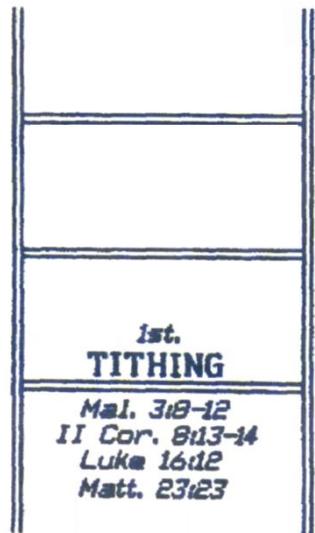
TITHING DURING THE AGE OF GRACE

In the Age of Grace, or the Church Age, Christians are taught the three upward steps in giving. I say, "upward" because there is growth in grace and faith in the process. We illustrate here with the use of **a three-step ladder**.

1. The **Bottom Rung** on the ladder is **TITHING** or GIVING BY EQUALITY.

2 Corinthians 8:12-15 *"For if there be first*

a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not. 13 For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened: 14 But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality: 15 As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack."



Paul said that there must be first a willing mind, . They were to start giving (tithing) as soon as God gave them something. Paul

emphasized that in the first step, everyone must take part; that there must be an equal sharing of the burden. He did not want some eased and others burdened (**vs. 13**). He desired that EQUALITY in giving be practised at the start.

Giving by Equality for both rich and poor (proportionate giving) is just another term for tithe-giving with which the Jews were already well acquainted.

2. The **Second Rung** is **THE GIVING OF LOVE OFFERINGS.**

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 *"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth (purpose or decide) in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: 9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. 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;) 11*



*Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.¹² For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; ¹³ Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men; ¹⁴ And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you.¹⁵ **Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.**"*

At this point Christians are now experiencing God's abundant blessings due to their tithe-giving. They see God's love in their daily lives,

**God is faithfully keeping His promises
to them in Malachi 3:9-12**

The love of God grows in their hearts. And out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh: "My Jesus I love you." Beautiful words! But is this all? Words only? Or, does the Lord Jesus expect more than just this expression of love? Of course, the Lord expects more; God does not want empty words. He expects our LOVE OFFERING to go along with our words. Love offering is showing our love. He would have said, "All right, you love me; but then, where is your love offering to prove it?"

2 Corinthians 8:8 *"I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love."*

Since the tithe is His, we do not give Him anything until we give beyond the tithe, a love-offering. A Christian, who does not give his love-offering after saying, "I love you, Lord," deprives God of what is due Him. This offering must be taken from the 90% which is the Christian's share. Paul said:

2 Corinthians 9:7 *"Every man according as he purposeth (purpose or decide) in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."*

Here is the Lord's plain teaching, that, in the giving of the love-offering, each individual Christian must purpose or decide this in his own heart. In tithing, God has already decided what His portion is (10%). In the giving of the Love-Offering, the love of the individual Christian for the Lord is thus manifested (shown) - little or much. The abundance, is of course, measured in proportion to the portion kept at home for oneself. The moment the Christian drops his love offering in the offering plate, he silently declares, "Lord, this is how much I love you today."

3. The Top Rung is **THE SACRIFICIAL LOVE GIVING**

2 Corinthians 8:1-9 *"Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; 2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. 3 For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; 4 Praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5 And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves*

to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God. 6 Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also. 7 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. 8 I speak not by commandment, but by occasion



of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love. 9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

Christians are expected by the Lord to reach this third rung upward in giving to Him. This is also called Sacrificial Love-Offering.

This giving beyond one's power to give is sacrificial giving. This is also taken from the Christian's 90% share. Sacrificial giving can best be seen among the early Christians.

Acts 2:44-45 *"And all that believed were together, and had all things common; 45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need."*

Acts 4:34-35 *"Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, 35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need."*

The secret of this, Paul said, **was their truly surrendered lives**; ***"but first gave their own selves to the Lord."*** The Bible says "we are not our own..." (1 Cor. 6:19-20) when we give ourselves to God, we only give Him what is already His. It is the same with the tithe, it is already His

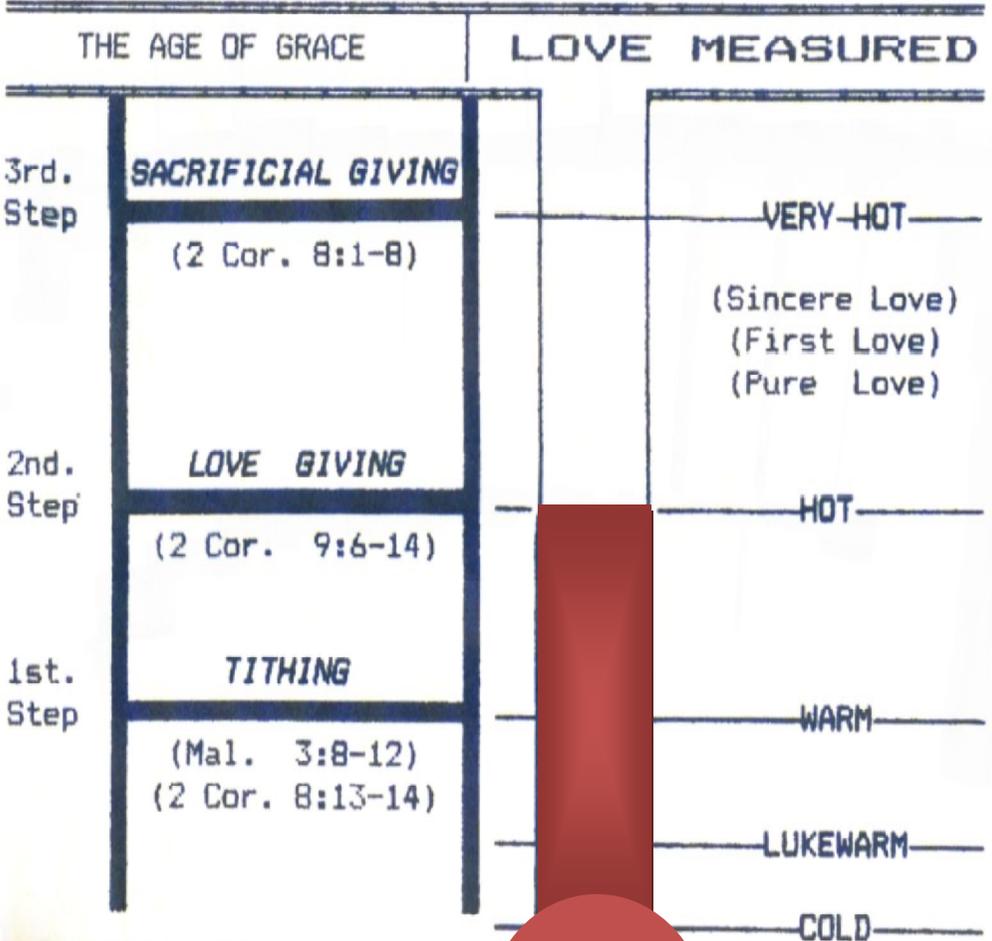
**We are not really giving
God a gift until we give above
the tithe.**

**Remember this, Christian,
We cannot "out-give" God.**

**Go will be no man's debtor.
He always returns more
to us than we give to Him.**

CHART NO. 5

LOVE - THE GOVERNING PRINCIPLE IN GIVING

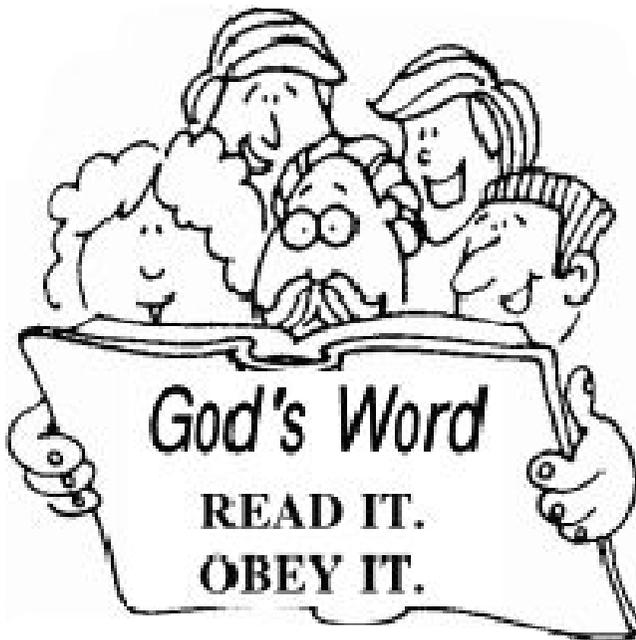


THE THREE STEPS IN THE UPWARD GROWTH IN GRACE, FAITH, AND LOVE.

THE THERMOMETER OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

WHERE ARE YOU TODAY?

- Still on the ground?
- 1st Rung - Tithing?
- 2nd Rung - Tithing & Love offering?
- 3rd Rung - Tithing & Sacrificial love giving?



WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?

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Lesson #4

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Lesson #5

Sharing the profits with your partner (tithing).

TODAY'S Lesson #6

Giving beyond the tithe

Rung #1 Tithing

Rung #2 Love offering

Rung #3 Sacrificial love giving

LESSON 7

LOVE - THE GOVERNING PRINCIPLE IN GIVING, AND SOWING & REAPING

The principle of love governs all kinds of giving to the LORD. Whatever Christians do, in fact, they must be constrained (pressured) by love for the LORD alone. In giving, love is measured according to the abundance offered. And the abundance is measured on the amount left at home or kept in the bank or stored in the safe. Even in tithing, giving is done in obedience to the commandments of the Lord, constrained by love alone. See Chart No. 5 on page 64.

Christians, taking their **first upward step**, show their growth in the grace of giving by giving the tithe of all. This shows that their love for the Lord is WARM. This is the standard love manifested (shown) by obedience.

In **John 14:15** we read: *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."*

God's commandment about tithe-giving is

Malachi 3:10 *"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse (God's true Church), that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."*

Christians who do not give **"the tithe of all"** to the Lord reveal the fact that there is no love in their hearts for Him, hence they are **COLD**. Giving to the Lord, short of the tithe, is love in its

LUKEWARM state. This love is neither cold nor hot. To this kind of Christian, God says

Revelation 3:16 *"So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."*

Christians taking their **second step upward** show further growth in the grace of giving (giving their love-offering taken from their 90% share) and show that their love for the Lord is **HOT**. They give cheerfully; and God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7,10,12 *"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."*

This giving increases the fruit of their righteousness.

Verse 10 *"Now he (God) that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness."*

Verse 12 *"For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God."*

This kind of giving causes many to love and glorify God. This **HOT** love is contagious, producing more love to God in other saints. This giving warms others; it is **HOTTER** than the first.

Christians taking their **third step upward** manifest perfect or mature growth in the grace of giving, by giving sacrificially. They show that their love for the Lord is **VERY HOT**. Their thermometer

of love has risen to the fullness of maturity. Paul gives the example of the sacrificial giving of the churches in Macedonia in

2 Corinthians 8:1-8 *"Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit (we want you to know) of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; 2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. 3 For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; 4 Praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5 And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God."*

Paul challenges the Corinthian Christians in

Verse 7 *"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."*

What grace is he talking about? The grace of sacrificial giving mentioned in

Verse 3 *"...beyond their power they were willing of themselves."*

2 Corinthians 8:5 *"And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God."*



Paul further states in

Verse 8 *"I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love."*

Yes, sincere love is proven in sacrificial giving. The term, "sincere" comes from the Greek word, "sincera", meaning, "without wax of mixture or adulteration". Love without mixture is sincere or pure. In the Lord's letter to the Ephesian Church as recorded in

Revelation 2:5 *"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."*

This kind of love is called **"first love"**.

It is God's expectation that His children love Him sincerely. This is pure love. This kind of love is manifested in sacrificial giving. Only in a truly surrendered life can the grace of God work to its fullest. Then the Christian can give sacrificially of his substance to the Lord. When we give the Lord this due honor, He can do no less than reciprocate (return, to give back). He said in

1 Samuel 2:30 *"Wherefore the Lord God of Israel saith, them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed."*

God further promises in

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

A note on first fruits: We are to give God's tithes before we pay other bills and buy other things.

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

A poor widow contributed to the Dorpathian Branch of the Russian Bible Society a ruble; and to the question whether that sum was not rather too much for one in her circumstances, she answered, "**LOVE is not afraid of giving too much.**"

LOVE OF GIVING

A widow found pardon and peace in the Saviour in her sixty-ninth year. Naturally of a thankful and happy temperament, her gratitude and love now overflowed. She was often seen to drop a gift in the Church-door box, though her income was only 2s. 6d (only a small income) per week. A fall in her seventy-second year prevented her ever coming out again. When a little boy was seen to drop something into the box, he was asked what it was. He said, "It is Mrs. W's penny." He was asked to take it back to her and to say that her good intentions were highly prized, but that her friends could not let her reduce her small means by such a gift, especially as she could no longer come out to worship. When she heard this

she replied, "Boy, why did you let them see you give it? Take it again, and put it into the box on the sly, when no one sees you." Then weeping, she said, "What, and am I not to be allowed to help in the work of God any more because I can't get out? Do they not want me to love God anymore?" From the -Preacher Lantern-

**THE LAW OF
SOWING AND REAPING**



Galatians 6:7-8 *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”*

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

SOME FACTS ABOUT SOWING:

1. A man expects to reap when he sows.
2. A man expects to reap the same kind of seed that he sows.
3. A man expects to reap more than the sows.

Copy this link into your internet browser and read D.L. Moody’s book on **SOWING AND REAPING**.

It will have a profound effect upon your life.

http://biblehub.com/library/moody/sowing_and_reaping/

A REVIEW OF THE MONEY PROBLEM

I. We do not have enough money.

II. God is very rich.

HAGGAI 2:8 *“The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts.”*

JAMES 1:17 *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”*

DEUTERONOMY 8:18 “But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.”

III. God withholds His riches from us. Why?

1. He cannot trust us because:
 - a. We become proud.
 - b. We forget God.
 - c. We love the gift more than the Giver God.
 - d. We spend our money the wrong way.
2. We do not have the right kind of faith in God.

JAMES 4:2 “*Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.*”

IV. Some steps to financial blessings.

1. Get a job and be honest as you work hard.
2. Don't work on Sunday, the Lord's Day.

Exodus 20:8-11 “*Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: 11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*”

Deuteronomy 11:26-28 *"Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; 27 A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: 28 And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other Gods, which ye have not known."*

3. Make God your Partner.

4. Pay your Partner His share.

Malachi 3:8-11 *'Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. 9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. 10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it . 11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.'*

5. Give beyond your tithe.

TODAY'S LESSON #7

LOVE - THE GOVERNING PRINCIPLE IN GIVING, AND SOWING and REAPING.

We always
reap what we
sow.



LESSON 8

LOVE GIVING-THE PRINCIPLE OF SOWING AND REAPING

Fourth Secret: Much greater and abounding blessings are God's responses to Love-Giving. Love-Giving is that portion which Christians should set aside from their 90% share, and is proof of their love for God.

2 Corinthians 8:8 *I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.*

2 Corinthians 8:24 *Wherefore show ye to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love, and of our boasting on your behalf.*

Giving, in the true sense of the word, begins here. The tithe which is the Lord's by right of partnership, cannot be called our giving to the Lord. We cannot claim as our giving that which is actually God's own portion. But, love-giving, which is a portion set aside for the Lord by the Christian from his own 90% share in the income, is truly "giving".

2 Corinthians 9:7 *Every man according as he purposeth (decides) in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

Since the 90% of the income is his own, the Christian should be the one to purpose or decide in his heart, how much to give to the Lord as his love-offering; and he must give it cheerfully. Love-giving is a cheerful giving. The saying, "You can give without loving,

but you cannot love without giving" is very true here. As far as the tithe is concerned, God has decided that Himself; but regarding the love-offering, the Christian has to decide for himself how much he will set aside for the Lord, because it is from his own.

In **Malachi 3:8** *Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.*

So God is accusing us that we rob Him, not only of His share but also of our own love-offering. Indeed, God deserves to be loved. And love must be accompanied by love-giving of offering "to prove the sincerity of our love." **2 Cor. 8:8**

Love-giving is a practice we rejoice to do sacrificially for those we love on earth. But, with God, who first loved us with an everlasting love, sad to say, we fall short, yes, we even rebel. Have we not observed Christians with lavish gifts at every visit to their loved ones? And these same people come to God for worship every Sunday with no love-offering to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and yet can sing so loud, "My Jesus I Love Thee, I know That Thou art mine." and "More Love to Thee oh Christ." What kind of love is this? A man receiving \$3,000.00 salary monthly, spends his time and money in night clubs, comes home empty, kisses his wife and children, who just went to sleep hungry. What kind of kiss is this? Obviously, it is a Judas' Kiss. Judas thought he could fool Jesus with his display of affection, but, Jesus who knows the hearts of me said, "Judas betrayest thou me with a kiss?"

CHART NO. 6 — LOVE — GIVING CHART

"HAVE FAITH IN GOD"

Mark 11:22

**Hardworking
CHRISTIAN**

PARTNER

**Faithful
G O D**

Gen. 3:19
Prov. 10:4
2 Thes. 3:10

John 15:5
Deut. 8:18
James 1:17

BLESSINGS

Tithing
(Sharing)

90%

LOVE — GIVING

10%

Mal. 3:9-12

Blessings from Heaven

2 Cor. 9:6-14

1. Shall reap bountifully—8
2. Abounding love—7
3. Abounding graces—8
4. Sufficiency in all things—8
5. Abound in every good work—8
6. His righteousness remaineth forever—9
7. (Gospel) seed sown is multiplied—10
8. Increase the fruits of your righteousness—11
9. Enriched in everything to all bountifulness—11
10. Ministers offer thanksgiving to God—11
11. All wants of saints supplied—12
12. Abounding thanksgiving to God by many—12
13. Many will glorify God because of this subjection to the Gospel, and liberality—13
14. Many shall pray for you — love-givers—14

FOURTEEN (14) ABOUNDING BLESSINGS

GOD'S FOURTEEN (14) ABOUNDING BLESSINGS IN RESPONSE TO LOVE-GIVING

Acts 20:35 *I have showed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

Luke 6:38 *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.*

God's promises above are true. Below are God's fourteen abounding blessings - spiritual and material - which He promised He will give in return for our love-giving (See Chart No. 6 on page 28)

1. BOUNTIFUL REAPING

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

This is the principle involved in love-giving - Sowing and Reaping. The blessings, therefore, that the Christian will reap through his love-offering will be in proportion to the amount he gives. If his love-offering is small, he is sowing sparingly, and will

naturally reap sparingly; but if his love-offering is big, he is sowing bountifully, and he will also reap bountifully. It is obvious that God desires for His children to reap bountifully. The term used by Paul for this "sowing sparingly" is giving "to their power", and for sowing bountifully is giving "beyond their power".

2 Corinthians 8:3 *For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;*

And let it be said here again that the giving, whether sparingly or bountifully, is determined, not by what was actually offered, but by how much was kept in one's safe at home or bank. And the Lord, the all-knowing God, can accurately determine whether the love-giving is sparingly or bountifully done, and can reward the giver accordingly as He promised.

2. LOVE ABOUNDING

2 Corinthians 9:7 *Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

Love-giving is cheerful giving. The opposite is giving grudgingly or of necessity. When we love God and prove it, His natural response is more love.

3. GRACE ABOUNDING

Verse 8 *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*

This is not just one grace; this is all grace. This is one sure way to grow in grace.

2 Peter 3:18 *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

4. HAVING ALL-SUFFICIENCY IN ALL THINGS ALWAYS

2 Corinthians 9:8 *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*

No more lack of anything at any time.

5. ABOUNDING IN GOOD WORKS

Verse 8 *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*

Hence, at the Judgment Seat of Christ, it will mean abounding rewards, as we will be judged according to our works. For good works, the believers will be rewarded, so abounding in good works means the Christian will be amply rewarded.

6. HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS REMAINETH FOREVER

Verse 9 *As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.*

Psalms 112:9 *He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.*

7. GOSPEL SEEDS SOWN MULTIPLIED

2 Corinthians 9:10 *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*

Hence abounding harvest of souls. The multiplying of seeds sown is due to the increase of missionaries being sent to the field because of the increase of love-giving which goes to the Mission Fund.

8. INCREASE THE FRUITS OF YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

2 Corinthians 9:10 *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;)*

Love-giving does not merely make his righteousness abide forever, but its fruits increase abundantly.

9. ENRICHED IN EVERYTHING TO ALL BOUNTIFULNESS

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

Enriched spiritually; enriched materially; enriched physically, mentally; and abounding in everything.

10. MUCH THANKSGIVING TO GOD BY MINISTERS

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

Paul a minister and a missionary, speaking for all ministers and all missionaries, offered thanksgiving to God as a result of the Christians' love-giving, not only because of their growth in grace but because these ministers and missionaries were recipients of this mission offering.

11. WANTS OF THE SAINTS SUPPLIED

Verse 12 *For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;*

Because of love-giving, poor believers have their material needs supplied.

12. ABUNDANT ALSO BY MANY THANKSGIVINGS UNTO GOD

Verse 12 *For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;*

The offering of thanksgiving moves God to respond to His people in abounding mercy and grace. Many thanksgivings will bring abounding blessings, of course.

13. MANY WHO HAVE BEEN BLESSED GLORIFY GOD FOR YOUR SUBJECTION TO THE GOSPEL AND YOU LIBERALITY

Verse 13 Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;

With many glorifying God, God moves in more mysterious ways His wonders to perform.

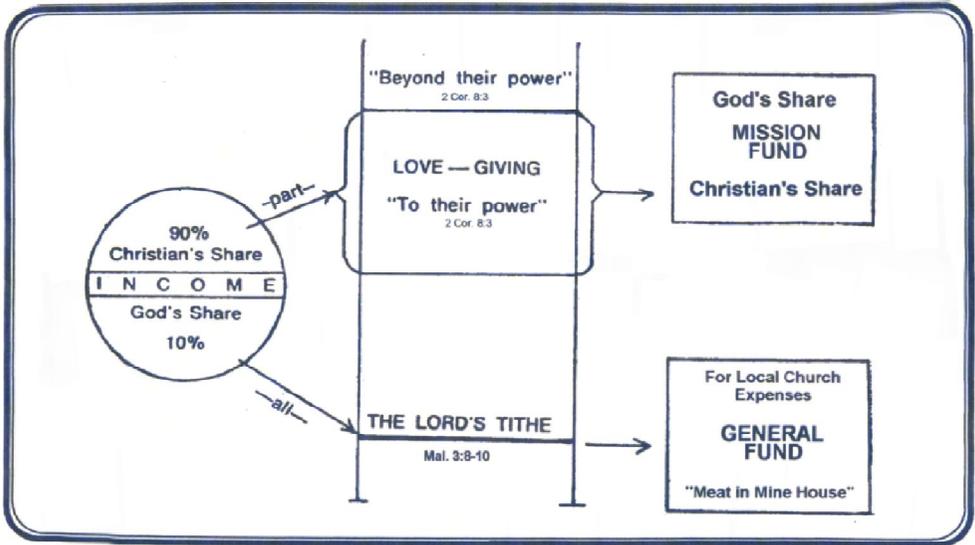
14. MANY SAINTS WILL PRAY FOR YOU

2 Corinthians 9:14 And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you.

Yes, many of those who have been saved by this ministration, and those recipients of such blessings will pray for the church whose members practice love-giving to missions. Much prayers will be raised before the throne of grace for you.

We need these fourteen abounding blessings, for us individually and for our church as a whole. These are not for a select few. God is no respecter of persons. He has reserved these for those who will do as He says in 2 Corinthians 8 & 9. We are facing hard times and the semblance of famine is before us. The time is now for our loving God to bless us with these 14 abounding blessings. Amen.

LESSON 9



"MEAT IN MY HOUSE"

Malachi 3:10 *Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

Every local Church is God's storehouse. To be kept in store are God's tithes of all, brought in by God's people every Lord's Day.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 *Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 2 Upon the first day of the week (Sunday) let every one of*

you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

These funds the Lord calls, "***Meat in Mine House.***"

God has called Pastors as overseers over His Church. They are to watch over the flock so that grievous wolves do not come and steal and destroy the lambs. They are to feed the Church of God which He has purchased with His own blood, so that, believers would normally grow toward maturity in their Christian lives for effective Christian service. They are to evangelize and win souls.

As God's servants, called by Him for this very important and glorious service, it is God's responsibility to feed, clothe and care for them. He must provide for their needs. He made it plain in His Word that His tithes are His provisions for His servants, that is, "meat in Mine house". In the Old Testament, God's servants, the Priests and the Levites had the Lord's tithes as their portion and inheritance. The same is true of God's servants in the New Testament.

Herein is a very vital truth many of God's people have long missed: that Pastors and Workers in His Churches are supported by the Lord Himself, out of His own share - the tithes of all - and not by the members themselves. In other words, Pastors and Workers

are not paid from the 90% share of the believers, but from the Lord's share, the tithes of all, kept in God's storehouse.

We often hear members of local churches say, "We support our Pastors and Workers..." No! This is not true. Church members do not support Pastors and Workers. It is the Lord who supports them out of His share, the tithes of all.

THE GENERAL FUND

The Lord's tithes kept in store are commonly spoken of as the General Fund. The church is entrusted with the responsibility of budgeting wisely this fund. First and foremost to be considered in the budgeting of this fund is the Pastor's salary, travel expenses, house rent (when there is no parsonage), payment of light and water bills, etc. It must be reasonable and sufficient based upon the average income of the church members. The treasurers of the church must remove from their minds the wrong understanding that the General Fund is their own money, or that it is Church money. What must saturate their minds is that before them is the Lord's money. After the Pastor has been sufficiently provided for, the balance shall be budgeted for other church needs.

1 Timothy 5:18 *For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.*

1 Corinthians 9:11, 13-14 *If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?*

...13 Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? 14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 *And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; 13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.*

Other church needs would include: rent of church building, maintenance of the grounds, utilities, church furnishings, supplies and etc.

When the church decides to purchase land and build; money may be designated for the building fund (see envelope). This money is not taken from a person's tithe but is an extra offering from his 90% share. All "special projects" (piano, church vehicle, etc.) will be paid for this way - from gifts and offerings - not from the tithe (see "other" on the envelope).

When the church begins a mission program (and it should have one very soon after starting), the amount is pledged by the members once a year at a faith-promise conference. This amount comes from the 90% share as members pray and ask the Lord what He would have them give (see "missions" on envelope).

Designated monies must be used as designated (i.e. building fund for building, mission fund for mission, piano (other) fund for a piano)

However, the church can decide to take money out of the general fund to meet a special need in any other above areas.

Money cannot be taken from the mission fund and used for building or visa versa.

A detailed financial report must be prepared and posted in a public place each month.

Romans 12:17 *Provide things honest in the sight of all men.*

If your church is still young, your pastor may be supported by other churches as part of their mission program (all BAMA churches start this way). Your goal is to take over the support of your pastor as soon as possible.

The goal of BAMA is to cut your pastor's support by a percentage each year as you are able to take responsibility for the amount. This will "free up" these funds so new churches can be started in other needy locations.

I believe God can take good care of all His called servants if God's children love God enough to obey Him and; "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not

open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Mal. 3:10

Dear Friend,

I have taught you from the Bible how to get more money from God. I have taught you "how to fish". I have fulfilled my responsibility to you as a Minister of God.

Now, the choice is yours. You can do what God tells you to do and have His blessings or you can continue to do what you have been doing for so many years. As I said, "The choice is yours."

May God bless you as you make the right choice.

M.L. Brown

EXTRA MATERIAL

NOT GIVING, BUT SOWING

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

As John Calvin pointed out long ago in expounding this key passage, "We are not giving, but sowing" when we contribute of our financial means to the work of the Lord, for it miraculously is considered by the Lord of the harvest as seed sown in the soil of the hearts of men.

And it is a rule of the harvest that, other things being equal, the more seed planted, the more harvested. He who is deficient with his seed must necessarily anticipate a meager crop.

Of course, a bountiful harvest presupposes not only an abundance of seed, but also good soil, properly prepared, watered, and cultivated. It is no good simply to give money to any one or any cause, any more than it is good simply to throw seed on a rocky slope or city street or weed-infested yard. One is responsible to give where God's word is honored-not just to give, but to give responsibly.

Furthermore, even though an abundant harvest is promised, the motive in giving is also vital. The harvest is souls-not gold! "God loveth a cheerful giver"-not a conditional giver (v.7). "He that giveth, let him do it with simplicity" (Romans 12:8). Often God does bring financial blessing to a Christian who has proved faithful in the grace of giving, but this is so he can give still more and thus lay up still

more treasure in heaven. *"For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required"* (**Luke 12:48**). *"Therefore," as Paul said, ". . . see that ye abound in this grace also"* (**2 Corinthians 8:7**).

And as we give, we must never forget that Christ has given more: "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

HMM

God's Simple Plan Of Salvation

My Friend:

I am asking you the most important question of life. Your joy or your sorrow for all eternity depends upon your answer. The question is: Are you saved? It is not a question of how good you are, nor if you are a church member, but are you saved? Are you sure you will go to Heaven when you die?

God says in order to go to Heaven, you must be born again. In John 3:7, Jesus said to Nicodemus, *"Ye must be born again."*

In the Bible God gives us the plan of how to be born again which means to be saved. His plan is simple! You can be saved today. How?

First, my friend, you must realize you are a sinner. *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23).

THE BEGINNING

MAN

GOD



Because you are a sinner, you are condemned to death. *"For the wages [payment] of sin is death"* (Romans 6:23).

This includes eternal separation from God in Hell. *"...it is appointed unto men once to die but after this the judgment"* (Hebrews 9:27)

But God loved you so much He gave His only begotten Son, Jesus, to bear your sin and die in your place. *"...He hath made Him [Jesus, Who knew no sin] to be sin for us...that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him"* (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Jesus had to shed His blood and die. *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood"* (Lev. 17:11) *"...without the shedding of blood is no remission [pardon]"* (Hebrews 9:22).

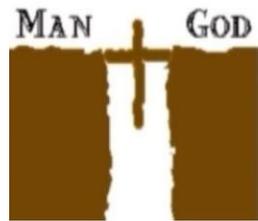
"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Although we cannot understand how, God said my sins and your sins were laid upon Jesus and He died in our place. He became our substitute. It is true. God cannot lie.

SIN ENTERS THE WORLD



JESUS BRIDGES THE GAP



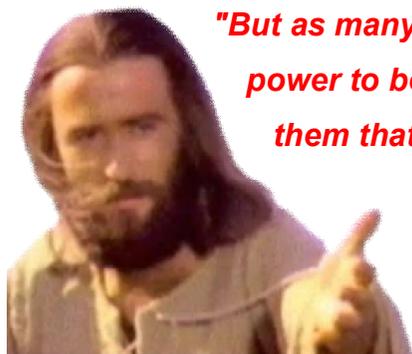
My friend, ***"God ...now commandeth all men everywhere to repent"*** (Acts 17:30).

This repentance is a change of mind that agrees with God that one is a sinner, and also agrees with what Jesus did for us on the Cross.

In Acts 16:30-31, the Phillipian jailer asked Paul and Silas: ***"... 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'"*** And they said, ***"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved... ."***

Simply believe on Him as the one who bore your sin, died in your place, was buried, and whom God resurrected.

His resurrection powerfully assures that the believer can claim everlasting life when Jesus is received as Savior.



"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" (John 1:12).

"For whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).

Whosoever includes you. Shall be saved means not maybe, nor can, but shall be saved.

Surely, you realize you are a sinner. Right now, wherever you are, repenting, lift your heart to God in prayer.

In Luke 18:13, the sinner prayed: **"God be merciful to me a sinner."** Just pray: "Oh, God, I know I am a sinner. I believe Jesus was my substitute when He died on the Cross. I believe His shed blood, death, burial, and resurrection were for me. I now receive Him as my Savior. I thank You for the forgiveness of my sins, the gift of salvation and everlasting life, because of Your merciful grace. Amen."



Just take God at His word and claim His salvation by faith. Believe, and you will be saved.

No church, no lodge, no good works can save you. Remember God does the saving. All of it!

God's simple plan of salvation is: You are a sinner. Therefore, unless you believe on Jesus Who died in your place, you will spend eternity in Hell. If you believe on Him as your crucified, buried, and risen Savior, you receive forgiveness for all of your sins and His gift of eternal salvation by faith.

You say, **"Surely, it cannot be that simple."** Yes, that simple! It is scriptural. It is God's plan. My friend, believe on Jesus and receive Him as Savior today.

If His plan is not perfectly clear, read this tract over and over, without laying it down until you understand it. Your soul is worth more than all the world.

GOD & MAN TOGETHER

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36).

Be sure you are saved. If you lose your soul, you miss Heaven and lose all. Please! Let God save you this very moment.



God's power will save you, keep you saved, and enable you to live a victorious Christian life. ***"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, Who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it"*** (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Do not trust your feelings. They change. Stand on God's promises. They never change. After you are saved, there are three things to practice daily for spiritual growth: Pray - you talk to God. Read your Bible - God talks to you. Witness - you talk for God.

You should be baptized in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ as a public testimony of your salvation, and then unite with a

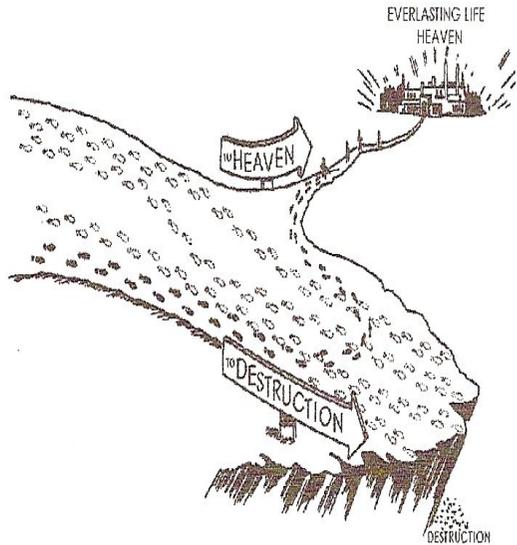
Bible-believing church without delay. "Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord..." (2 Timothy 1:8).

"Whosoever therefore shall confess [testify of] Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32).

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"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Matthew 7:13-14



THE BEGINNING



SIN ENTERS THE WORLD



JESUS BRIDGES THE GAP



GOD & MAN TOGETHER



WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT THIS BOOK:



“I really appreciate those materials (*HOW TO GET MORE MONEY FROM GOD*). I’ve done stewardship months before at our first church plant here and used your materials. A consistent focus on these things has resulted in a church that can truly support herself without having to solicit dollars from America. The people are taught to support their own workers through their tithes, take care of their own building projects through their building offerings, and that church has currently sent out two of their members (who finished their Bible schooling there) to do church planting locally and support them as well as other Filipino foreign missionaries. Our two other church plants are on the path to doing the same as well. In fact, our church in Arayat, Pampanga just purchased their own land and are planning a building project as they’ve been meeting in a house for a while now. Also, our church among the Aeta tribal people will be having their first stewardship month this February and some of those materials from the "How to get more money from God" will be adapted for them as well.



Kindly pray for all of these efforts here. Some day I hope we can meet up if I ever make it back home to America for a visit. I would love to be able to hear from you personally about all of your experiences as a missionary here in the Philippines. I was super impressed with what I saw happening at Laloma Baptist Church. In fact, it was many years ago that I first learned about foreign Filipino missionaries at a missionary conference at Laloma Baptist. As of now I've been here for 12 yrs straight and the time has just vanished. I keep telling people we're going to make a trip back home, but we'll just see." Missionary Jeremy Ferguson, Philippines