



The Service of Giving Part 1

It is inevitable to want to express love through the giving of gifts after one is head-over-heels in love with someone. In fact, there's a special holiday designed for that purpose, which we call Valentine's Day.

A missionary of great devotion said it like this:

- “You can always give without loving, but you can never love without giving.”
– **Amy Carmichael**

In like manner, once the believer in Christ is captivated by the love of God and experiences the grace of God, the giving of gifts is something that should be expressed as an act of thanksgiving. The giving of gifts I am talking about is the giving of money or treasures to God.

Matthew 6:21, AMP

For where your treasure is, there your heart [your wishes, your desires; that on which your life centers] will be also.

Know that God doesn't need your money. He's not a gold-digger concerned about what people can give to Him. (And neither am I one of those preachers that go after your check book.) No, God is after your heart, and His intention is only to bless you, His Church and reach millions around the world starting from your community.

One purpose of giving money or treasures in the New Testament is to advance the Gospel of Grace around the world and bless people.

It takes money to resource programs and campaigns to advance the Gospel of Grace. The whole reason for this is to make Jesus Christ and His finished work known so people may receive His love and grace. It is a service to and for people.

The other purpose of giving money or treasures in the New Testament is to help you trust God with your finances.

Giving money or treasures can be very challenging, especially if a person is living from paycheck to paycheck, or, in many cases, living in poverty. Others just have an illicit love affair with money. Unknowingly, whether scarcity or love for money, their whole lives becomes centered on money. As a result, it prevents them from trusting the grace of God with their finances. Know that it's not in God's will for His children to be living in lack, poverty or ensnared with the love for money.

I understand the situation perfectly because there was a time in my life when I was not able to make ends meet. The fact that I was married to my wife made the situation much worse because it wasn't just me being affected but my marriage as a whole. We didn't realize that our whole lives revolved on the getting-of-money to meet deadlines. This was the reason why giving and trusting God with our finances was a real challenge for us during those difficult times. But we knew that when we gave with the right motive, we would supernaturally prosper in our finances.

2 Corinthians 9:10

Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness.

Firstly, God equates money to a seed. A sower puts a seed in the ground, and, in due time, the seed will bring a harvest of fruit with countless of new seeds within each fruit. In other words, putting seed in the ground could supply and multiply the seed that was sown.

In like manner, whenever a believer in Christ gives by faith with the correct motive, it is as a sower putting a seed in the ground. In due time, they will receive countless of new seeds in return. In other words, they will begin to prosper financially. Know that, when it comes to money, God will always give you more than enough but won't give you more than you can handle because money can either bless you or destroy you. He knows your heart.

Secondly, notice that you can use the seed (money) two ways: You can either sow it (give) or eat it (spend it on either needs or wants). When you sow it, it will produce a return. When you eat it, it will not produce a return; easy as that. The good news is no matter how you handle money, the Lord will always bless you and supply seed for you to sow. My advice is, don't just use seed to get by or spend unwisely. Sow it to live abundantly so the Lord can bless others through you.

Last but not least, this last part is what makes this whole thing work. Notice it says that God can "increase the fruits of your righteousness" and not "increase your righteousness."

Sowing (giving) only works for a believer in Christ who believes they are the righteousness of God in Christ. When someone sows apart from believing they are the righteousness of God in Christ, then they will always be giving to God as a debt they owe instead of a seed to sow. They expect God to bless them financially because they can now check-off the task of giving in an attempt to "increase" their righteousness. This is a wrong motivation for giving and the seed will never produce because it was not sown in the ground of grace but works.

2 Corinthians 9:6

Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.

Remember, we don't have to give, we get to. If you don't, God will still bless you and supply seed for you to sow. So, if you don't want to give, then this is not for you. But keep in mind, the same way a sower never sowed a seed and doesn't get a harvest, likewise don't expect to live the abundant life if you don't sow. If you do want to give, I encourage you to ask the Lord for wisdom to begin to sow seed and make Jesus Christ known. Amen.

By Joyner Briceño