

Worship

But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." Jn. 4:23-24

New Covenant is the '**coming hour**' that '**now is**' God is **SEEKING** genuine worshippers. Because God is Spirit we must bow to His will True Worship **MUST** be in spirit and truth.

Giving in Spirit and Truth

- *On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. 1 Cor 16:2-3*
- Lay something aside storing up as prospered.
- This act is the closest one to Abel's.
- A gift brought by faith.
- How do we do this by faith?

As prospered requires a percentage. How will we choose that amount?

- 1Cor 16:1-2 We are to give as prospered
- 2Cor 8:2-5 With Abundance & Liberality
- 2Cor 9:6-7 Give Bountifully as purposed
- Rom 12:8 He who gives, with liberality
- NT gives no answer but these.
- The Key to this answer is an understanding of the nature and foundation of giving.

The Foundation of Giving

- *And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Acts 20:35*
- In this world... giving is losing. Giving is removing buying power.
- In agricultural society harvested seed is food and money.
- Yet each year a portion is set aside to sow (throw away into the dirt). We know it's more blessed to give that seed!

Is Sowing Seed in the soil throwing it away?

- *But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 2Cor 9:6*
- This is true in the material Realm
- It is even more true in the spiritual!!

What you keep you lose

- *Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. Job 1:21*
- *For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 1 Tim 6:7-8*
- **Everything we keep we lose**
- **Everything we give we keep**

What you give you keep

- *lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth consume, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Mt. 6:19-21*

Giving Under the Law

- Tithes
- *"Behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tabernacle of meeting. Num. 18:21-22*
- *For the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer up as a heave offering to the Lord, I have given to the Levites as an inheritance; therefore I have said to them, 'Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance.'" Num. 18:24*

Can our Giving Rob God?

- *Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. 9 You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. 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. Mal 3:8-10*
- *But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 2Cor. 9:6*

The Terrible Cost of Sowing Sparingly

- God's accusation of Israel robbing Him. Mal 3:8-12
 - They had been cursed
 - But were promised great blessings if they changed.
- God revealed to Israel the high cost of their refusal to put his needs above their own Hag 1:2-10
 - It is not time for the Lord's house to be built!
 - Is it time for you to live in nice homes?
 - **Consider your ways:**
 - Sowed much; brought in little drink but not satisfied
 - Cloth yourselves but no one warm wage-bags with holes
 - Looked for much; came to little heavens withhold dew
 - Earth withholds fruit. I called for a drought.
- Only after they put God's needs above their own were they blessed. Hag 2:15-19

In the Context of the Tithe

- *But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 2Cor 9:6*
- **How would a Jewish Christian read this verse?**
- **Would he cut back on his giving since the tithe was done away?**
- **Would he continue just giving the tithe when there were also vows, thank offerings etc.**
- **Would he feel so blessed by God as a Christian that he would give more?**

Tithe was just the Beginning

- *all the holy gifts of the children of Israel; I have given them as a portion to you and your sons, as an ordinance forever. 9 every offering of theirs, **every grain offering** and **every sin offering** and **every trespass offering** which they render to Me, shall be most holy for you and your sons. ... whatever **first ripe fruit** is in their land, which they bring to the Lord, shall be yours. **Every devoted thing (Vowed)** in Israel shall be yours. ... **everything that first opens the womb** of all flesh, which they bring to the Lord, whether man or beast, shall be yours; Num 18:8-20*

An Overview of Giving - OT

- Abraham after victory gave 10% Gen 14:20
- Jacob in vowing to God—10% Gen 28:20-22
- Israel commanded to give:
 - Freewill offerings for priests. Num 18:1-2; 8-14
 - All sacrifices and offerings; all the firstfruits on Pentecost; Every vow; all firstborn animals; etc.
 - **Plus** Tithe for Levites Dt 14:22-23; Num 18:20-21
 - **Plus** free will offerings when there was a need:
 - The Tabernacle Ex 35:4-5; 21-29; 36:4-7
 - Temple | Chr 29:6-9; 2nd Temple Haggai 1-2
 - Restoring the Temple – Hezekiah & Josiah

Attitudes Leading to More Blessed to Give

- Acts 20:35 *It is more blessed to give...*
- Jn 3:16 *God so loved He gave.*
- Jn 15:13 *greater love has no man than to lay down his life for his friends.*
- 2Cor 8:9 *Though He was rich He became poor for you sake so you could become rich*
- 2Cor 12:14-15 *I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls;*
- *The more we give the more we learn this.*

Principles of Giving

- **1Cor 6:19-20** you belong to God (***bought***)
- **Rom 12:1-2** Body a **living sacrifice**
- **Rom 12:8** He who gives, with **liberality**
- **1Cor 16:1-2** We are to **give as prospered**
- **2Cor 8:2-5** With **Abundance & Liberality**
- **2Cor 9:6-7** Give **Bountifully as purposed**
- **1Tim 6:17-19** *Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches ... Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share*
- *Ask third world countries: Are we Rich???*

Foundation of All Giving Source; Agency; Purpose

- *For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen. Rom 11:36*