

GIVING IS GOOD FOR YOU



Living for the dot or the line (Alcorn)

Jesus said, *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”* Matthew 6:19-21

As base a thing money often is, it yet can be transmuted into everlasting treasure. It can be converted into food for the hungry and clothing for the poor; it can keep a missionary actively winning lost men to the light of the gospel and thus transmute itself into heavenly values. Any temporal possession can be turned into everlasting wealth. Whatever is given to Christ is immediately touched with immortality.

A.W.Tozer, *“The Transmutation of Wealth,”* Born After Midnight, 1959 p107.

Jesus said to the rich young man, *“Go, sell all your possessions and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven. Matthew 19:21*

How much to give and to whom (or what)?

1. Everything belongs to God - Psalm 24:1; Haggai 2:8; Deuteronomy 8:18 Changes the question? How much should I keep?
2. Tithes – Genesis 14:18-20 Abraham gave a tenth of his plunder to the recognised representative of God.
3. Leviticus 27:30-32 Established giving as proportionate response to blessing – 10%. Agrarian culture.
4. Deuteronomy 12:5-7 In addition to tithe – offerings. Proportionate, linked to specific sacrifices, fund-raising events and meeting certain needs, usually temple/church.
5. Malachi 3:10 Expectation of tithe to the temple/church a. Amount representative of giving of everything, acknowledging ownership b. Destination representative of giving to God
6. Jesus, affirms giving and gives no new direction.
7. Paul describes the principles of generosity and proportionality in detail (2 Corinthians 9).

Psalm 24:1 *The earth is the Lord and everything in it.*

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

Deuteronomy 8:18, *But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today*

Genesis 14:18-20, *Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.' Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything*

Leviticus 27:30-32, *A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord. Whoever would redeem any of their tithe must add a fifth of the value to it. Every tithe of the herd and flock – every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd's rod – will be holy to the Lord.*

Deuteronomy 12: 5-7 *To that place you must go; there bring your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, what you have vowed to give and your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks. There, in the presence of the Lord your God, you and your families shall eat and shall rejoice in everything you have put your hand to, because the Lord your God has blessed you.*

Malachi 3:10 *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.*

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 *Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: 'They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures for ever.'*

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. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. 13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!