



The Service of Giving Part 2

In *The Service of Giving Part 1*, I taught that giving money or treasures to God will help advance the Gospel of Grace around the world and help you trust God with your finances. Therefore; giving is not something you have to do but you get to do.

If you do want to give, this ministry believes that the first fruit of your giving should be to the local church of believers in Christ. Why? Because the local church is the front line of God's work here on earth. Intimate relationship with local leaders, personal care without cost when a need arises, and, most importantly, getting nurtured for spiritual growth are some of the benefits the local church will provide that no other organization or institution will offer.

However, if you are not receiving your main spiritual meals from the local church, then we believe that the first fruit should go to the ministry that is sustaining your spiritual nourishment.

For years I was not able to find a church that preached the grace of God in its fullness. Don't misunderstand me; I wasn't trying to find a perfect church but one that I could go feed regularly to. If it wasn't for ministries outside the local church, I would've spiritually starved to death. God had to meet my need outside of the local church.

If this is you, then find a church that preaches the Gospel of Grace. If there isn't one, then find a church you can be an influence to and submit to local leadership and their vision (not yours) without compromising the Gospel of Grace. If you become a leader within a church that is not sustaining your spiritual nourishment, then do give an offering but the bulk of your giving should go to the ministry that is sustaining your spiritual nourishment.

In this way, you will be giving cheerfully and subsidizing ministries that encourage guilt-free giving, are truly making disciples and feeding the sheep without the gimmicks, condemnation, or manipulation of religion and, most importantly, preach the Gospel of Grace.

2 Corinthians 9:7, NLT

You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

The believer in Christ should give in faith, which means that the amount given should be a generous amount according to the heart of the giver and not according to the churches' plead.

The Bible teaches that if a believer in Christ wants to give, then they should decide how much to give without any guilt regardless of the amount. This is why the church should not be telling the believer in Christ what percentage to give.

A great man of God said it like this:

- “I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare.” – **C.S. Lewis**

According to the Bible verse above, if one is condemned into giving or made to feel guilty because one didn't give a specific amount, then that's the wrong time to give. It is the Lord's desire that the believer in Christ give cheerfully and not because of pressure or tradition. The financial pressure of the local church should not be laid upon the sheep.

When I was pastor of a local church, the Lord spoke to my heart once and said, “Son, ask for the gifts and get out of the way.”

In this aspect, the **tithe** can taught in a right or wrong manner when the time comes for the local church to collect gifts from believers in Christ.

Don't misunderstand me; I believe the tithe is appropriate under the New Covenant if the tithe is defined as the gift given to the local church (tithe: gift to the local church). On the other hand, I do not believe in the tithe if the tithe is defined as the ten percent standard placed upon the giver.

This is consistent with the Gospel of Grace because demand was the way of the Old Covenant but it's foreign to the New Covenant.

In the Old Testament, God demanded a certain percentage from the giver. In the New Testament, God instructs the giver to decide in their heart how much to give. It is for this reason the Apostle Paul didn't use the word *tithe* in his epistles when he taught about giving.

In this way, the tithe under the New Covenant is never meant to measure your giving. The giver now has the responsibility to measure the harvest. In other words, if the giver sows a few seeds, the giver will get a small harvest but if the giver sows generously, the giver will get a generous harvest.

The Apostle Paul said it like this in another way:

Galatians 6:6-8

Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Contrary to popular opinion, these verses only talk about managing money. When it comes to managing money, whatever you sow, you will reap. In other words, if you sow it into the expansion of the Gospel of Grace, whether to local church and/or ministries that blesses you, you will reap financial benefits that you can't even imagine. However, if you sow it towards yourself by spending unwisely, you will eventually reap the corruption of mismanaging your finances and feed the lust and greed that comes with it. Choose wisely. Amen.

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