

I feel I should share my own personal experience concerning giving.

When I was younger, I was never taught to give, it wasn't till later years in Sunday school that I understood that if you had surplus that you should give.

When I was a teenager, my mom told me that actually 10% of your income belongs to God. Well, needless to say, my thoughts were, "I work hard for my money and I earned it". Plus about that time, Radio and TV preachers were begging for money and that turned me off even more.

When I got married my wife and her family were staunch church goers, they didn't believe in tithing, but they did believe there were times you gave sacrificially. The father-in-law always planted ten acres in crop and the prophets from that went to their church.

When we moved to that area, we started attending that church, they handed out envelopes with a number that was registered in your name and when you registered your envelope, they also ask you to pledge a certain amount each month. So being haughty in my Spirit, I pledged \$1.00 a week or \$52.00 a year. Over the years we attended, I never once met or pledged.

In Nov. of 1970, the wife was born again and I rededicated my life to Jesus and one of the things I said to God was, "Lord I don't want to be a wishy washy christian like I was before". And I also wanted to read his word AND understand it. When we got home that night after the service, I had the strongest desire to read my bible, all I had was a plain Jane, King James Bible which I couldn't really understand. It was 10.30pm and I had to be at work at 7.30am. Anyway, I thought I would read a few verses, well, when I looked at the clock, it was 4.30am. I didn't realize that much time had gone, because as I started to read Matthew with all it's begat's, everything came alive. The scriptures seemed to just jump off the page at me. I was understanding everything I read and immensely enjoyed it. I had read the entire chapter of Matthew in this time period and that includes the time I meditated over the things I learned.

Anyway as I read the scriptures I realized that God was asking for 10%, not that he needs it but he cannot bless us if we were not obedient. So I reluctantly started tithing. BUT, the first thing God showed me, was that I was giving with the WRONG attitude.

2Corinthians 9:7\* Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not **grudgingly**, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

It seemed I was still short at bill paying time, so instead of cutting back on the Lords money and paying some other bill, I paid the tithe FIRST and some other bill got shorted. After changing my attitude, I went from always coming up short, to just having enough. He brought the scripture to mind. Matthew 6:33\*

But **seek ye first** the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

And he also showed me that the tithe was to be on the gross income and not the net. So once I realized that willingly, I went from just enough at bill paying time, to having a surplus. Over the years I have desired to increase my giving and every time I do the Lord is true to his word.

Luke 6:38\* Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, **pressed down**, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

The love of money is the root of all evil, but when one realizes that its, God that gives the means or ability to get money, your attitude will change.

Where do you pay your tithes? The bible says the storehouse, now over the years this has been translated to mean your local church, well at the time of the church conception this was true, BUT the bible also says that all men had everything common. Acts 4:32\* And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had **all things common**.

It isn't that way anymore, ASK God, it could be a church or evangelist, or someplace that feeds you spiritually, or some outreach that supports the things you would or someone in need locally. Whatever you give, give it unto the Lord and you will get a return here on earth, as well as treasures in heaven.

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