

The Power of Money

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Giving

I. Introduction

II. Who Gives?

- A. _____ Volunteers _____ give.
- B. Active _____ Christians _____ give.
- C. Regular _____ church _____ - _____ attenders _____ give.
- D. _____ Biblical Christians give.

III. Two Personal Observations About Who Gives

- A. People who give the most _____ complain _____ the least.
- B. Most people _____ want _____ to give.
 - 1. Prov. 3:9 (NAS) *Honor the LORD from your wealth And from the first of all your produce.*
 - 2. Exodus 23:16a (NAS) *“Also you shall observe the Feast of the Harvest of the first fruits of your labors from what you sow in the field.”*

IV. Why Are We to Give God our “First Fruits?”

- A. Because it's a way of giving _____ thanks _____ to God.
 - 1. Deut. 26:10 (NLT) *‘And now, O LORD, I have brought you a token of the first crops you have given me from the ground.’ Then place the produce before the LORD your God and worship him.*
- B. Because it's a way to give God your _____ trust _____.
- C. Because it shows that God is _____ first _____ in our life.
 - 1. God's way of managing money:
 - a. We earn our money.
 - b. We _____ give _____ generously _____ to the work of God.
 - c. We _____ save _____ for future needs.
 - d. We repay our _____ debts _____.
 - e. We _____ enjoy _____ what's left over.
 - 2. Matt. 6:33 (NAS) *“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”*

V. How Much Should We Give to God?

- A. An accusation against God.
 - 1. Mal. 2:17 (NAS) *You have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet you say, “How have we wearied Him?” In that you say, “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and He delights in them,” or, “Where is the God of justice?”*

B. God's Response.

1. Mal. 3:6-7 (NAS) *6*"For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed. *7*From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of hosts. "But you say, 'How shall we return?'"
2. Luke 17:10 (NLT) *"In the same way, when you obey me you should say, 'We are not worthy of praise. We are servants who have simply done our duty.'"*
3. God owes me nothing! All that I have is because of God's grace!

C. God's Rebuke.

1. Mal 3:8-10 (NAS) *8*"Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. *9*You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! *10*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test 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 a blessing until it overflows."

D. God's Promises to those who are generous givers:

1. A promise of blessing .
 - a. Mal. 3:10 (NAS) *"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test 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 a blessing until it overflows."*
2. A promise of protection .
 - a. Mal. 3:11 (NAS) *"Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the LORD of hosts.*
3. A promise of witness .
 - a. Mal. 3:12 (NAS) *"All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land," says the LORD of hosts.*

VI. Conclusion