

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 (NIV)

1 Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. 2 <u>On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income</u>, (KJV: "as God has prospered him") saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

- 1 Corinthians 16:2 (AMP)
- 2 On the first [day] of each week, let each one of you [personally] put aside something and save it up as he has prospered [in proportion to what he is given],.....

They were being limited in EVERY AREA of their lives, because he did this.

What is the Purpose for Tithing / Giving Financially?

- 1) To return to God what is actually his.
- 2) To supply for God's work on earth.
- 3) To test our hearts. (Do we Love him?)
- 4) To provide a way that opens an avenue of Blessing / Prosperity in every way (including Financial) for Believers.

The earth and it's fullness.

The world and everyone in it.

(Psalms 24:1)

The world is God's and every living thing in it. (Psalms 50:10-12)

The Silver and Gold. (Haggai 2:8)

Our Bodies and Spirits are God's. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

Any Redeemed person belongs to God. (1 Peter 1:18-19; John 17:9-10)

The Earth and Everyone / Everything in it is the Lord's.

(Psalm 24:1)

The Heavens belong to God. (Deuteronomy 10:14; Ps. 115:16)

The first born of Israel, both men and animals belong to the Lord and need to be physically redeemed.

(Exodus 13:11-13; Numbers 3:13)

Interpretation of Dreams belong to the Lord. (Genesis 40:8)

The Israelites belong to God. (Leviticus 25:55)

The Secret things belong to the Lord. (Deuteronomy 29:29)

Wisdom, Power, Counsel, Understanding belong to God.

(Job 12:13)

Strength, Victory, the Deceived, and the Deceiver belong to God.

(Job 12:16)

Eternal Praise belongs to the Lord.

(Psalms 111:10)

Dominion and Awe belong to the Lord. (Job. 25:2; Psalms 22:28)

The Day of Vengeance belongs to the Lord. (Jeremiah 46:10)

The Levites belong to the Lord. (Numbers 3:12)

The Kings / Shields of the earth belong to the Lord.

(Psalms 47:9; 89:18)

The Mountain Peaks belong to God. (Psalms 95:4)

Every Living Soul belongs to the Lord. (Ezekiel 18:4)

The Words Jesus spoke belong to the Father. (John 14:24)

Salvation, Glory, Power belong to God. (Revelation 7:10; 19:1)

And Guess What:

The Tithe belongs to the Lord. (Leviticus 27:30)

Leviticus 27:30-34 (NKJV)

30 And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's. It is holy to the LORD. 31 If a man wants at all to redeem any of his tithes, he shall add one-fifth to it. 32 And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD.

33 He shall not inquire whether it is good or bad, nor shall he exchange it; and if he exchanges it at all, then both it and the one exchanged for it shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed . 34 These are the commandments which the LORD commanded Moses for the children of Israel on Mount Sinai.

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- 1. What Motivates us to do it?
- a. Do we Give because God asked for us to do it.

Or:

b. Do we Give because it's a way to prosper?

2. Even though both are correct, there's a motive check that needs to be in place, or our attitude goes awry.

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***** #1-3 must be in place in our hearts before we believe for #4.

Motive check: If we would never receive anything for giving to the Kingdom, would we give anyways? Would we give cheerfully?

Is our 1st Concern

- God's Kingdom and Pleasing Him,
- Or our Kingdom, and Pleasing Ourselves?

Philippians 4:10-16 (NIV)

10 I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. 15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; 16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need.

Matthew 6:19-24 (NIV)

19 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

22 The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

24 No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

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Malachi 3:10-12 (NKJV)

10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try me now in this, Says the LORD of hosts, If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.

- 1. Storehouse in our day is the church.
 - that there may be food in my house.
- 2. It opens heaven so Blessings can be poured out on us.

11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field, says the LORD of hosts; 12 And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land, Says the LORD of hosts.

3. It allows God to rebuke the devoured on our behalf.

- 4. Who is the 'Lord of Hosts'?
 - a. Jehovah-Saboath.

(Covenant God of War, Service, Appointed time)

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (NIV)

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

- 1. v. 6 His point: We determine the amount of our Harvest.
 - This is not just the Tithe. It applies to any form of giving (sparingly giving......)

- v. 7 Ultimately each person has to decide if they are going to give Tithes, Offerings, and Alms.
 - And grow to the point you can give it Cheerfully.
 - The end result of doing it, and doing it correctly:

8 And (1) God is able to make all grace abound to you, (2) so that in all things (3) at all times, (4) having all that you need, (5) you will abound in every good work. 9 As it is written: He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.

- 3. Here are the N.T. earthly rewards for Tithing, Offerings, Alms.
 - a. The Harvest is not just Financial.
 (It may be the smallest of what we reap)
 - b. Abounding in every area of life is called: Prosperity
 - c. The Good News (Gospel) is that we can Prosper in every area of our lives. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

4. HOWEVER:

If giving opens it up for us to receive all 5 listed above, Then a lack of giving can allow the 5 things listed above to remain closed to us. (sow generously or sparingly will reap....)

The lack is not a Curse that is active in our life. It's typically the result of

- not understanding, or:
- our lack of faith to obey.

PRINCIPLE: EVERYTHING WE RECEIVE, COMES BY FAITH.

10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Philippians 4:15-20 (NIV)

15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; 16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need.

17 Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. 18 I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. 19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. 20 To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

When God asks us to do something, it will always be a Benefit to us.

WE DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF OUR HARVEST