

Essential Values Concerning

FINANCES

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)

¹⁶“**All Scripture** is given by inspiration of God and **is profitable** for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction **in righteousness.**”



2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)

¹⁷“That the man of God may be **complete, thoroughly equipped** for every good work.”



3 John 1:2-4 *(KJV)*

2“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou prosper and be in health, even as **thy soul prospereth.**”



3 John 1:2-4 *(KJV)*

3“For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the Truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the Truth.”



3 John 1:2-4 *(KJV)*

4 "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in Truth."



- **True prosperity** is wholeness in our entire spirit, soul and body.
- True prosperity is **wholeness** in every area of our lives.

Psalm 1:2-3 *(NLT)*

2“But they delight in the law of the Lord,
meditating on it day and night.”



Psalm 1:2-3 *(NLT)*

³“They are like trees planted along the riverbank, **bearing fruit each season.** Their leaves never wither, and **they prosper in all they do.**”



- God's perspective of prosperity is **wholeness** and **fruitfulness** in every area of our lives.
- Because His Life and His Presence is in us.

- In this series we are covering:
 - Some obvious things
 - Some misconceptions
 - Some profound Truths
 - Some practical wisdom

- The Treasures of Your Heart
- The Value of Giving
- The Value of Believing
- The Value of Stewardship
- The Value of Work

1. The Treasures of Your Heart

2. The Value of Giving

- Tithing
- Offerings
- Alms

- **Giving:**

- Principle of His Kingdom:

- God gave His firstborn/first-fruit: **Jesus!**
 - God tithed His Son to reap us!
 - We are born-again of the same **Seed!**

- The Nature of God

John 3:16 *(NKJV)*

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that **He gave** His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”



Romans 8:32 *(NKJV)*

³²“He Who did not spare His Own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely **give** us all things.”



Romans 5:5 *(NKJV)*

5“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit Who was **given** to us.”



Ephesians 2:8 *(NKJV)*

8“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the **gift** of God.”



- God **gave** us His...

- ...Life

- ...Nature

- ...Name

- ...Spirit

- ...Kingdom

- ...Armor

WE ARE BORN OF GOD!

- We are the **most fulfilled** when we are being fruitful and multiply.
- We are the **most joyful** and **content** when we are living by faith in His grace.
- Why?

**WE ARE BLESSED
TO BE A BLESSING!
TO ESTABLISH
HIS COVENANT!!**

- God is not after your finances...

**GOD IS AFTER
YOUR HEART!**

Proverbs 3:9 *(NKJV)*

9 “**Honor the Lord** with your possessions,
and the first-fruits of all your **increase**.”



2 Corinthians 9:7-8 *(NLT)*★

7“**You** must each decide in your **heart** how much to **give**. And don't **give** reluctantly or in response to pressure. 'For God loves a person who **gives** cheerfully.'”



2 Corinthians 9:7-8 *(NLT)*★

⁸“And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need **and plenty left over** **to share with others.**”



- We Give to Get, **to Give Again**
 - We honor the Lord
 - With all our possessions and
 - The **first-fruits** (tithe) of our increase.
 - To meet our needs
 - To harvest plenty of leftovers to share w/ others.

Mark 10:29-30 (NKJV)

29“So Jesus answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, **there is no one who has left** house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, **for My sake and the Gospel’s,**”



Mark 10:29-30 (NKJV)

³⁰“**who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time**—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions and in the age to come, eternal life.”



WHATEVER WE SOW FOR
HIS SAKE AND THE GOSPEL'S
WE WILL RECEIVE
A 100-FOLD RETURN
IN THIS LIFE!

Deuteronomy 8:18 *(NKJV)*

¹⁸“And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He Who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is today.”



- God gives us the power to get wealth?

**TO ESTABLISH
HIS COVENANT!!**

- God is not after your finances...

**GOD IS AFTER
YOUR HEART!**

- **ALL NATURE** testifies to this **TRUTH**:
 - Seed, Time and Harvest
 - We **sow** a single seed;
 - We **reap** more seeds
 - Fruitfulness
 - Multiplication
 - Increase

- **GIVING** is a Principle of His Kingdom:
 - It's a seed sown (10%)
 - To reap **more seeds**
 - In order to bless more people
 - Fruitfulness
 - Multiplication
 - Increase

**THE KINGDOM OF GOD
IS A KINGDOM OF
INCREASE!**

- Some people reject the Message of **Seed, Time, and Harvest**:
 - “It is a Message of greed.”
 - “I don’t believe in a ‘prosperity gospel.’”
 - “There is no such principle in the Message of Grace”
 - “It is wrong to **expect** from God due to something we give (do)” (performance)

- Many sincere people have a tendency to **compartmentalize** their lives.
 - Natural lives vs spiritual lives
 - Finances vs spiritual.

- Money itself is **amoral** (Neither moral or immoral)
 - With my money I can...
 - ...**worship** God
 - ...**trust** God
 - ...be a **blessing to others**
 - ...**establish His covenant**
 - **OR** I can misuse money by...
 - Sowing to the Flesh
 - Trusting and relying on it
 - Hoarding more than is right

- Likewise my hands are **amoral**:
 - I can heal the sick **OR**
 - I can steal my neighbor's goods

- The problem is not:
 - Money
 - My hands
 - Guns
 - Etc.
- The problem is:

MY HEART!

- God is not after your finances...

**GOD IS AFTER
YOUR HEART!**

- What were the **children** of God to EXPECT when...

...They **obeyed** God's instructions at the first
Passover?

- What was the widow to EXPECT when...

...She **gave** her last meal to the prophet, Elijah?

- What was the **boy** to EXPECT when...
...He **gave** his lunch to Jesus, in order to feed the multitudes?

- What was **Peter** to EXPECT when...

...He **lent** his boat to Jesus, and...

...then **obeyed** His instructions of launching out into the deep and letting down the nets for a catch?

Mark 10:29-30 (NKJV)

²⁹“So Jesus answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, **there is no one who has left** house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, **for My sake and the Gospel’s,**”



Mark 10:29-30 (NKJV)

³⁰“**who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time**—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions and in the age to come, eternal life.”



- What was the **Promise** given to the church in Philippi...
...after they were the only church who **gave** their sacrificial gifts to Paul?

Philippians 4:19 *(KJV)*

¹⁹“But my God shall supply **all your need** according to His riches in glory **by Christ Jesus.**”



- What shall the **cheerful** EXPECT who...
...**sow** bountifully according to the **Promises**
of His Word?

- What did **God** EXPECT when...

...He **sowed** Jesus on the cross for the redemption of the entire world?

- What do **we** EXPECT when...
 - ...we **give** our hearts to the Lord?
 - ...we **lay our hands** on the sick?
 - ...we **believe** the Promises of God?

**IF THE EXPECTATION
OF INCREASE
IS WRONG**

**THEN THE GOSPEL MESSAGE
IS WRONG!**

Romans 1:16 *(KJV)*

¹⁶“For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for **it is the power of God unto salvation** for everyone who believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”



Ephesians 2:8 *(NKJV)*

8“For by grace you have been saved through **faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.”



Luke 6:38 (NKJV)

³⁸“**Give**, and it **shall** be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over **will** be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it **will** be measured back to you.”



**FAITH IS A
POSITIVE EXPECTATION
THAT PLEASES GOD**

Hebrews 11:1, 6

**WHEN I GIVE
BY FAITH
I EXPECT GRACE
IN MY LIFE!**

**WHEN I GIVE
BY FAITH
I EXPECT INCREASE
IN MY LIFE!**

- Whether I give my...

- ...Time

- ...Wisdom

- ...Knowledge

- ...Forgiveness

- ...Resources

- I EXPECT...In my life!

...Favor...

...Blessing...

...Healing...

...Vision...

...Joy...

...Peace...

...Love...

...Resources...

**OUR FUTURE
IS IN THE SEEDS
WE SOW NOW
BY FAITH**

SOW SEEDS BY FAITH:

BLESS OTHERS

AND EXPECT

A HARVEST!

**WE ARE BLESSED
TO BE A BLESSING!
TO ESTABLISH
HIS COVENANT!!**

Mark 4:26-29 (NKJV)

²⁶“And He said, ‘The Kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground,’”



Mark 4:26-29 (NKJV)

27“and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how.””



Mark 4:26-29 (NKJV)

28““For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head.””



Mark 4:26-29 (NKJV)

29““But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.””



- As the pastor of this church:
 - I don't want anyone to ever give out of a 'debt they owe!'
 - But as a **seed that they sow!**

**THE KINGDOM OF GOD
IS A KINGDOM OF
INCREASE!**

**TITHING IS
HONORING THE LORD
WITH THE FIRST FRUITS
OF OUR
INCREASE!**

- We must understand:
 - **Tithing:** is a Kingdom principle that existed long before the Law ever required it under a different priesthood.

- We must understand:
 - Our **tithe** (*First-Fruits*)
 - **Belongs to the Lord**
 - Is **holy** unto the Lord
 - Is **honorable** to the Lord
 - Our **worship of thanksgiving**
 - Is given to our new High Priest: **Christ!**

Proverbs 3:9-10 *(NKJV)*

9“Honor the Lord with your possessions,
and with the first fruits of all your
increase:”



Proverbs 3:9-10 (NKJV)

¹⁰“So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”



- Tithing is not about our performance to Get...

**TITHING IS ABOUT
PUTTING OUR FAITH
IN HIS GRACE**

**GOD IS WORSHIPPED
& HE IS HONORED
WHEN WE
TRUST HIM
ALONE**

**THE KINGDOM OF GOD
IS A KINGDOM OF
INCREASE!**

- The Kingdom Law of Increase
 - Is constant
 - Does not discriminate
 - Is undeniable/unchangeable

Galatians 6:7 (NKJV)

7“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man **sows**, that he will also **reap**.”



Genesis 8:22 *(NKJV)*

22“While the earth remains, **Seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.**”



2 Corinthians 9:6 *(NKJV)*

⁶“But this I say: He who **sows** sparingly will also **reap** sparingly, and he who **sows** bountifully will also **reap** bountifully.”



Proverbs 11:24-25 (NKJV)

24“There is one who scatters, yet increases more, and there is one who withholds more than is right. **But it leads to poverty.**”



Proverbs 11:24-25 *(NKJV)*

²⁵“The generous soul will be made rich,
and he who waters will also be watered
himself.”



GIVING INCREASES!

**WITHHOLDING
MORE THAN IS RIGHT
LEADS TO POVERTY**

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 *(NKJV)*

1“Cast your bread upon the waters, for **you will find it after many days.**”



Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 *(NKJV)*

²“Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, for you do not know what evil will be on the earth.”



Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 *(NKJV)*

³“If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth; and if a tree falls to the south or the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie.”



Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 *(NKJV)*

4“He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap.”



Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 *(NKJV)*

⁵“As you do not know what is the way of the wind, or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, so you do not know the works of God Who makes everything.”



Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 *(NKJV)*

6 “In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening do not withhold your hand; for you do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good.”



Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 *(NKJV)*

1“Cast your bread upon the waters, for **you will find it after many days.**”



Proverbs 11:24-25 (NKJV)

24“There is one who scatters, yet increases more, and there is one who withholds more than is right. **But it leads to poverty.**”



Proverbs 11:24-25 *(NKJV)*

²⁵“The generous soul will be made rich,
and he who waters will also be watered
himself.”



- **Everything we sow we will reap:**

- Money
- Possessions
- Time
- Prayers
- Emotions *(Example: love or hate)*
- Strive

- We will reap...

...**whatever** we sow (give)

...**exactly** what we sow

...in **proportion** to the measure we sow

Galatians 6:6-9 *(NKJV)*

6“Let him who is taught the Word share in all good things with him who teaches,”



Galatians 6:6-9 (NKJV)

7“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for **whatever** a man sows, that he **will** also reap.”



Galatians 6:6-9 (NKJV)

8“For he who sows to his flesh **will** of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit **will** of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”



Galatians 6:6-9 (NKJV)

⁹“And let us not grow **weary** while doing good, for in due season we shall reap **IF** we do not lose **heart.**”



- **Sowing and reaping takes time**
 - Seed, **Time**, and Harvest cannot be cheated
 - There is a “**due season**” for our harvest

- **Sowing and reaping takes time**

- There is an appointed **time** when the harvest of our seed is **due**

- It takes **time** for every seed to:

- Germinate
 - Gestate, and
 - Become mature for harvest.

- **Seed, Time, and Harvest:**
 - Those who:
 - **Disagree,**
 - **Misunderstand,** and/or
 - Become **impatient**

**BECOME WEARY AND
ABORT THEIR HARVEST**

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 *(NKJV)*

1“Cast your bread upon the waters, for **you will find it after many days.**”



- **Weariness** (*ekluo*):
 - “Relax”
 - Not speaking of totally quitting
 - We must maintain the same **intensity over a prolonged period of time.**
 - Patience: endurance

- **Weariness** (*ekluo*):
 - Only comes **over time**
 - No one becomes weary **instantly**

**WEARINESS
TAKES PLACE IN THE
HEART**

A WEARY HEART
CAN BECOME
HARDENED

A HARDENED HEART
CAN BECOME A

STRONGHOLD

AGAINST THE
KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 *(KJV)*

4“(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down strongholds);”



2 Corinthians 10:4-5 *(KJV)*

5“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and **bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;**”



Mark 6:45-52 (NKJV)

⁴⁵“Immediately He made His disciples get into a boat and go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He sent the multitude away.”



Mark 6:45-52 *(NKJV)*

⁴⁶“And when He had sent them away. He departed to the mountain to pray.”



Mark 6:45-52 (NKJV)

47“Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He was alone on the land.”



Mark 6:45-52 (NKJV)

48“Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them. Now about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed by them.”



Mark 6:45-52 (NKJV)

⁴⁹“And when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out;”



Mark 6:45-52 *(NKJV)*

⁵⁰“for they saw Him and were troubled. But immediately He talked with them and said to them, ‘Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.’”



Mark 6:45-52 (NKJV)

⁵¹“Then He went into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled.”



Mark 6:45-52 (NKJV)

⁵²“For they had not understood about the loaves, **because their heart was hardened.**”



BEING SHOCKED,
AMAZED AND SURPRISED
AT A MIRACLE IS A

**HARDENED
HEART**

WE SHOULD EXPECT

MIRACLES

WE DON'T
EXPECT MIRACLES
BECAUSE OUR
HEARTS ARE
HARDENED

RELATING TO THE NATURAL
MORE THAN THE SPIRITUAL IS A

**HARDENED
HEART**

- **HARDENED:** (Dictionary)

- Cold

- Insensitive

- Unfeeling

- Unyielding

- God created us to have the ability to **shut out** any unwanted influences.
 - This is our ‘defense mechanism’
 - What was meant for good can work **against** us if misused

A HARDENED HEART

DULLS

OUR ABILITY TO

PERCEIVE AND UNDERSTAND

Mark 8:14-20 (NKJV)

14“Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, neither had they in the ship with them more than one loaf.”



Mark 8:14-20 (NKJV)

¹⁵“And He charged them, saying, ‘Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod.’”



Mark 8:14-20 *(NKJV)*

¹⁶“And they reasoned among themselves, saying, it is because we have no bread.”



Mark 8:14-20 (NKJV)

17“But Jesus being aware of it said, ‘Why do you reason because you have no bread? Do you not yet **perceive** nor **understand**? Is your heart still hardened?’”



Mark 8:14-20 (NKJV)

18““Having eyes, do you not **see**? And having ears, do you not **hear**? And do you not **remember**?””



Mark 8:14-20 *(NKJV)*

¹⁹“When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments did you take up?’ They said to Him, ‘Twelve.’”



Mark 8:14-20 (NKJV)

²⁰“And, when I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of fragments did you take up?’ And they said, ‘Seven.’”



- **A Hardened Heart...**

...Unable to **perceive** *(v 17)*

...Unable to **understand** *(v 17)*

...Unable to **see** *(v 18)*

...Unable to **hear** *(v 18)*

...Unable to **remember** *(v 18)*

- **A Hardened Heart cannot:**
 - **See** spiritual Truth, **AND/OR**
 - **Hear** God speaking to them, **AND/OR**
 - **Remember** what God has done

**A HARDENED HEART
TOWARD GOD
CAN MAKE YOU
SPIRITUALLY**

BLIND AND DEAF

- Whatever you **consider** your heart becomes **softened** towards
- Whatever you fail to **consider** your heart becomes **hardened** towards

Mark 6:52 *(KJV)*

52“For they **considered not** the miracle of the loaves: **for their heart was hardened.**”



- **To Consider: (Dictionary)**

- To study
- To ponder
- To deliberate
- To examine
- To think upon
- To meditate
- To focus

NOT REMEMBERING
IS A MAJOR CONDITION OF
YOUR HEART

- Sin did not cause their hearts to become hardened.
- What they did not **consider** caused their hearts to become hardened.

Hebrews 12:3 *(NKJV)*

³“For **consider Him** Who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become **weary and discouraged** in your souls.”



3 John 1:2 *(KJV)*

2“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou prosper and be in health, even as **thy soul prospereth.**”



Romans 4:18-21 *(NKJV)*

¹⁸“Who, **contrary to hope, in hope believed**, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, ‘So shall your descendents be.’”



Romans 4:18-21 *(NKJV)*

¹⁹“And not being weak in faith, **he did not consider** his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb.”



Romans 4:18-21 *(NKJV)*

²⁰“He did not waver at the promise of **God** through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God.”



Romans 4:18-21 *(NKJV)*

²¹“And being fully convinced that **what He had promised He was also able to perform.**”



- **A Hardened Heart...**

...Unable to **perceive** *(v 17)*

...Unable to **understand** *(v 17)*

...Unable to **see** *(v 18)*

...Unable to **hear** *(v 18)*

...Unable to **remember** *(v 18)*

- Whatever you **consider** your heart becomes **softened** towards
- Whatever you fail to **consider** your heart becomes **hardened** towards

Mark 6:52 *(KJV)*

52“For they **considered not** the miracle of the loaves: **for their heart was hardened.**”



- You can **reverse** these same principles of considering and become **hardened** towards:

- The devil
- mammon
- Unbelief
- Sin
- Sickness
- Lack

**YOU HAVE THE POWER
TO CONSIDER
WHAT YOUR HEART WILL**

ACCEPT AND REJECT

Galatians 6:8 *(KJV)*

8“For he who **sows** to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who **sows** to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”



Romans 8:6 *(NKJV)*

6“For to be carnally **minded** is death, but to be spiritually **minded** is life and peace.”



Proverbs 23:7 (NKJV)

7“For as he thinks in his **heart** so is he...”



Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)

⁹“And let us not grow **weary** while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose **heart.**”



- The Promise of reaping is **conditional** on us not fainting
- Weariness and discouragement are the results of what we **consider** in our minds.

- Many people are still going through the motions of believing God but are **faint in their minds.**
- **Be not deceived,** God is not mocked
- Faith is not a respecter of persons **(law)**

3 John 1:4 *(KJV)*

4“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children **walk** in Truth.”



Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

6“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that **He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek God.**”



Hebrews 12:1-3 *(NKJV)*

1“Therefore WE ALSO, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and THE sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with ENDURANCE the race that is set before us.”



Hebrews 12:1-3 *(NKJV)*

2“Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith...”



Hebrews 12:1-3 *(NKJV)*

³“For **consider Him** Who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you **become weary and discouraged in your souls.**”



Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 *(NKJV)*

1“Cast your bread upon the waters, for
you will find it after many days.”



Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 *(NKJV)*

2“Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, for you do not know what evil will be on the earth.”



- *Value of Multiple Investments*
- Share our blessings w/ others **generously** with **however many people we can.**

2 Corinthians 9:10 *(NKJV)*

¹⁰“Now may He Who supplies **seed to the sower**, and bread for food, supply and **MULTIPLY the seed you have sown** and **INCREASE** the fruits of your righteousness.”



Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 *(NKJV)*

³“If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth; and if a tree falls to the south or the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie.”



Duh!

The Language of faith: **EXPECTATION!**

Proverbs 11:24 *(NKJV)*

24“There is one who scatters, yet increases more, and there is one who withholds more than is right. **But it leads to poverty.**”



Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 *(NKJV)*

³“If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth; and if a tree falls to the south or the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie.”



- Natural Illustrations:

- 1. **Water Evaporation Cycle**

- Water evaporates from ocean and **forms clouds**
 - Clouds **rain water** back to the earth
 - By rivers, **water flows back** to the ocean
 - If the clouds do not give rain they would not reform the seas – **the Cycle would be broken.**

- Natural Illustrations:

- 2. **Decomposition Cycle**

- A Tree falls and **decomposes over time**
 - **The tree returns** to the earth
 - To provide **nourishment** for new trees.
 - None of us are to **hoard** all God gives us and keep it for ourselves – **we are to share.**

- When we withhold more than we should and fail to give to others:
 - We hurt ourselves
 - We break the cycle
- Only in giving do we maintain the **cycle** and allow God to refill us.

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 *(NKJV)*

4“He who **observes** the wind will not sow, and he who **regards** the clouds will not reap.”



- Those who wait for the perfect weather will never sow – thus they will never reap
- There are **risks** in sowing and reaping
 - If we wait until there are no risks we will never step out.
 - We will never un-tether from the dock.

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 *(NKJV)*

⁵“As **you do not know** what is the way of the wind, or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, so **you do not know** the works of God Who makes everything.”



- Stop making excuses, just as...
 - Casting your bread on the water will return
 - Rain from clouds will evaporate
 - A fallen tree will decompose

WHATEVER YOU SOW
WILL RETURN TO YOU

Galatians 6:7 (NKJV)

7“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man **sows**, that he will also **reap**.”



- As the pastor of this church:
 - I don't want anyone to ever give out of a 'debt they owe!'
 - But as a **seed that they sow!**

2 Corinthians 9:10 *(NKJV)*

¹⁰“Now may He Who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness.”



Philippians 4:17 *(NKJV)*

¹⁷“Not that I seek the gift, but I seek **the fruit that abounds to your account.**”



- As pastors: Do we trust in the...
 - ...Fear of man? **OR**
 - ...Word of God?

- Many pastors deprive the people by not encouraging tithes and offerings
- They don't want to
 - Be/appear **selfish**
 - Promote **themselves**
 - Teach **Law**

2 Corinthians 12:13 (NKJV)

13“For what is it in which you were inferior to other churches, except that I myself was not burdensome to you? Forgive me this **wrong!**”



- The only thing that Paul did not do in the Corinthian church
- **That he did in other churches:**
 - Was be a financial burden
 - By requesting financial support

PAUL SAID HE WAS WRONG!

- Paul was **pleased** that the church in Philippi had sent him money...
 - Not because he was full (v. 18)
 - He was content before they gave gifts (v. 11)
 - He **knew** how it would produce...

**FRUIT THAT MAY
ABOUND TO THEIR ACCOUNT**

- It is important to know:
 - Our giving never leaves our lives
 - It is **deposited** into our spiritual accounts

**GIVING IS FRUITFULNESS
INTO OUR ACCOUNT**

Mark 10:29-30 (NKJV)

29“So Jesus answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, **there is no one who has left** house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, **for My sake and the Gospel’s,**”



Mark 10:29-30 (NKJV)

³⁰“**who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time**—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions and in the age to come, eternal life.”



WHATEVER WE SOW FOR
HIS SAKE AND THE GOSPEL'S
WE WILL RECEIVE
A 100-FOLD RETURN
IN THIS LIFE!

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 *(NKJV)*

6“In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening do not withhold your hand; for you do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good.”



2 Corinthians 9:6-11 *(NKJV)*

⁶“But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”



2 Corinthians 9:6-11 *(NKJV)*

7“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for **God loves a cheerful giver.**”



2 Corinthians 9:6-11 *(NKJV)*

⁸“And God is able to make all **grace abound toward you**, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have **an abundance for every good work.**”



2 Corinthians 9:6-11 *(NKJV)*

⁹“As it is written: ‘He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; **His righteousness endures forever.**’”



2 Corinthians 9:6-11 *(NKJV)*

¹⁰“Now may **He Who supplies seed to the sower**, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and **increase the fruits of your righteousness.**”



2 Corinthians 9:6-11 *(NKJV)*

11“While you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.”



- **When we give:**
 - It **releases** grace that abounds
 - **Increases** the fruits of our righteousness
 - **We have** an abundance for every good work.
 - **He gives seed to sowers**

- God is not after your finances...

**GOD IS AFTER
YOUR HEART!**

1 Corinthians 13:2-3 *(NKJV)*

²“And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have faith to move mountains, **but have not love, I am nothing.**”



1 Corinthians 13:2-3 *(NKJV)*

³“And though I bestow all of my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned **but have not love, it profits me nothing.**”



Romans 5:8 *(NKJV)*

⁸“But God demonstrated His Own **love** toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”



Romans 13:8 *(NKJV)*

8“Owe no one anything except to **love one another**, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.”



2 John 1:5-6 *(NLT)*

5 "I am writing to remind you, dear friends, that **we should love one another**. This is not a new commandment, but one we have heard from the beginning."



2 John 1:5-6 *(NKJV)*

6“Love means doing what God has commanded us, and **He has commanded us to love one another**, just as you heard from the beginning.”



Acts 4:34-35 *(NKJV)*

³⁴“Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold,”



Acts 4:34-35 *(NKJV)*

³⁵“and laid them at the apostles’ feet,
and they distributed to each as anyone
had need.”



- The early Church demonstrated True Love (agape)
 - Everyone's needs were met
- Ananias and Sapphira pretended to give the total amount to the Church
 - For the purpose of receiving praise
 - Acts 5:1-11

1 Corinthians 13:2-3 *(NKJV)*

³“And though I bestow all of my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned **but have not love, it profits me nothing.**”



Matthew 6:1-4 *(NLT)*

1“Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be **admired by others**, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven.’ ”



Matthew 6:1-4 *(NLT)*

2““When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you, **they have received all the reward they will ever get.**”



Matthew 6:1-4 *(NLT)*

3“‘But when you give to someone in need, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.’ ”



Matthew 6:1-4 *(NLT)*

4“Give gifts in private, and your Father, Who sees everything, **will reward you.**”



- If you want the glory of men
 - Then that is all you will ever receive.
- However, it is biblical to give in private
 - **Expecting** a reward from God.

- You can cancel out your harvest if your **heart** is not right.

**OUR MOTIVES
DO MATTER**

- God is not after your finances...

**GOD IS AFTER
YOUR HEART!**

- **HYPOCRISY:**

- **DICTIONARY:** “the practice of professing beliefs, feelings, or virtues that one does not hold or possess; falseness.”

- **GREEK:** Pretending on stage.

- **HYPOCRISY:**

- When we do something pretending to please God when in reality we are **play-acting**.

- **Not HYPOCRISY:**

- Doing what God wants us to do, **OR**
- Doing unto others what we want them to do to us (*Matthew 7:12*)
- **EVEN THOUGH WE MAY NOT FEEL LIKE IT**

- **Not HYPOCRISY: (EXAMPLE)**

- Jesus did not like going to the cross.

- Jesus died seeking the welfare and benefit of the world!

**THE MOTIVES
OF THE HEART**

**ARE MORE IMPORTANT
THAN OUR ACTIONS**

- As the pastor of this church:
 - I don't want anyone to ever give out of a 'debt they owe!'
 - But as a **seed that they sow!**

- **Abusive Teachings:**
 - Have provoked many **wrong motives**
 - **EXAMPLE:** Malachi 3
 - “Robbing God”
 - “God will curse you.”
 - **Motivated to give out of debt**

2 Corinthians 9:7 *(NKJV)*

7“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for **God loves a cheerful giver.**”



- God is not after your finances...

**GOD IS AFTER
YOUR HEART!**

- **Giving** (including tithing) should be:
 - An act of worship
 - Thanksgiving
 - Acknowledging God as our Source
 - Act of faith
 - Act of honor
 - Act of humility
 - Seed you sow

Mark 12:41-44

⁴¹“Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw **how** the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much.”



Mark 12:41-44

42“Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans.”



Mark 12:41-44

⁴³“So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put more than all those who have given to the treasury.’”



Mark 12:41-44

44““For they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, **her whole livelihood.**””



- mammon will not allow you to give like the widow.
- Jesus watched **how** people gave.
 - The **heart** matters
 - Not the amount

- God **sees** our giving
- We need to see giving **as God sees it.**

2 Corinthians 9:7 *(NKJV)*

7“So let each one give **as he purposes in his heart**, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”



- It is good to give from the **heart**...
 - Cheerfully
 - Bountifully
 - Generously
 - Not reluctantly
 - Not under pressure
 - Not out of debt

2 Corinthians 8:12 *(NKJV)*

¹²“For if there is first a **willing mind**, it is **accepted** according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.”



- This verse could be turned around and still retain its Truth:

*“If there is not a willing mind, **then the gift will not be accepted regardless of the amount.**”*

- The emphasis is on the **motive**, not the amount
- God is not into **debt** or **deficit** giving
- He only asks us to give **what we have**

- This is not an **excuse**...
...to never give **OR**
...to give only if we have extra
- Our **tithe** should be our **first fruits**.

Proverbs 3:9-10 *(NKJV)*

9“Honor the Lord with your possessions,
and with the first fruits of all your
increase:”



Proverbs 3:9-10 (NKJV)

¹⁰“So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”



- We give **from within our means**
- We **honor, serve** and **worship Him** from what we do have

- We should not be **foolish**, trying to **impress God**
- God is not looking at the **size** of the gift but the **heart** of the giver

- God is not after your finances...

**GOD IS AFTER
YOUR HEART!**

- Do not let anyone ever **condemn** you into giving
- There is a difference between **being taught the Truth** and **being pressured**

- As the pastor of this church:
 - I don't want anyone to ever give out of a 'debt they owe!'
 - But as a **seed that they sow!**

3 John 1:4 *(KJV)*

4“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in Truth.”



Essential Values Concerning

FINANCES