

## *Part 2 of 3*

### **Learning the Principle of Giving Your Time, Talents and Treasure**

*“No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” Luke 16:13 NKJV*

Webster’s dictionary describes mammon as “riches regarded as an object of worship and greedy pursuit; wealth or greedy pursuit as an evil, more or less deified.” The spirit of mammon epitomizes the spirit of antichrist. How do we break the spirit of mammon in our lives? God says in Malachi 3:11 that He will rebuke the devourer when we honor Him with our tithes and offerings. In other words, giving and tithing delivers you from the greedy pursuit of deified mammon, which is idolatry of the first degree. The Bible clearly teaches that participating in idolatry, produces a curse on our lives, as well as our posterity.<sup>1</sup>

When we gladly (cheerfully) give our time, talents and treasure, we experience God’s blessing—He will deliver us from the devourer. Satan is rebuked, on our behalf, in his mission to steal our finances. We can be delivered from Satan’s attacks on our finances, as well as foolish spending where money seems to slip through our fingers.

From a temporal perspective, giving our time, talents and treasure seems too much to ask. This rationale might make sense if God were not involved. Here’s why. Luke 6:38 tells us, *“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom.”* God didn’t use addition and subtraction when He created the universe. Rather, He uses multiplication. God’s kingdom operates on the law of sowing and reaping, which is, in fact, the principle of multiplication—one kernel of corn is multiplied to yield hundreds more.

*“Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.” 2 Corinthians 9:6*

Any farmer knows that if he doesn’t set aside a portion of his crop for seed, he will soon be out of business. *The farmer cannot have an increase if he eats his seed.* It is the same for our earthly finances. When we set aside the first part of our income to sow into God’s kingdom, in obedience to His Word, God will honor His promise to bring a multifold increase. Everyone understands that a single acorn will produce thousands after its kind. God uses multiplication to bring a harvest of blessing, which includes an abundant harvest of lost souls won to Jesus, an over-the-top marriage, children who live for the Lord and enough money so that *“you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.”*

2 Corinthians 9:7-10,15 gives us at least seven key insights on giving, (1) *“You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. (2) Don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. (3) For God loves the person who gives cheerfully. And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. (4) As the Scriptures say, “Godly people give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will never be forgotten.” For God is the one who gives seed to the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, He will give you many opportunities to do good, and He will produce a great harvest*

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<sup>1</sup> Read Deuteronomy chapter 28.

*of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched so that you can give even more generously. (5) And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will break out in thanksgiving to God. ... You will be glorifying God through your generous gifts. (6) For your generosity to them will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the wonderful grace of God shown through you. (7) Thank God for His Son—a gift too wonderful for words!”*

### **Key Takeaways from 2 Corinthians 9:7-10, 15**

(1) You get to decide *how much* you give. Whatever measure you use God’s blessing will come back multiplied. *“Remember this-- a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.”*

(2) You get to decide *when* to give. Not under pressure or coercion. This means that your giving *must* be spirit-led and Scripture based; otherwise, there is the possibility that your “seed” will not produce good fruit.” There is great joy and good fruit in obeying the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

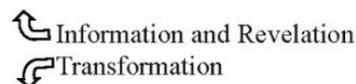
(3) You *get* to give, cheerfully. It’s your pleasure and your honor to steward God’s finances because God promises to meet all your needs according to His riches in glory. And, *“you will have plenty left over to share with others.”*

(4) Giving to the less fortunate is high on God’s priority list, saying that He will not forget our generosity. If we take care of what is near and dear to His heart, *“He will give you many opportunities to do good, and He will produce a great harvest of generosity in you.”* Even saying, *“Yes, you will be enriched so that you can give even more generously.”*

(5) God will be glorified in Your giving—thanksgiving will break out among those who you give your generous gifts. *“And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the wonderful grace of God shown through you.”*

(6) Your generosity in giving proves that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ.

(7) As I mentioned earlier, the very essence of the Salvation experience is the gift of eternal life. Jesus is the most valuable gift ever conceived or ever given. *“Thank God for His Son-- a gift too wonderful for words!”*—**To be continued in Part 3.**



*Heavenly Father, thank You for knowing my innermost thoughts and loving me enough to save me from my pursuit of defied mammon. Thank You for giving me abundantly more than I can ever think or ask, so much more than the things of the world that will ultimately leave me with an empty, aching heart. LORD, help me more-and-more know deep in my heart, the safety, the peace, and the joy that awaits me when I turn toward You and walk away from the temporal things that want to steal my attention away from You. Help me fully realize that You give me the ability to gain wealth and that everything I have belongs to You. Therefore, I gladly surrender my time, talents and treasure and entrust into Your hands what You have given me to use as You desire. LORD, I trust You completely, knowing that You have known the end from the beginning, and that You know everything about everything—I know that in You, I will always have everything I need and plenty left over to share with others. I ask these requests and give my praises to You in Jesus’ name. Amen.*