

Bringing Scripture to Light

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The Spiritual Essence of Giving and Receiving

By Rev. Gloria Lilly-Holt

Truth principles that we feel we already know, understand and practice should be reviewed periodically. As we live and evolve in consciousness, expansion takes place on many different levels and in subtle ways. It is like stepping on the rungs of a ladder, or going up in an airplane. From a higher perspective the view changes, as things that previously blocked our view appear changed or removed.

One such practice is the law of giving and receiving based on the truth principle that God is our infinite source. The earliest biblical record on this subject is in the story of Cain and Abel bringing an offering to the Lord. Both had the desire to give and thus brought their offerings. God accepts the gift of Abel and rejects Cain's offering. My primary goal at this point is not to examine the **cause** of the rejection, but to look at the fact that there must have been an intrinsic reason that both considered the idea of giving and brought forth their offerings of the first fruit of the ground, and Abel included the firstling of his flock. After the flood, Noah offered burnt offerings. Abraham gave Melchizedek, the King of Salem [Jerusalem], and a high priest of God, a tenth of all the loot after his defeat of several kings. The priestly king spoke blessings to Abraham and in response Abram gave the tithe. (Genesis 14:18-29)

There are other examples of the tithe being given after an enlightening experience and/or a great material demonstration. Read the story of Jacob's dream about the ladder reaching to heaven and "the angels ascending and descending on it" in Genesis 28:11-22.

Jacob vowed the tenth in return for God's gracious blessings.

When the Mosaic Law was given to the Hebrew people, the instruction for tithing was given as part of the Law also. The fact that the practice of giving the offering and tithe was important before the law was established, and then included when the law was given, is clearly showing the significance of the principle and practice of giving. Charles Fillmore, in his lesson, ***Tithing, the Road to Prosperity***, wrote:

"Throughout the Old Testament the tithe or tenth is mentioned as a reasonable and just return to the Lord by way of acknowledging [God] as the Source of supply... True giving is the love and generosity of the Spirit-quickened heart responding to the love and generosity of the Father's heart."

A beginner in anything most likely begins according to the letter of the law that is given, and this is usually to receive the benefit that is attached to the activity. I began giving because I to receive." At first I tithed because I expected the increase. Yes, I did tithe my way out of poverty; it works, if you work it! Only recently have I recognized that my perception of the spiritual essence involved has come forth over time as I have practiced this teaching:

"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and put me to the test," says the Lord of hosts: "see if I will open the windows of heaven for you and pour

down for you an overflowing blessing'." (Malachi 3:10, NRSV)

We are called to make the demonstration ("test-prove me says the Lord.")

"The secret of demonstrating prosperity in the spiritual way," writes Emmet Fox, *"and on no other basis can your prosperity ever be secure — is to understand, that is, to know to the point of realization, that the one and only source of your supply is God. Now the practice of tithing with the right spiritual motive is really the proof you have accepted this position and the invariable consequence of that acceptance is prosperity...See the difference between the spiritual practice and the ...useless practice of putting aside the tenth part, often grudgingly...As an expression of what is felt to be spiritual justice, tithing is an inevitable success; as a selfish investment, it is doomed to failure."*

A few weeks ago I began research on Malachi 3:10 with renewed interest, and found that my consciousness concerning tithing had shifted tremendously. Even though tithing had raised me from poverty to a life of abundance, I had not recognized the change in my heart and mind until this opportunity came to revisit and study this topic. My attitude and relationship about money and giving is totally different. It is a consciousness of thanksgiving, love, gratitude, joy and obedience that blesses and multiplies our reasonable portion [tithes] and offerings [gifts] to the ministries and works that sustain us. We cannot give of our substance properly without the enrichment of the self also. Since God's dwelling is with us, our tithes and gifts are from God, to God.

The storehouse of the temple is twofold. On one level it is a physical place or person where we receive instructions pointing us to inner guidance for personal growth. It may be an opportunity for fellowship [encouragement and spiritual nourishment], and/or an opportunity to serve, share, and develop your

talents. On the other hand, the storehouse is the inner place, our conscious mind, including the subconscious which is too often ignored. Because we choose to leave our darkness in the shadows, the inner storehouse is malnourished and eventually depleted of provisions. Nevertheless, we wonder why impoverishment exists on both levels; many experience bondage rather than the liberty of prosperity as individuals and groups. It is a choice.

The priests were sustained through the tithe; it was their job to minister the rites and ceremonies in the temple. Metaphysically, the [inner] priest *represents thoughts that belong to the love faculty in individual consciousness*. It is easy for one to see the consequences of not having ample supply in your temple on the natural or spiritual level.

Having that supply is so much more than just having money and material possessions. Having provisions is the righteous person's ability to bring good things out of a good treasure. *"What people truly want isn't to be successful,"* suggests Yehuda Berg in his book ***True Prosperity: How to Have Everything.*** *Instead, they want to be fulfilled—brimming with joy, satisfaction...Money by itself is a poor substitute for that fulfillment...You achieve prosperity not because you're smart or lucky, or because you so ruthlessly pillaged your competition, but because you followed the rules of the universe."*

Giving in an attitude of celebrating what God has provided, I believe, is the catapult that starts the cycle of the law of giving and receiving. This is the secret ingredient—**a cheerful giver**. God is good all the time and in every way, therefore your tithe and offering is a representation of that goodness in your life. The time of giving is an opportunity to give as we feel the joyous, blessed moment, and the sacredness of the whole experience. Let us be conscious in giving rather than performing a thoughtless act. As one gives in the right attitude with right intention and placement, the

words of Jesus will become a living reality:

“Give, and it [all things for your highest good] shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom [pour into your lap.] Whatever measure you use to give — large or small— will be used to measure what is given back to you.”

Luke 6:38 KJV and TLB

Thank you, God, for every good
and perfect gift. Amen!

