

Excelling In Giving

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INTRODUCTION

Usually when most people hear messages on giving they feel that someone is about to rob them of their wealth.

They are very skeptical about how much they believed the messages on financial prosperity but they have no problem with other topics of the Bible.

It is only giving that they don't want to hear about. Such people if you look at their lives they are poor and in deep financial hardships.

Check everyone who attacks the message of prosperity, he is poor. The Gospel of Christ is not only

centered on one message of sacrifice, salvation or healing. It includes prosperity message too.

There is nothing wrong with preachers who preach the message of prosperity. As long as they are not using it to manipulate people and or to steal from the congregants then the message of prosperity they do preach is a blessing to the church.

It is not only the message of prosperity that can be abused or wrongly taught in church. There are also other messages of the Gospel of Christ that can be twisted and used to destroy the faith of the believers.

However, this book is solely on the message of giving. How can one excel in giving? This is what I am

going to answer in this book and expound more on the topic.

I can say this book is not for those who are not givers. This is a book for those who have embarked on the journey of partnering with God's work through giving their finances, and resources.

Jesus Christ had those who partnered with him financially in his ministry. We are not better than Jesus therefore his example is a perfect one to follow.

"Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God.

And the twelve were with Him, and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities

—Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance." (Luke 8:1-3)

These women chose to provide for the ministry of Jesus Christ from their substances. They were givers.

May God give you a heart to be a giver. Givers are blessed people. Jesus Himself said it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Acts 20:35 says, "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is

more blessed to give than to receive."

I have written this book to encourage givers to continue pouring their finances and resources into God's work, to support your Pastor and Church and to remember the poor, the disadvantaged and the weak.

But if a poor person, or a nongiver gets a hold of this book and reads it through to the end then I promise his life will never remain the same again.

Poverty does not stay in the house of a giver. Poverty and givers do not meet; in fact they can never meet. This tells you that the cure for poverty is giving the Bible way. Hard work only is not enough to eradicate poverty. We have thousands of hard workers out there who sweat from morning to dusk everyday at work yet they are poor.

The rich knows that hard work without giving wisely will not help you to prosper.

I want you to read this book with an open mind. God wants to give you new ideas, new thoughts from the pages of this book that will change your financial status for good.

You cannot read this book and remain poor financially or materially. This is not a magic book but a message from the throne of God to you!

CHAPTER ONE

GIVE YOURSELF FIRST

"Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia:

that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.

For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing,

imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God." (2 Corinthians 8:1-5)

Maybe you have been giving some money to the church or to your pastor and you were feeling good about it.

There is nothing wrong with that but I want you to excel in your giving. God doesn't want you to remain at those lower levels of giving because there is more for you up the ladder.

The first step to excel in your giving is to give yourself first to God. It is possible to give to the Lord in church whilist you have not given yourself first to Him.

Romans 12:1 says,"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."

God wants you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice not as a dead one. He is talking of your physical body. He wants it just the same way He got your spirit and soul.

The Apostle Paul says, "...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."

Whenever you hear of sacrifice know that he is talking of blood, sweat, pain, and giving up some luxuries for a cause or purpose. To Sacrifice is to give away (something valuable) for the purpose of gaining something else.

It is an act of giving up something valued for the sake of something else regarded as more important or worthy.

God wants your body first before you give Him your money. He wants it holy, and acceptable.

Your money must follow your body to church. I believe I am talking to Christians in this book.

Don't just send your money to church while you don't attend church services. God wants you in church first. He is not interested in your money because God is not poor. He doesn't survive from your donations. The Macedonian church understood this. They realized that God wants them not their money so they first gave themselves to God.

Their money followed after God had accepted them as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. They became living sacrifices first to God before they gave any dime to Him.

I know that your money represents your sacrifices, your hard labour, your pain, your blood and your sweat but God doesn't accept it if you are not His.(2Corinthians 5:9)

Without your physical body on earth there is no way you are going to have money.

So money is a product of the functions of your physical body - your labour, your sacrificial giving, you thinking processes, and your sweat.

Ghosts, spirits, angels and demons don't make money on earth. They are illegal residents here. They have no physical bodies like you and I.

Paul said the Macedonians "first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God." They gave themselves to the Lord and to the Apostles.

The Macedonians became so rich by this act. God gave them the grace for giving which basically is the power to get wealth. It came through their liberality. They didn't withhold themselves from God's service and from the Apostles. They sacrificed themselves to God as a living sacrifice.

God wants you to excel in giving grace. You must not stay at the same level of giving for too long.

There is what is called giving grace and it will never come on you if you do not give yourself first to God.

CHAPTER TWO

GOD LOVERS

"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." (John 3:16)

The ultimate giver is God. God gave His only begotten son as a sacrifice at the cross of calvary and in return He is harvesting millions of sons into the Kingdom daily.

God didn't just send money and some resources to keep us going. He sent His very own son to die for us. This is very important because it shows His love.

Once a person has given his whole soul and body to God that person will not have problems to give any other things God will ask of him.

"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 8:32)

God showed us this. He gave us His son and the Bible says because of that act He will freely give us all things.

God didn't give us the Spirit of Jesus only. He gave us His Soul and Body as a living sacrifice first.

Jesus hung at the cross for all of us. That was God's love for us.

God's giving is motivated by love and his giving is sacrificial. He always gives the best. When He gave His son Jesus Christ to die for us, He gave His best.

"By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we

also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." (1John 3:16)

If you are a God lover you'll have no difficulties to lay down your life for the brethren. The brethren is not the heathens but the church.

You have to understand that Jesus didn't die for the Christians but for the whole world. When Jesus died there were no Christians on earth.

Christians are the products of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. And there could be no resurrection without the death and burial of Christ.

So Jesus proved His love for us when He laid his life for us. And He is telling you to lay down your life for His church. This means sacrifice for your church. Engage in sacrificial giving for the brethren (the church) and that is a proof of your love for God.

If you cannot withhold your resources for the work of God, and if you cannot withhold your money for the progress of the church then you are a God lover.

God lovers do not sit back and watch while the church is struggling to pay it's bills, or to meet the evangelism and day to day running expenses.

True God lovers will not wait for the Pastor to ask them for money to meet church expenses. They are always alert to swing into action to provide financially in the house of God. God is the one who sent them there for that purpose. In my own ministry I don't beg for a dime. I don't pick up my phone to call anyone anywhere asking for money. I have never done that in decades and I am not going to do it anytime sooner or later.

This is because I have sons and daughter who were sent by God to lay down their lives for the brethren, for the church, and for the work of the ministry.

Giving is the major proof of love. Saying that you love God and the brethren or the church is not enough. You need to prove it and giving is the greatest proof.

1 John 4:19 says, "We love Him because He first loved us." God proved His love by giving us first His son and then all things that we may want or need.

"Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours.

And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's." (1 Corinthians 3:21-23)

We love the Lord that's why we give. Our motive must be always the motive of love when we give. This is the motive of God.

Don't give out of pressure or manipulation. That is not the right way of giving. Read my book "**The Right Way of Giving**" for more insight on this.

CHAPTER THREE

GIVE THE BEST

"In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him." (1 John 4:9)

The Lord God Almighty gave His only begotten son into the world to save human kind from their sins.

God did not send money or angels or anything else to save us. He sent his only begotten son Jesus Christ and now He has many sons.

God gave the best. He didn't give the second class or left overs. He gave His only begotten son (the best) to redeem and to save us. I have told you before that the best that you can give is yourself. The human soul and the human body are the most valuable assets on earth.

Material things come lower rank in terms of giving. Once you have truly given your soul and body to Christ then it will be easy for you to give material things back to Him.

There's nothing God can't give after He has given Christ.

When you don't have a good appreciation for Christ's sacrifice then your affection for God will be shallow and hence you will not give your best in church.

"And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma." (Ephesians 5:2)

The Apostles experienced His love. They saw Him dying for them and for everyone. Their appreciation for His sacrifice was deep.

If you have no revelation for what Christ did for you and I then there wouldn't be any way you will give Him your best.

Let me get a bit deeper on this. In 1 Corinthians 2:2 the Apostle Paul said, "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."

This where the power of Christianity is. It is in the

crucifixion of Christ. In other words the power of Christianity is that Christ was crucified for us.

The Apostles witnessed this and had a first hand revelation of it's meaning. Their love for God was too deep and it made them to give their best to God.

"And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

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,

and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need. And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus,

having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet." (Acts 4:33-37)

These people were willing to give because they saw how God gave to them. They became God lovers and they gave the best.

If you read those scriptures above you would notice that they were not under compulsion to give. They gave out of love.

Don't treat God with contempt. He is your Father and He deserves the best from you.

There are some people who think that God accepts every gift or offering they give in church or to the man of God.

I want you to know that it's not every offering you give that God accepts. He rejects some. And I believe it will do you good to know the types of offerings God accepts and rejects.

In Malachi 1:6 God says, "A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence? Says the Lord of hosts. To you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?'"

I believed these priests worshipped, praised and gave

offerings every Sabbath and in their minds they thought God was accepting all their sacrifices until this prophetic word came.

You may say, but this word is not for us but for the priests. But you have to know that you are also a priest unto God.

You may not be part of a levitical priesthood but you are a priest unto God so this was written for us to learn the mind of God. (Revelation 1:6).

When Malachi prophesied against them, these priests had questions. They didn't understand why God said, "you priests you dishonor and despise My Name!"

They thought they were giving God the best until Prophet Malachi prophesied against them further:

"You offer defiled food on My altar, But say, 'In what way have we defiled You? 'By saying, 'The table of the Lord is contemptible.'

And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil ?And when you offer the lame and sick,Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?" Says the Lord of hosts." (Malachi 1:7-8)

All along they thought they were giving the best. They thought God accepted their offerings but He didn't.

Imagine for years in church they thought God was happy with their sacrifices. But God was not. Am sure He didn't bless them for their unacceptable offerings. He was not happy.

They offered defiled food on God's Altar. In those days God didn't like certain animals as sacrifices.

Animals like pigs, rats and mice, etc God didn't like them to be eaten by a Jew or be offered as a sacrifice (Leviticus 11). But the priests sacrificed them unto the Lord and they thought God loved it.

They went further to offer the blind, the lame, and the sick animals as a sacrifice, and God called it evil. He was not pleased with them too.

These priests kept the goodly animals for themselves and gave to God the sick, the lame and the blind animals for sacrifice. Such level of contemning God and His altar was too much.

They disdained, treated or regarded the God who saved them from bondage with contempt in their offerings.

If you always thought that God accepts every of your offerings think again.

We have people in church today who are like these priests. They don't appreciate God, Christ and his sacrifice at the cross. They give to God lame change from their purchases.

They give God sick and blind sacrifices. They don't know God doesn't like such.

Do you know what are called sick offerings, blind offerings or lame offerings? They are all called evil offerings by God.

When you give below the level of God's blessings in your life it's called lame or sick offering.

The Bible says, "Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you."
(Deuteronomy 16:17)

Let's say God has given you a hundred dollars and you go to church and give him a one dollar offering. That's a sick offering. How do you expect God to accept that? There are some people who do not appreciate God at all. They despise Him despite the way He blessed them.

Someone will give God a blind offering on a Sunday morning service and thinks God is happy with it. What is a blind offering?

According to me a blind offering is an offering that you did not set aside during the week to give to God. It is an offering you pull out of your pockets blindly in church.

Offering time is important time. Take it seriously. Plan before you go to church what you would want to give to God.

"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 Corinthians 16:2)

The Apostle Paul says lay aside some offerings you will then give to God in church. You don't just dip your hand in your pocket on a Sunday service and blindly pull out a coin or a dollar bill and drop into the offering basket.

You must set aside an offering before church service that you will consciously give to God cheerfully.

Of course this is different to seed offerings that God may require you to give whilst you have not planned to give before the church service.

Some times during the church service the Holy Spirit may ask you to give a certain amount to the church offering basket. This is the money you didn't plan to give before you came to church but obey if He calls for it.

Learn to give God your best. I want to tell you a story that happened sometime in the year 2013.

That time we were just recovering from a serious church break away. We were left with only six members from a three hundred member church.

We didn't have a savings account therefore we had no money at all. All our six members who remained with us were financially and materially poor. They had no money or valuable things to their names. I was no different to them. We had nothing too in our home.

But one day during the month of April 2013 there came a certain man. I didn't recognize him at first hand but he claimed to have known me from prayers I had made for him years back.

He had started a company so he came to thank God with his offering. He handed over to me an envelope with \$700 US Dollars.

That time US\$700 was a lot of money. It was able pay my rent for the whole year and buy groceries that could feed my family for some few months.

Before I used that money to buy a sack of mealie meal and some chicken because we had no food, there came a lady who was jobless, and her husband too was jobless and they had their kids sent home from school because of school fees arrears of at least a year.

Since she was a member of our church with her husband, I felt compassion for them and I took all the money I was given that day, and gave her to pay her rent, school fees for her kids, and exam fees too.

I gave her my best US\$700 and went back to zero same day. I was US\$700 richer for few minutes that day before she came to my house in tears. We helped her and we believed God that if we gave our best He will give us more in return.

Then in few months to come, that same lady and her husband were given part of her father's inheritance in cash. It was

US\$5000. In fact I am the one who gave them money again to travel to another city that is far from the capital to collect the inheritance money that was in her name.

Unfortunately the husband was a greedy man. He didn't give to God any cent from the US\$5000 they got. He stopped coming to church. He never paid tithes, nor an offering to God.

He began to say I wanted his money because in his eyes he was now rich. He thought he was now a big fish. He forgot all the help I had extended to them during my crisis and penniless days.

I didn't help them so that they would help me tomorrow. I gave them my US\$700 without any strings attached. I didn't want it

back. But I expected them to give tithe to God each time they have income. As their Pastor I thought they would bring the tithe but they didn't.

I believe in paying tithe. It's God's principle of giving. But they didn't give the tithe or the offering and they went to invest their money in a certain dubious business and lost all the US\$5000.

They sunk deep into serious debts and till today they have not yet recovered from it.

Imagine what could have happened if they were not arrogant, and greedy. They would have been rich today. God wanted to give them business revelations, directions and instructions.

If they had listened to God and let those windows of Heaven open over them then they would have been rich today leading a great business in the capital. But they missed it.

CHAPTER FOUR

KILL GIANTS

Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands.

And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.

And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.

So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.

Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled. (1Samuel 17:45-51 KJV)

Kind David was a God lover. As a young lad David fought against Goliath because of his passion for God. He couldn't stand to hear

Goliath insulting the God of Israel and the armies of Israel. He loved God so much that he wanted no one to despise Him.

When you love God you will kill any of the Goliaths standing in your church. You will not hide from him like what King Saul and his army did.

What am I talking about? There are Goliaths today that need a David who has a sling and a stone. Right in your church if you check you may find that your Pastor is wrestling with some Goliaths.

Listen, Goliath is not just a Philistine Giant that David killed with a small stone from his slingshot sometime back in battle. But Goliath is also some giants, and some difficult things that are causing your church members and even your Pastor to hide.

Things like church bills and expenses, the purchasing of church P.A Systems, Church stands, Buildings, Offices, Vehicles, Evangelism Team Equipments and TV stations for broadcasting the Gospel to the world are some grievous and pursuing Goliaths that every Pastor needs a David to kill.

Are you going to be that David who will kill these giants? I pray that God will empower you financially to fight all financial battles in your church.

"Then the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will surely buy it from

you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver." (2 Samuel 24:24)

King David who slaughtered the giants for Saul and his armies refused to give an offering to God that was going to cost him nothing. He had to pay for the threshing floor and and offered his sacrifice to his God.

Even in the building of the temple, David left an offering that was big enough to build the house of the Lord. He had such a deep love for God.

Imagine one man giving all the silver and gold for the building of

the temple. God lovers do that cheerfully.

"Furthermore King David said to all the assembly: "My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced; and the work is great, because the temple is not for man but for the Lord God.

Now for the house of my God I have prepared with all my might: gold for things to be made of gold, silver for things of silver, bronze for things of bronze, iron for things of iron, wood for things of wood, onyx stones, stones to be set, glistening stones of various colors, all kinds of precious stones, and marble slabs in abundance.

Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God,

over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver:

three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses;

the gold for things of gold and the silver for things of silver, and for all kinds of work to be done by the hands of craftsmen. Who then is willing to consecrate himself this day to the Lord?" (1 Chronicles 29:1-5)

The love of David for God and God's house was too much.

May God give you such deep affection for Him and His church, in the Name of Jesus Christ. King Solomon the son of David was another man who had so much love for God. He was also a genuine God lover.

In 1 Kings 3:3 it is recorded that, "Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David, except that he sacrificed and burned incense at the high places."

His love for the Lord was not only in words. He acted his love. He had proofs for his love for God.

The next verse shows us that he gave God a thousand burnt offerings. No one had done this before in Israel. The King gave his best offering to God.

"Now the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the

great high place: Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar." (1 Kings 3:4)

The Lord was so pleased with his heartfelt offerings that He said to the young king, "Ask! What shall I give you?" (1 Kings 3:5)

You know the story, Solomon asked for wisdom and understanding of the heart and God granted him with riches and peace in his kingdom.

What made Solomon to give such an offering? It was his love for God.

Where are the God lovers today? Where are those that are willing to give themselves to God for His service?

They that don't love the Lord do not understand this message of giving. They think it's a game of pastors to steal from congregants.

They fail to realize that Pastors give too. If a Pastor does not give like everyone else he will remain poor.

This is because before he became a pastor he was a christian like everyone else.

It is only the calling and the anointing that made him a pastor but he is a christian too who must obey the principles of Christianity like everyone else.

Let's learn from the first pastors of the new testament church that started in the book of Acts chapter two. We see these pastors way back being trained by Jesus. When He called them they followed Him and hear what they said to Jesus Christ our Master.

"Then Peter began to say to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You." (Mark 10:28)

Peter and the other pastors said that they have left everything to follow Jesus. That's a sacrifice to be in the ministry. This shows you that Pastors are great givers and sacrificers. They left everything!

But the young rich man didn't want to give anything. He didn't understand the depth of God's love for him. If he did, he would have left all to follow Jesus too.

"Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.

But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!

And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!" (Mark 10:21-24) Jesus did not say that it's hard for the born again rich people to enter the Kingdom of God. Rather he said it is hard for those who trust in riches to enter the Kingdom of God.

This is the problem of the rich people. They stop trusting in God because money has come.

They begin to trust in their riches so if God asks them to give, they will find it hard to do so because they have put their trust in those riches and they don't want to part ways with them.

They fear to give them away because they have their trust in those riches and not in God. To them, giving their riches is giving their life and throwing their future into darkness.

But be rest assured that you cannot give to God and be stranded or broke forever (Luke 6:38).

Jesus said, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." (Mark 10:25) Why? It is because the rich man's problem is to trust in his riches and not in God.

Have you not discovered that most rich people do not trust in the power of prayer?

Any small issue they don't pray about it, they use money to solve it.

There is nothing wrong with that but if your trust is in money then one day something that money cannot solve may hit you or your family. What will you do?

For example, cancer is a deadly disease that money cannot solve. I have never seen an cure for several types of cancers in the world but only God can heal it.

So if your trust is in your riches and if cancer strikes you then you will be dead in few months.

But if you trust in the Lord even though you are financially rich, you will pray and cancel cancer for good!

The prayer of faith can destroy cancer and have it wiped out of your body forever. That's what money can't solve. "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him (James 5:15 KJV).

I know the Bible says,"...money answers everything." (Ecclesiastes 10:19). But it didn't say money solves everything.

There are many things money cannot solve. I just showed you some of them.

If you broke the trust in your marriage money cannot amend it. Only prayer can.

There are many diseases that money cannot solve. It may answer to a certain extent but can't solve the problem fully. Do you remember the King of Israel who got so sick? King Hezekiah was so sick to death. He had all the money to go to the best hospitals in the world but he knew that money couldn't save him so he prayed to the Lord.

"In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, "Thus says the Lord: 'Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.'

Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the Lord,

and said, "Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in

Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

And the word of the Lord came to Isaiah, saying,

"Go and tell Hezekiah, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years." (Isaiah 38:1-5)

If Hezekiah didn't pray, he was going to die with all the billions of dollars in his account. God spared him and added fifteen more years to his life. Money couldn't do this. Only God could.

Don't make a mistake of trusting in riches. Learn to trust in the Lord.

CHAPTER FIVE

BE A MAGNET

"For as he thinks in his heart, so is he...." (Proverbs 23:7)

If you want to excel in your giving to God then you have to become a magnet that attracts big financial prosperity and big financial blessings.

Every person has the capacity to attract or repel financial prosperity. The Bible says, as a man thinks in his heart so is he. This means you become what you think.

Have you ever noticed that to some people it's easy to prosper but to

others it's hard to prosper because of this magnet in them.

Your mind is the magnet that either attracts or repels prosperity.

It doesn't matter you are a christian or not. Every human mind is a magnet no matter his religion.

The poor may be tired of poverty but still his mind may repel prosperity. Just because you are tired of poverty doesn't mean prosperity will feel sorry for you and just show up in your life. No sir, it doesn't work like that.

No matter how you pray, give money or fast, if your thoughts and your emotions are negative they will repel prosperity away from your life. We have many people in churches who are not prospering financially no matter how they give seed money because their thoughts and emotions repel prosperity.

Listen, by changing your thoughts you change your life.

Make some adjustments today. Remove negative thoughts and negative emotions and replace them with positive ones and see your life transformed.

You can put more power to your magnet (your thoughts) by listening to the Word of God being preached, by meditating on the Word and studying the Bible.

You are a living magnet. You have the capacity to attract resources, finances, opportunities, relevant people and prosperity to your life.

The human mind is a powerful magnet that is able to attract everything else.

I know that it is not easy for one to change his thinking. The poor can't stop thinking in terms of poverty and lack. Its not easy to change his thinking from that. But if he changes then everything too will change in his life.

Listen, if your life is built on principles you will not fall, you will succeed because principles of God's Word don't change, they are fixed and strong.

That is why Solomon said, "As a man thinks so is he". It's a principle that tells you that you

can never be different from your thoughts. Your overall personality and life is a reflection of your thoughts!

Fight to change your thinking. You have just heard of fighting the devil all your life. It's not necessary anymore; the devil is not a factor. He was defeated by Jesus at the cross thousand years ago and Jesus conferred that victory and power to us (Matthew 28:18-19).

The real fight now is the fight of faith, that is also a fight to change your mind, your thoughts and your emotions.

Negative feelings will affect your life negatively therefore you have to resist them.

Though it's a fight to change your thinking, just know that it's a fight worth fighting.

Winning inside, is also winning outside. So get on a mission to change your thoughts.

Stop thinking as a beggar. Stop thinking as a poor man and start thinking as a rich man, and a giver!

You need to put more power in your magnet. Charge it more and more everyday with the Word of God and consistent meditation of the scriptures.

We all know that electricity can create some electromagnetic field. We learnt that in formal schools.

In a person, "emotions" is electricity in the human system. Your feelings make you a magnet. Make sure they are positive feelings that dominate your being.

When your thoughts and emotions are negative you attract negative people in your life, you attract crisis, lack and poverty.

But when your thoughts and emotions are positive you attract positive people, resources, opportunities, promotions and provisions into your life. In short, you attract prosperity. It's a law of life.

Exercise control over your feelings and emotions. Don't stay sad or sorrowful. It's not about the moment but the magnetic field you are creating.

When you think poverty, lack, and difficulties you make it so difficult for prosperity to come close to you.

Emotions like fear are dangerous because fear attracts demons and negative people.

You also have to overcome worry, because worrying never solves the problem but it creates more.

You may not be able to control the outside but make sure you control the inside of you and ultimately the outside will change for the better.

Set goals for a higher level and put a deadline. That's the way you change your life. Don't just say I want to have a lot of money. Be specific. Jesus in Mark 11:24 said be specific.

The human system works better with specific, definite goals and deadlines.

So instead of just saying I will have money. Say I will have \$1000, in seven days. That's better and you can work and have it.

Set a target financially and put a deadline.

What is the new level of income that you want? You want a car, what model? When are you going to buy the car? Set the deadline.

Please read my book "**How To Achieve True Success**" and learn

more on how to set deadlines and meet them.

CHAPTER SIX

TITHING

"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.

"And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,"Says the Lord of hosts;

"And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land," Says the Lord of hosts." (Malachi 3:10-12)

The tithe is ten percent of your income that is given to God in the church where you are fed with the knowledge of God's Word.

If they are not teaching you God's Word there, then your tithes don't need to go there. Send it to your man of God who is teaching you the Word and God will receive it.

I know there are a lot of people who have a problem with giving the tithe. They have no problem in giving other offerings. Their problem is on the tithe.

Well, all types of giving will benefit you and not God. If you take ten percent of your crop harvest and sow it again it is you who will enjoy the harvest. You will not see God walking in your field eating your wheat or rice or that crop you sowed.

This is the same with the tithe. It will benefit you. Satan is sending too many of his servants to discourage you to give the tithe and he is even deceiving ministers to teach that tithing is not a new testament practice.

"Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings." (Malachi 3:8)

Giving tithe is for the new testament believer just as giving offerings is also for the new testament believer.

The same verse that I quoted above puts the tithes in the same sentence with offerings. They go together. We cannot accept the other and discard the other now.

Jesus had no problem with the practice of tithing. In Matthew 23:23 the Lord rebuked the Pharisees and the scribes:

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone."

Jesus did not stop them from paying the tithes. He actually rebuked them for leaving the other matters like faith, mercy and justice undone.

Tithe was started by our father of faith Abraham. How did Abraham know anything about tithes? It was by revelation. Read my book "**Destroying Financial Hardship**" for more on this.

Faith was there, mercy was there and even justice and tithes. Jesus said do them all and not leave the other undone.

In Hebrews 7:8 the Bible says, "Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives."

He is saying down here your tithes are received by a mortal man, (your pastor) but there (meaning in Heaven) Jesus Christ receives your tithes of whom it is witnessed that he lives. You see, He is alive.

So Jesus receives your tithes via the ministry your pastor and he said that Jesus lives forever.

Now you know who receives your tithes. It is Jesus Christ who lives forever. It doesn't end in the hands of your Pastor. It is rather received by Jesus Christ our High Priest!

Some may say, "Man of God, giving tithe was started in the Old Testament." The truth is: it did not start in the Old Testament. It started over 450 years before there was an Old Testament.

John 1:17 shows us that the Old Testament was given through Moses who came hundreds of years after Abraham, Isaac and Jacob knew about tithes through the revelations of God.

"For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." (John 1:17)

We don't tithes after the Law of Moses and we don't receive tithes in the same manner as the Levites did.

The regulations of tithes in the New Testament are not the same as those of the Levitical priesthood that was in the Old Testament.

Jesus our High Priest did not come from Levi. He came from the

lineage of Judah according to the flesh and He came with grace.

Abraham was a man of grace and faith. He paid tithe to Priest Melchizedek not by the Law but by faith.

Melchizedek was not a Levi but he received the tithes of Abraham. He was a type of Jesus Christ. So in the actual fact, Abraham paid tithes to Christ.

We too should pay tithe by faith as Abraham our father did (Galatian 3:7).

The Prophet Malachi encouraged us to pay tithe because there are some great benefits that come to the tither. The book of Malachi is not the book of the Law. It is the book of the Prophet and as you know a Prophet can prophesy to future generations.

Isaiah prophesied of the coming Christ and His New believers that were going to be born by His resurrection. The book of Isaiah is not the Law of Moses, it is the book of the Prophet just like Abraham was also a Prophet.

The Bible has major prophets, minor prophets, the Psalms, the Law, The Gospels and the New Testament Epistles etc. So don't call everything in the Bible the Old Testament.

The Old Testament is the Old Covenant that had ten commandments on tables of stone

and over 614 regulations that supported those ten commandments.

They were given only to the Jews and not to the church. In them Moses included the principle of tithing and modified it and made it a law to be added the Jewish laws.

So tithe is not originally from the Law. It's of faith and grace.

However, giving in the New Testament is not forced on anyone. In the Old Testament they were forced to give; in the New Testament God loves a cheerful giver. He doesn't force anyone to give.

The Apostle Paul unequivocally said, "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not

grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." (2Corinthians 9:7)

Therefore no Christian should feel guilty for not paying tithes. And God does not curse you if you don't pay tithes.

In the Old Testament the Prophet shows us that they were cursed for robbing God. There was a curse for not paying the tithes under the Mosaic Law.

"Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.

You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation." (Malachi 3:8-9)

In the New Testament God "has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ" (Eph 1:3) therefore He cannot curse us for not paying tithe.

For "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." (Galatians 3:13-14)

If you are going to give to God as a New Testament believer you must give freely without fear or guilt.

Give any percentage you want to give but I must quickly let you

know that, "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." (2Corinthians 9:6).

So don't think that you will excel in giving by giving less than ten percent.

There are still more consequences for not giving. Take for example, if you don't plant maize or rice you will not have a harvest at the end of the season.

It doesn't mean God has cursed you with lack or poverty. It simply means you have no crop to harvest because you sowed nothing.

Also if you sowed few seeds you will have little crop for harvest and with that attitude you cannot excel

in giving and you can't prosper with that.

But he that gives bountifully will reap bountifully. Do you think anything less than ten percent of your income is called bountiful?

Don't deceive yourself. Anything less than ten percent of your income cannot be called bountiful.

That means that God is not limiting you to give ten percent of your income. But rather He is showing you that ten percent of your income is the minimum you can give.

Those who excel in their giving will give more than ten percent cheerfully. I heard of a man who gave to God ninety percent of his income every month and he went

home with ten percent and God blessed him the more. The man went on giving bountifully and he became a multi millionaire!

You are not forced to give and God is not forcing you to give the tithe. In the school of wealth, tithes is a small thing that you don't need to waste your time arguing over.

The guys like Joses gave lands and houses to the church. They didn't just give ten percent or argue over it; they were bountiful and cheerful givers (Acts 4:33-35).

Poor people are the ones who still argue over ten percent. The rich in Christ don't have problems with giving.

When I say the poor people I don't mean someone who doesn't have

money in his bank account or in his pockets but someone who has a poverty mentality!

"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.

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" (2Corinthians 9:6-7 NLT)

If all you do is to give less than ten percent each time you get income you'll not excel in giving and you can't get a generous or big harvest from that.

In the school of financial prosperity learn to give ten percent and above. Strive to give more than enough. Let God lead you.

Let me give you some few advantages of paying tithes:

Malachi 3:10-12 KJV lists these benefits:

The Lord says, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground;

neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts."

1. God will open the windows of Heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

In Heaven there are no material blessings for you, there are no cars, houses, lands or money that will fall from the sky to you.

So the blessings He will pour out to you are ideas, visions, designs, plans, revelations, wisdom, knowledge, power to succeed, power to get wealth, supernatural abilities, divine protection and opportunities that will make you to have all the material blessings you desire on earth.

2. The other benefit of paying tithes is that "the Lord will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground."

This means the devourer, the destroyer, or Satan will not have the power and opportunity to destroy your fruits, your produce, your harvest or your income because God will rebuke him.

Have you ever noticed that some people when they get money or their income, it won't buy anything valuable?

Always their money will seem to be eroded by inflation, or by the rising of prices. Some even lose all the money through theft, sicknesses or accidents etc

I know a guy long back. He was not a tither. So each time he got his money something that will take his salary will happen. Either someone in his family will get so sick and he will spend all his salary on medical bills and be in debts.

At one time he borrowed a car to just use for some few days from a friend and got involved in an accident with it and the owner of the car asked him to repair it.

The costs were overwhelming and he had to spend eight months

cutting his salary in half to repair that car.

Things like these happened for many months until he sought the Lord for help and God said to him pay your tithes.

When he obeyed to give his tithes, God began to rebuke the devourer for his sake and his money began to have value and supernatural buying power. By this I mean he began to buy things that are expensive at very cheap prices.

He even went on to buy a car that did cost over US\$3500 with just US\$1000. The Lord sent someone to sell to him that car at a very low price!

3. The other benefit of paying tithe is that "your vine will be protected

by God and His angels that it will not cast her fruit before the time in the field."

This simply means that your vine, that is, your business, or your job will not miscarry. Everything that concerns you will not miscarry; they will not cast their fruit before the time.

Even your wife will not miscarry if you are a tither. God will fulfill his word in your life.

Most people experience what we call near breakthrough experiences. They strike a deal, write a quotation but on the day of payment they will be disappointed. The payer will just change his mind or he will just disappear and buy from another seller next door.

Some people still will sell a product to someone on short credit trusting that he will pay but unfortunately the buyer will never pay back. In fact he will disappear or give excuses for not paying till he disappears for good.

Such are the problems non tithers face. They have similar to worse problems than these ones every week or every month.

Choose to pay your tithes today. It has some great benefits.

4. Then lastly, "And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts."

The tither will have manifestations of blessings in his life that the

world will see. They will call him blessed and a delightsome land.

This means you will be shining and appealing to the world in glory and beauty. Everyone will just love to be associated with you because your success will be evident to them.

This means that though you are blessed already, paying tithes will cause the blessing to manifest to the world and makes you a blessing to all families of the earth for "the blessing of the Lord makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it." (Proverbs 10:22)

Those who refuse to give tithe or those non-givers in churches today are struggling financially. You can look at their lives and feel sorry for them. The devil seems to have blocked their financial pipelines.

I am aware there are some great givers who don't want to hear anything to do with the tithe. They give large sums of money in the name of financial partnership.

They say that they don't believe in giving tithe in the new testament but financial partnership. Well, what they fail to realize is that in their financial partnership amounts there is the tithe and even more than the tithe. God sees it and He is happy.

I have a son in my ministry who doesn't feel comfortable each time I teach on the principle of tithing. He feels am putting him in bondage by that principle yet not at all.

But when I teach on becoming a financial partner he becomes so comfortable and I noticed that he is one of the biggest financial partners in my ministry.

I have stopped to encourage him to pay the tithe because in his financial partnerships with the work of the ministry there will be his tithes and even more than it.

It's amazing how people sometimes behave in church. Some don't like the term "tithe or tithing" because they were fed with wrong information and got confused in churches they attended before they came to our church.

So I don't force them to pay the tithes. In fact I don't force people to pay the tithes. I just teach them

the principle as I did in this book and leave the matter to them.

Either to pay tithes or not it's upto you and your God. God doesn't force you to give it either.

However, as I have already noted; it doesn't matter how or what you call it, just keep giving bountifully to God and watch yourself excelling not only in giving but also in financial prosperity, riches and wealth.

God bless you!

If this book has blessed you, please write to me and tell me your experience and or if you want to become my financial partner, write to: prophetchibanda@gmail.com or call me direct: +263 773 393 958