

Giving God's Method to Bless us

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 - 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. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, 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." 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. ¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men 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. ¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"

Malachi 3:6-12 - ⁶ "I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷ Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty. "But you ask, 'How are we to return?'" ⁸ "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?'" "In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. 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 you will not have room enough for it. ¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. ¹² "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty."

Introduction

As Christians we have become so desensitised to the things of God, especially where tithing and giving. Many of us feel that Tithing or giving is a thing of the past and was part of the Old Testament Law.

Tell the story of Pastor David

I want to show you today how wrong this view of God and giving is. I can assure you that I am where I am today, and what I am, is purely because of giving and tithing.

God's word promises that those who give will be blessed. There are numerous scriptures and examples of giving and numerous examples of the people of God receiving.

God has set laws in place which will always work no matter what. Some examples are the Law of lift – if you use a certain shaped wing, have enough energy and speed any object will fly. A jumbo jet weighs 470 tons on takeoff and has 180 tons of thrust in its engines and it defies gravity at a speed of around 300 kilometre and hour and flies.

The law of gravity, it does not matter if you believe in gravity or not, it does not matter if you understand gravity, the fact is if you walk of the edge of a building you will fall and your body will reach a speed of about 200 kilometre and hour in a second.

The proof of anything is when we choose to put out faith in something we might not understand to achieve something we want manifested. When I get in a car, I do not have to understand how a car

works, how petrol works etc, all I need to know is that if I turn that key my car will start.

Faith makes all things possible and when we apply our faith to a Godly principle it will always work.

In the same way giving will always produce a result and that result is blessing and increase. Even none Christian's who give and are generous will in turn be blessed. None Christians like the Jew and Muslims all give generously and they are blessed even though they do not know God.

JOKE: A pastor once said to his church. "I have good news and bad news? The good news is that we have more than enough money to build our new church; the bad news is that that money is in your pockets.

Who will you serve?

The question I want to ask you, today, is who do you serve? Have you put your trust in God's plan or are you still wondering if it will work for you?

The bible says in **Matthew 6:24** - 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."*

God never compared Himself to anyone except money. Why! Money has the ability to corrupt a person because when you have money you do not need God! Money has the power to make or break you, just as God has and money can be served or worshiped just as God can.

Each of us in this room must make a choice today! Will we serve God, will we trust Him and trust in His plan and put our trust in faith in what He says?

Or will you put your faith in money! The bible says **you cannot serve both**. If you choose to serve money then you will never have enough and you will never get enough and you will always chase it to your dying day but in the end you will find you made the wrong choice. The Bible says in **Matthew 16:26** says ²⁶ *"What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"*

Who will you serve today! We need to take a stand and choose to serve God and follow His plan in the area of Good Stewardship or our resources by making provision for Tithing, Giving, offerings and taking care of our families and their needs.

*I see many people, especially men not taking care of their family, drinking and buying things they do not need at the cost of their families, I have one answer, read **1 Timothy 5:8** "But if someone does not provide for his own, especially his own family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."*

Guys we are responsible to give to God his due and take care of our families needs before our own!

Godly stewards

I think the biggest problem we have today is that we do not realise God is our source and we are Godly stewards of God's finances. A steward is someone who runs a business, a house on behalf of someone else, we are stewards of God's heavenly finances, He entrusts us with!

The most amazing thing is that not only does God provide for us, He gives us the ability to generate wealth. He gives us the strength, will power and health to work and much more. All He asks in return is 10%. We get 90% and He gets 10%, in anyone's book that is a good deal!

Would you buy a new car if the deal ship says, you know what? I will sell you this car for 10% of its value and I will pay the other 90%, would you buy that car, that product? I am sure that if you had the money you would, so why are people so reluctant to give God?

God says I will give you a salary each month of 100%, you get to choose to give me 10% and I will let you have the 90% left over for you to use.

Not only will I do this but I will make that money last better than the full 100%. You will have more money than your month and not only that but I will protect your possessions from the attacks of Satan. So that you will not lose unnecessary money!

Now I want to add quickly that it does not mean that you will not have a broken water pipe, or something else but it means that when those things do happen you will have the finances to pay for it.

The main reason is FAITH! When we decide to put our faith in God and His Word we step in to a new dimension, in to a new area of our lives, somewhere where we have never been before.

It makes absolutely no sense to give away 10% of your income and choose to live on the 90% but it works and not only does it work, it works very well!

Tell the Story of our home

We all need to see ourselves as stewards of God's money. The income we generate through salaries, and other sources are the resources God has given us to administer as His steward, will you administer God's money correctly?.

A good steward will look after his masters money and affairs with total honesty and integrity. He will not steal anything, he will never tell a lie, and he will never cheat his master in anything. This is how God wants us to handle our finances, He made us stewards so now let each start to administer the bounty God has put in our hand.

Faithful Tithing

So today I am calling you to become faithful in you tithing and offering. You make a decision, it is simple, you say to God, Lord I realise that You are the sources of ALL my income, it comes from you! I choose to put my trust / Faith in You and Your word for my provision and I will commit to become a faithful steward in the area of my finances and I will tithe my full 10% of my income.

I will make provision for additional giving to the poor and other people and I will commit to always putting an offering in every offering!

Now take your salary, your income, once it is in the bank or you have received it, take 10% and give it to God as fast as you can, remember to be accurate! I always round my tithe up, if my tithe is MKW1010.56 then I make it MKW 1011.00.

Do not even think about it, give it immediately! Pray over your tithe, offering and additional giving, say "Lord I thank You for providing a source of income in my life, now I want to honour You and be a faithful steward so I take 10% of this income and give it back to You, please bless my other 90%, Amen – Then take it to the church and give it in the offering.

That is your responsibility, you get the money, work out what 10% is and give it. The other 90% you

use wisely to save and pay your bills and you will see God's provision.

I want to remind the pastors that the law of tithing applies to you too and also to your church. You too must give 10% of your income, make provision for offerings and additional giving.

At our church, on the last day of the month, we tithe 10% of the monthly income to GAP, we also give additional money to poor and need in our church. The Law of Sowing and Reaping ALWAYS works!

God will do supernatural things for you. I saw once I started tithing when I was born again, my money started lasting. I stopped wasting my money on stupid things

Budgeting

As a good steward you need to keep record of the money you spend. We call this record a budget. A budget is a simple method to know where you are spending your money and to know how much you have left to spend or save.

Simply a budget is a record of all your income and all your expense. You record all your income, add it up and delete all your expenses.

Your expenses will be in six categories

- **Important Expense**
These should always be your first consideration because doing them and doing them correctly will impact your future. Your immediate survival does not depend on it but it will help if you do not neglect or compromise this area.
Tithe, Offerings, Giving, life insurance and savings etc
- **Essential or Survival Expense**
These are expenses you cannot do without, you would die or your life would be impacted if these things are not bought. These are the more essential things you need to run your household, like Groceries, Electricity, Water,
- **Critical Expenses**
These are the expenses that are critical but are not life threatening, they are things you need but do not occur, things you can do without (it might be inconvenient but you could), like Transport, Education, Telephones, Cell phones, school uniforms and clothing
- **Debt Expense**
Debt is your enemy, do your best to get out of debt, I will show you how to do it in a moment.
- **Need Expense**
These are expenses that you incur to live comfortably those biscuits, sweets, cool drinks, presents.
- **None essential**
These are the things that are not necessary to live but make your living pleasant. You can delay these it would not make too much difference, buy furniture, a car, eating out, internet, e-mail, holidays, Allowances etc.

Debt Trap

The Bible is very clear about debt, it says in **Roman 13:8** *"Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law."*

We need to see debt as our enemy! If we have debt it is okay because I am going to give you a plan

on how to get out of debt!

First make a list of all your debt, what you own, how much the interest is and what your monthly payments is.

Paying off Debt

Now look for the least amount you owe. Now add MK2,500 each month to paying it off! Once that is paid off, take the next debt and pay

Account	Owing	Interst	Monthly	Term	Cost	New Pay	Mnt/POff	A Cost	Saved
Furniture	20,000	20%	4,200	5	21,000	6,700	3	20,100	900
Bond	3,000,000	15%	63,000	240	15,120,000	113,500	12/42	5,182,500	9,937,500
Clothing	50,000	19%	6,600	8	52,800	13,300	05/02	46,400	6,400
Bank Loan	200,000	25%	10,500	24	252,000	30,500	11/06	182,460	69,540
	3,270,000		84,300		15,445,800	164,000		5,431,460	10,014,340

Closing

I want to encourage you to start becoming faithful stewards. Set up a budget, it might not balance

The most important thing when you get any income, take the tithe out first!

Take what is left and save some of your money for when you would need it, usually we try to save about 10% as well. We need to take care of unexpected issues and also save up for our children and our retirement.

Then take the money that remains and use it wisely. Every purchase you make, make with this question in mind:

- Can I afford this item, do I have the money to buy this
- Is this necessary, it is item really necessary – I already have two cell phones do I really need the latest cell phone or item?
- Can I delay this purchase for a month or two

Let's Pray