

Give Extravagantly: The Joy of Financial Power Encounters

I. THE CALL TO EXTRAVAGANCE

- A. One of the commitments of the Sacred Charge is giving extravagantly to the kingdom, especially to the works of justice that flow from the prayer movement. This implies giving beyond our tithe. ***¹⁰Bring 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. 3:10)***
- B. To tithe is to trust God directly with 10% of our money. God will release financial blessing on all who tithe. When we give 10% of our income to God, we discover that 90% with God's blessing will go further than 100% without God's blessing. Some say that they cannot afford to tithe. The truth is that we cannot afford not to tithe. God gives us \$100 and we give \$10 back to Him.
- C. There is great joy in giving financially in the awareness that God's eyes are on us with pleasure. There is a cause and effect dynamic that God intends that we understand. ***³When you do a charitable deed...⁴your Father who sees in secret will...reward you openly. (Mt. 6:3-4)***
- D. Those who receive finances are filled with joy and thanks, knowing that God's eyes are on them. ***¹²For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God... (2 Cor. 9:12)***
- E. At age 18, I committed to live a simple lifestyle so I could give extravagantly to the kingdom. I was inspired by reading three biographies of Hudson Taylor, a medical missionary to China who gave extravagantly to God and His kingdom. I committed to take less money for my personal life so that I could give more money to the kingdom.
- F. At age 22, I married Diane. Immediately, we committed to double tithe and to seek to increase our percentage of giving. We committed to reduce our lifestyle before we reduced the percentage of our giving. We determined to have a smaller house before we gave a smaller percent away. I do not buy into the "American dream" that I am supposed to have more while I give less. We must not confuse the difference between a spirit of poverty and a spirit of generosity. ***⁸Having food and clothing with these we shall be content...(1 Tim. 6:8)***
- G. At age 27, I formalized this commitment in Cairo, Egypt in September of 1982. God promised me that He would release the wealth of the nations through this work, if I would not touch it personally, but would build His kingdom with it. I committed to believe God for great prosperity. By way of equality, we sow our finances to those who labor in the kingdom in poor countries. They supply our lack by imparting faith to us and opportunity to reap in those parts of the earth. ***¹⁴But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack—that there may be equality. (2 Cor. 8:14)***

- H. There will be a great transfer of wealth as God openly manifests His ownership over the silver and gold when He shakes all the nations in the end times. He will finance the end-time harvest and prayer movement. His power is manifest as much in the realm of transferring finances as in healing the sick. He wants us to believe Him for money as much as we believe Him for healing.
⁷“I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory... ⁸The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,” says the LORD. (Hag. 2:7-8)
- I. The psalmist wanted to be blessed so that he could use wealth to make the Lord’s fame known. God will release great wealth to the right people, at the right time, and for the right reasons.
¹God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us ²that Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations. (Ps. 67:1-2)
- J. God gives power to get wealth to establish His covenant by bringing more people into the benefits of covenant relationship with Him. He gives us wealth so that we can promote the Gospel. There are those who have gone through a radical paradigm shift related to money. When they see money, they see souls, intercessors, and being able to help the oppressed, etc.
¹⁸It is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant... (Deut. 8:18)
- K. What we do with our money is one of the most practical measurements of our love for Jesus, our trust in His leadership and our commitment to justice and the prayer movement. Some who obeyed God in the days of their smallness in finances are not obeying in their abundance. They tithed when they made \$20,000 a year, but struggle to tithe when they make \$20,000,000.
- L. Determine what amount of the money that God has entrusted to you is “seed” to sow in the kingdom and what amount is “bread” to eat or to use for your personal life. Many have a pocket full of seeds, but without the fruit because they do not sow the seed.
¹⁰Now 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 Cor. 9:10)
- M. We can determine some of the measure of how far we will go with God in giving. We are all developing our personal history with God in the area of giving financially.
⁶He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly... (2 Cor. 9:6-7)
³⁸Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over...For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you. (Lk. 6:38)
- N. Giving extravagantly is based on the percentage of our finances we give, not the amount.
³This poor widow has put in more than all; ⁴for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had. (Lk. 21:3-4)
- O. David refused to give an offering that did not cost him.
²⁴I will buy it...nor will I offer...to the LORD...that which costs me nothing... (2 Sam. 24:24)