

Truth,
HOLINESS
And
REWARDS
In
CHRISTIAN
GIVING

Pastor Paul Rika

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Truth, Holiness And Rewards In Christian Giving

Pastor Paul Rika

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to holy and faithful ministers worldwide.

May God raise righteous and committed financial and material supporters for your ministry in Jesus name.

INTRODUCTION

There are enough resources to finance the gospel work and the gospel ministers called and commissioned by God. Although we believe that God would finance those He has called to the Christian ministry who trust absolutely in Him, the scripture shows clearly that God often uses our fellow men to supply money and material resources for the work of God and the sustenance of His ministers. Due to ignorance many Christians do not know that it is their responsibility to support the work of God and the ministers of the gospel with their money and material resources. Some others are selfish and rebellious and deny God His tithes and offerings in their hands. Some few who see the need of supporting God's work and His ministers with their resources are bounded by unscriptural traditions which restrict their gospel support to their denominations or centre them on some ungodly and uncalled preachers.

Many holy and faithful ministers called and commissioned by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself are unable to do much for Him because of lack of resources.

Introduction

This book will make us see the art of giving and supporting God's work and His true and faithful ministers as a ministry. It will make the giver to focus on Jesus and release his material resources to promote and glorify His name in every place and in everyone he has the privilege to do so. If true and faithful churches, ministries and ministers will receive sufficient provision for their work and sustenance, there will be great gospel explosion in our globe and wide spread revival and establishment of truth, righteousness and holiness in the churches of Christ. Gospel preachers and gospel supporters are one in purpose and ministry: to glorify Jesus Christ through sinners' conversion and believers' sanctification and establishment in truth, righteousness and holiness in every community, town, city and nation. The Holy Spirit is calling true, holy and faithful givers to work together with true, holy and faithful churches, ministries and ministers of the end-time for massive conversion of souls and purification of believers in preparation for Christ's return. This book is written to make believers faithful, holy and visionary in Christian giving, and to provide sufficient gospel support for true and faithful churches, ministries and ministers for great gospel exploit and revival of truth, righteousness and holiness in this end time.

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2 Chronicles 31:4-10:

4 Moreover he commanded the people that dwelt in Jerusalem to give the portion of the priests and the Levites, That They Might Be Encouraged In The Law Of The Lord.

5 And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of corn, wine, and oil, and honey, and of all the increase of the field; and the tithe of all things brought they in abundantly.

6 And concerning the children of Israel and Judah, that dwelt in the cities of Judah, they also brought in the tithe of oxen and sheep, And The Tithe Of Holy Things Which Were Consecrated Unto The Lord Their God, and laid them by heaps.

8 And when Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, They Blessed The Lord, And His People Israel.

10 And Azariah the chief priest of the house of Zadok answered him, and said, Since The People Began To Bring The Offerings Into The House Of The Lord, we have had enough to eat, and have left plenty: for The Lord Hath Blessed His People; and that which is left is this great store.

Pastor Paul Rika

CHAPTER 1

ABUNDANT LIFE THROUGH CHRIST'S SACRIFICE

A song writer wrote thus:

GIVE OF YOUR BEST TO THE MASTER

1. Give of your best to the Master

Give of the strength of your youth

Throw your soul's fresh glowing ardor

Into the battle for truth

Jesus has set the example

Doubtless was He, young and brave.

2. Give of your best to the Master;

Give Him first place in your heart;

Give Him first place in your service,

Consecrate every part.

Give, and to you it shall be given.

God His beloved Son gave;

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Gratefully seeking to serve Him,

Give Him the best that you have.

3. Give of your best to the Master;
Naught else is worthy of His love;
He gave Himself for your ransom,
Gave up his glory above
Laid down His life without murmur,
You from sin's ruin to save;
Give Him your heart's adoration,
Give Him the best that you have.

Chorus

Give of your best to the Master:

Give of the strength of your youth;

Clad in salvation's full amour;

Join in the battle for truth. Amen.

God desires that we should GIVE for the glory of His name and for the salvation of our fellow men lovingly, freely and fully in the manner He has given Jesus to us. The Lord Jesus expects us to give ourselves and our material resources willingly, sacrificially and wholly in appreciation for our salvation and for abundant life to be distributed to all men through His gospel. In gratitude

Abundant Life Through Christ's Sacrifice

and honour to God, we His children must pledge to give ourselves, our time, talents, money, material resources, professional skills, spiritual gifts, and all that is ours for the distribution of eternal life to men in the world around us that the Lord may be glorified. We need grace from God for this ministry. We must resist the devil in every way he manifests himself to make us ignorant, unwilling, selfish, indifferent or careless in this great matter. We must overcome the glittering world and the desires of the things of this life that seeks to steal away this noble calling and privilege of eternal reward from us. We must not submit to the opinions and self-centered lifestyles of carnal men and women and of so-called believers around us, who are unaware of the heart-beat and heart-pain of the Almighty God: the salvation of human souls from sin, Satan and hell by the power of Christ's gospel.

Components Of Abundant Life

Jesus Christ gave Himself for our salvation from sin, Satan and eternal death. By His sacrifice we enjoy life in abundance.

John 10:10:

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: but I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly.

Abundant life in Christ available to all men on earth in

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the gospel includes the following:

{i} Forgiveness of sins; also known as regeneration; born again experience; the new birth; reconciliation with God; justification; adoption as sons and daughters by God.

{ii} Sanctification of heart, righteous and holy living: freedom from sin, guilt and condemnation.

{iii} Full deliverance from the second death; that is, eternal damnation in the lake of fire.

{iv} Name in the book of life with the privileges of heavenly citizenship.

{v} The privilege of being indwelled by the Holy Spirit and to be filled with His power.

(vi) The enjoyment of divine peace, joy, healing, health, deliverance, prosperity, protection, and provision, according to God's promises and faithfulness.

{vii} The privilege to serve the Lord of lords, King of kings, and the eternal God in this life and in the life to come.

{viii} The privilege to enjoy ministerial calling and spiritual gifts to minister to men as God's ambassador or representative.

{ix} The privilege of access to the Father and fellowship with the Trinity eternally.

Abundant Life Through Christ's Sacrifice

{x} Possession of power and authority over Satan, demons, sickness, disease, and all satanic agents and works through the name of Jesus and faith in His word.

{xi} The privilege of receiving answers to prayers.

{xii} The possession of eternal life with the privilege of wearing eternal crowns with stars.

What abundance of life indeed Jesus Christ has provided for humanity!

The Sacrifice Of Christ

Jesus Christ came that all men may have abundant life, including you and I, women and children in the world! But you can see that for this abundant life to be bestowed on mankind, for you and I to receive and enjoy the abundant life we have now, it required God the Father to **willingly and freely give us His Son:**

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...

Jesus also willingly and sacrificially gave Himself for our salvation.

John 10:11

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd GIVETH HIS LIFE for the sheep.

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He gave us His life; He gave up His life; He sacrificed His life that we may have abundant life. Jesus Christ was the rock that followed Israel all through the wilderness journey as revealed by the scripture.

1 Corinthians 10:4

And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

Notice that for the rock to bring forth abundant water for the children of Israel to drink, it had to be smitten!

Exodus 17:6

Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and THOU SHALT SMITE THE ROCK, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Jesus was smitten through suffering and the death of the cross that we may drink of the water of life freely and through us, others too can drink of this water of life freely. We must announce this abundant life in Christ to men everywhere and invite them to the free offering of the water of life.

Revelation 22:17

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst

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come. And whosoever will, let him take the WATER OF LIFE FREELY.

Jesus is the bread that came from heaven so that we may eat and live forever. But for us to eat of this heavenly bread, it has to be broken for us. The breaking of this body is His suffering and death.

John 6:33

For the BREAD OF GOD is He which cometh down from heaven, and GIVETH LIFE unto the world.

Luke 22:19

And HE TOOK BREAD, and gave thanks, and BRAKE IT, and gave unto them, saying, THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU: this do in remembrance of Me.

God gave His Son to the world that we may have abundant life. The Son gave Himself on the cross that we may have abundant life. And the Bible says that He has left us an example that we should follow His steps.

1 Peter 2:21

]For even hereunto were ye called: because CHRIST ALSO SUFFERED FOR US, LEAVING US AN EXAMPLE, that ye should follow his steps.

He suffered for you and I that we may have abundant life and He has left an example for us that we may do what He has done that others also may have abundant

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life. He gave Himself for us that we may have abundant life. He has left for us an example that we should also give ourselves that others also may have abundant life. You can see here that others through us can have this abundant life of Christ.

Christ's Abundant Life For All

Today, we can give in the manner of Christ. We can give ourselves that people should have abundant life. We can give our money and material resources that people should have the abundant life of Christ. We can give whatever we can that this abundant life of Christ may be distributed to humanity. To leave heaven for the earth is a sacrifice of pleasure and life's comfort. To be smitten, broken or crucified on the cross is painful. Thus our monetary and material giving may involve sacrifice of comfort and pleasure and may give us the pain of being smitten! This kind of Christ-like giving is required in order to distribute abundant life to all men through the gospel. The abundant life in Christ is for men, women and children of all races in all nations. These are scattered all over the face of the earth.

Mark 16:15

**And He said unto them, GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD,
and preach the gospel to every creature.**

Apart from the world made up of cities, towns,

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villages and remote settlements, which must be identified and appropriately reached with the gospel, we have the world of children with their tender and receptive hearts; the world of youths with their explorations, strength and zeal; the world of women seeking shelter and suffering from satanic oppressions and nakedness; and the world of men with their idolatry, Satanism, and pursuit after the things of this life. To say further we have the world of the physically challenged, the world of the poor, the world of the rich, etc, with their varied characteristics. All these have to be appropriately reached with the gospel message and be presented with the abundant life in Christ.

If we partake in distributing abundant life through our monetary and material giving, we shall receive the commendation of God and the blessings promised us in the scriptures. He gave Himself to provide abundant life to men in the world. For doing this God highly exalted Him as a reward for such a great gift. If we will give for the salvation of our fellow men, for the same purpose Jesus gave Himself, we shall be exalted with Jesus Christ and be enriched with the blessings of the gospel.

Call And Commission Of Passionate Labourers

There are passionate and true gospel ministers who are ready to run with the message of the gospel of the

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Lord Jesus to the ends of the earth for the purpose of distributing eternal life to all men in all places. They are ready to go to the remotest villages, to go to the towns and cities and to across the ocean to distant nations with the message of Christ's salvation and eternal life. They have the word of life, the Spirit's power and the commitment required for this task. These are passionate men and women who are overburdened with the destitution of sinful men and see salvation in no other than Jesus Christ. They weep over the impotency of the backsliding church and seek to restore the church to the lordship of Jesus and to His truth, righteousness and holiness. They are wise preachers who have the appropriate method, materials and manners. Give them some backing and you will see the kingdoms of Satan collapsing and the glory of God shining over villages, towns, cities and nations of the world! The passionate heart of Bible time prophets and apostles is reproduced in men and women in our day!

{i}They Long For And Pray With Agony For The Salvation Of Men

Romans 10:1-3

1 Brethren, MY HEART'S DESIRE AND PRAYER TO GOD for Israel is, that they might be saved.

2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God,

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but not according to knowledge.

3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

{ii} They Have Great heaviness And Sorrow For The Backsliding Of The Church

Romans 9:1-3:

1 I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,

2 That I HAVE GREAT HEAVINESS AND CONTINUAL SORROW IN MY HEART.

3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh.

{iii} They Weep And Larment For The Multiplied Iniquities In The Church And Human Society

Jeremiah 9:1

1 Oh that my head were waters, and MINE EYES A FOUNTAIN OF TEARS, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

{iv} They weep Over The Lives Of Children And Youths Being Wrecked By Satan

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Lamentations 1:16

FOR THESE THINGS I WEEP; mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water, because the comforter that should relieve my soul is far from me: my children are desolate, because the enemy prevailed.

{v} They Have Answered The Call Of God

Isaiah 6:8

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us? THEN SAID I, HERE AM I; SEND ME.

{vi} They Are Filled With The Holy Ghost

But truly I AM FULL OF POWER BY THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin.

{vii} They Are Bold And Courageous

Acts 4:20

For WE CANNOT BUT SPEAK the things which we have seen and heard.

{viii} They See Themselves As Debtors Of Gospel Truth

Romans 1:14-17:

14 I AM DEBTOR both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

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15 So, as much as in me is, I AM READY TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO YOU that are at Rome also.

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

{ix} They Have Placed Themselves Under, If They Fail To Preach The Gospel

1 Corinthians 9:16

For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; YEA, WOE IS UNTO ME, IF I PREACH NOT THE GOSPEL!

{j} They Are Wise, Methodical And Effective

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

19 For though I be free from all men, YET HAVE I MADE MYSELF SERVANT UNTO ALL, THAT I MIGHT GAIN THE MORE.

20 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, THAT I MIGHT GAIN THE JEWS; to them that are under the law, as under the law, THAT I MIGHT GAIN THEM THAT ARE UNDER THE LAW;

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21 To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) THAT I MIGHT GAIN THEM THAT ARE WITHOUT LAW.

22 To the weak became I as weak, THAT I MIGHT GAIN THE WEAK: I AM MADE ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN, THAT I MIGHT BY ALL MEANS SAVE SOME.

23 And this I do for the gospel's sake, THAT I MIGHT BE PARTAKER THEREOF WITH YOU.

{k} They Are Ready To Suffer Even To Death For The Course Of Christ

Acts 15:25, 26:

25 It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

26 MEN THAT HAVE HAZARDED THEIR LIVES for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

These anointed preachers of truth and godly passion need to be supported with money and material resources to distribute the abundant life of the gospel to men, women, youths and children everywhere in the world

Ecclesiastes 10:19

But money answereth all things.

CHAPTER 2

DISTRIBUTION OF ABUNDANT LIFE THROUGH CHRIST-LIKE GIVING

JESUS is the Author and Finisher of our faith. He is the Life, the Eternal, abundant life for mankind.

1 John 1:1,2:

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of THE WORD OF LIFE;

2 (For the LIFE was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that ETERNAL LIFE, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us.)

John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the LIFE.

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John 10:10

I am come that they might have LIFE, and that they might have it more ABUNDANTLY.

When Jesus was physically on earth in His mission of *giving life* to the men of the world, there were men and women that supported His course with their money and material resources. Although He came from heaven to do the will of God among men and had the full backing of God, the Father did not pour down money and material support literally from heaven for Him to use. God used men and women on earth to partake in the ministry of distributing abundant life to humanity.

Supporters In Jesus' Ministry

Let's consider the supportive roles played by the following persons.

{I} Mary Magdalene And Other Women

Luke 8:1-3:

1 And it came to pass afterward, that He went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with Him,

2 And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils,

Distribution Of Abundant Life Through Christ-like Giving

3 And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, WHICH MINISTERED UNTO HIM OF THEIR SUBSTANCE.

These women were sinners who suffered much from the hand of Satan. Through faith in Jesus, they were saved from their sins and were delivered from the power of darkness. They were indeed partakers of the *abundant life* Jesus had brought for the world. Their inner eyes opened to the indispensability of Jesus to every mortal man alive in the world and so they wanted everyone everywhere to be saved and to enjoy this abundant life in Christ. Hence they released their money and material resources to support the ministry of Jesus. They did this also in order to express their love and gratitude to God for the salvation of their souls. To show how much you love Jesus and appreciate His salvation in your life and how much you desire it in others, support His course with your money and material resources.

(II) The Lad With Five Loaves And Two Fishes

John 6:5-14:

5 When Jesus then lifted up His eyes, and saw a great company come unto Him, He saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?

8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto Him,

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9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

10 And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

11 And Jesus took the loaves; and when He had given thanks, He distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

12 When they were filled, He said unto His disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

13 Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.

14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

Here was a gospel program where Jesus would be glorified and men would receive salvation, healing, deliverance and miracles. The power of God was abundantly available, but there was a material need-food for the people to eat. God expects men on earth to

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compliment His works in order to make fellow men enjoy His grace. There was a lad there who had what was required- five loaves of bread and two fishes. He was a good lad! He had the love of Jesus and that of humanity in his heart. He was willing and selfless. He released all he had to support the ministry of Jesus. He desired the salvation of humanity! Multitudes of men, women, youths and children believed on Jesus through the material contribution of this lad. What a great privilege he had to stand by Jesus for such great course! What a privilege it is to you to support gospel crusades, retreats and other programs with your money and material resources!! What a great privilege it is to singularly sponsor a Christ- honouring program or project as this lad did!!! I trust men shall meet this lad in heaven and thank him.

{iii} Mary and Martha

John 12:1-8:

1 Then Jesus six days before the Passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom He raised from the dead.

2 There they made Him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with Him.

3 Then Took Mary A Pound Of Ointment Of Spikenard,

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Very Costly, And Anointed The Feet Of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

4 Then saith one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray Him,

5 Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?

6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

7 Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of My burying hath she kept this.

8 For the poor always ye have with you; but Me ye have not always.

This family opened their house for Jesus and His passionate lovers. They joyfully accommodated and fed Him and His disciples whenever He was in Bethany. The above passage showed how Mary 'wasted' great sum of money on Jesus. This was the lamentation of Judas. On whom could she have spent her resources if not her Lord? On what course could she have spent the best part of her possession in this life apart from the course of her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ? Let all men know that the best part of their earthly possession and wealth should be

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spent on Jesus and on His course. Men condemned Mary for doing what they considered foolishness, but Jesus justified her for doing what He considered an act of proper judgment and wisdom. By this act, she identified with Jesus and announced His sacrificial death for human salvation. Identify with Jesus by spending your material resources on His course. Announce His salvation to mankind by your financial support and sponsorship of gospel programs and projects.

{iv} Jesus Received Material Support From Men

John 4:31-33:

**31 In the mean while His disciples prayed Him, saying,
Master, eat.**

**32 But He said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye
know not of.**

**33 Therefore said the disciples one to another, HATH
ANY MAN BROUGHT HIM OUGHT TO EAT?**

John 12:4-6:

**4 Then saith one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot,
Simon's son, which should betray Him,**

**5 Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred
pence, and given to the poor?**

**6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but
because he was a thief, AND HAD THE BAG, AND BARE**

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WHAT WAS PUT THEREIN.

The above passages show clearly that Jesus could allow good intentioned people who are led by Spirit of the Lord to give money and material support to Him and His disciples. Giving is a rewarding service and Jesus would not deny true men and women of this privilege. He was Lord and Saviour, but humbly and lovingly received what men could give to support His course among men. The Lord will receive from you what you desire to give Him, if you are good intentioned and true. The reward of giving is great and so He will not deny you this privilege. The door is opened to you, support Jesus' ministry on earth with your money, foodstuff, vehicles, buildings, lands, etc. He will receive it from you happily and bless you.

{v} A Woman Anointed The Head Of Jesus

Matthew 26:6-13:

6 Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper,

7 There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as He sat at meat.

8 But when His disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste?

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9 For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor.

10 When Jesus understood it, He said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon Me.

11 For ye have the poor always with you; but Me ye have not always.

12 For in that she hath poured this ointment on My body, she did it for My burial.

13 Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.

Here again is a passionate display of love to Jesus by this lovely woman. The love of her Lord Jesus and His course could only be expressed by pouring on Him the best of her possessions. Cost meant nothing to her. The salvation from sin, healing from sickness, deliverance from Satan and daily blessing of righteousness enjoyed from Jesus far surpassed all the earth in cost! Her gift is a living gift .Her gift has been preaching the death of Jesus for the world up till this day. Her work is mentioned of in all corners of the earth. She shall be remembered and her virtuous work shall be mentioned throughout gospel dispensation. What a great reward on earth! Yet greater

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shall be her reward in heaven. Give God a living gift that will speak of you to all generations. Husbands, this woman could well be a married woman. Her husband gave her the liberty to express her passionate love to her Lord and Saviour in this memorable way. Please, while you superintend over your family resources, make provision for your wife to express her passionate love to her Master and Lord, Jesus, the Son of the living God. Passionate love for Jesus is not the heritage of women only, but of us all. Let us all express our passionate love to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by giving for His cause material gift, worthy of eternal mention.

{vi} Joseph Arimathaea And Nicodimus

Matthew 27:57-60:

57 When the even was come, there came A RICH MAN of Arimathaea, named Joseph, WHO ALSO HIMSELF WAS JESUS' DISCIPLE:

58 He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered.

59 And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

60 And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

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Here we see a rich man who knew the source of his riches and wealth- that it is God that gives the power to get wealth. We receive them from Him that we may return them back to Him in His service and worship. This rich man was a disciple of Jesus. He was truly converted and was a passionate lover of His Saviour Jesus. He was righteous, humble and holy. As Job was greatly rich and greatly righteous, so was this man. He used his wealth and influence to promote and protect the course of Christ. He demanded the body of Christ and carried out the burial at his expense. This is the best use of true riches! This man was not only rich on earth, he is rich in heaven!! Nicodemus who had been truly born again by Jesus had the privilege to be identified with the death of Christ.

John 19:39-40:

39 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight.

40 Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.

How glorious and joyful to the saints it is when rich and great men identify themselves with the course of Christ publicly, bringing out their personality, wealth

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and influence to support the gospel of Jesus Christ! This is the best use of human greatness and wealth. For to this end they were given. Rich believer, What have you done for Jesus? Believer of high esteem in the world, do you identify with the course of Christ publicly to the joy of saints? How much of your resources have you invested for the gospel of Jesus and for the welfare of His saints and ministers? Your wealth and greatness were given to you by God for His glory, be informed.

Christ's Disciples Were Supported By Men

Luke 10:1-7:

1 After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before His face into every city and place, whither He Himself would come.

5 And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house.

6 And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again.

7 AND IN THE SAME HOUSE REMAIN, EATING AND DRINKING SUCH THINGS AS THEY GIVE: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house.

8 And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you.

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Jesus expected that people would naturally support the ministry of His disciples. Hence, He sent them out without giving them anything. The Lord expects that those who minister and labour for human salvation through the gospel of Jesus Christ should receive the support of good-hearted recipients. Learn to support true ministers of the gospel. They are human beings as you are and need to eat, drink and be clothed. They need shelter and sustenance for their family. Some are fully devoted to the work of the Lord and have no other occupation beside it. They are like the Levites who did not have inheritance among the Israelites. Their inheritance was the Lord. The Lord commanded the children of Israel to provide sufficiently for the Levites. God expects you to support His ministers.

Galatians 6:6

Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

1 Corinthians 9:7, 11:

7 Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?

11 If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

CHAPTER 3

SUPPORTING THE GREAT COMMISSION WITH YOUR MONEY AND MATERIAL RESOURCES

The great commission Christ has given to all of us His disciples is to go and preach the gospel to every human being on earth, turn them to disciples and prepare them for eternal life through the ministry of the word of God.

Mark 16:15, 16:

15 And He said unto them, GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD, AND PREACH THE GOSPEL to every creature.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Matthew 10:1-8:

1 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

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7 AND AS YE GO, PREACH, SAYING, THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND.

8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Matthew 28:18-20:

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.

19 GO YE THEREFORE, AND TEACH ALL NATIONS, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

The great commission requires the following:

{I} To locate the sinners and present to them a clear message of repentance from sin and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ. This is required to make the sinners turn from their idolatry, witchcraft, fornication, adultery, drunkenness, theft, hatred, etc, to the new life in Christ.

{II} To teach the disciples all the word of God so they may grow and mature in the knowledge of God and of scriptural truths; in this way they will enjoy the life of righteousness and holiness, access to God, answer to prayers, the privilege of Christian service, victory over

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Satan and his temptations, and all spiritual blessings in Christ.

{III} The exercise of wisdom in soul winning and in the management of human and material resources for gospel success. He that will win souls of men to Christ and perfect them for eternal life must be wise. Wisdom is the principal thing required in human administration and coordination of effective means and methods to achieve desired goal.

The Pentecostal Revival Of The Early Church

When the Holy Spirit came upon the one hundred and twenty disciples of Christ praying in the upper room, a great new beginning ensued. The church of Christ made up of believing Jews and Gentiles was born. The church is the body of Christ and all believers are members of this body whether they are Jews or Gentiles. The church is established on different covenant or promises from that which God established with the nation Israel in the Old Testament. Righteousness is not by keeping the law, but by believing in Christ. The Holy Spirit descended upon the believers to confirm the new move of God through Christ Jesus. Now everyone in the world could become a child of God through believing in Jesus Christ.

Galatians 6:15

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any

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thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

Colossians 3:10, 11:

10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him:

11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

The church of Jesus Christ is a glorious body, established on better promises. The righteousness which the law could not achieve in the Israelites becomes easy for mankind through the blood of Christ and faith in His name.

Hebrews 8:6

But now hath He obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

This new thing, called the church, which began with the Pentecostal experience, had to be established. The church had come to stay. It would spread to all the ends of the earth and to the end of the world. Preaching, teaching, praying, practical holy living and demonstration of healing and miracles in the name of Jesus, were required to introduce this new body to her members and to the world around her. Proper foundation and pattern had to

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be laid for the universal and future generation church.

Acts 2:38-47:

29 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

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46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

For this new body to sink down roots and be established, money and material resources were vital. The people had come to Jerusalem from various nations far and near for the feast of Pentecost, during which they were attracted by the miraculous descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples in the upper room. An inspired sermon by Apostle Peter got many converted to Christ and were added to the church. Excited and thrilled with the word of God, the power of the name of Jesus, salvation from sin and holy living in Christ, true brotherly love and fellowship, many of them decided to remain longer in Jerusalem to know more, learn more, understand more, enjoy more, and acquire more. God wanted this people to become more acquainted with Himself and the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ so they could be effective witnesses in the entire world. Hence, He made them to tarry long in the presence of the Holy Spirit and in fellowship with one another.

Food, shelter and other necessities of life were

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required to maintain this revival. Hence, Christ-like givers among men were required by God for the abundant life of Christ to be distributed to these men and women and to those they should influence afterward.

Acts 2:44-46:

46 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

45 AND SOLD THEIR POSSESSIONS AND GOODS, AND PARTED THEM TO ALL MEN, as every man had need.

46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart.

Acts 4:32-37:

32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; BUT THEY HAD ALL THINGS COMMON.

33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: FOR AS MANY AS WERE POSSESSORS OF LANDS OR HOUSES SOLD THEM, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

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35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

36 AND JOSES, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus,

37 HAVING LAND, SOLD IT, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

With the co-operation of Christ-like givers in the early church, the church got established and has flourished to this day. God did not drop money, foodstuff and other material provisions for the sustenance of the apostles and early believers from the sky. He used men and women who were willing and good-hearted to supply the needs of the people of God. That helped to prolong the revival and mature the church which was newly formed then. Similarly, with the co-operation of Christ-like givers in this end time, we shall witness greater conversion of souls to Christ and righteousness and holiness shall return to the church. May the Lord raise you to support and maintain this end-time revival that is preparing the church for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Givers In The Old Testament Time

God desired to dwell among Israel by making His presence and glory to be seen among them. This would

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fill them with joy and confidence. It would make the surrounding nations to see the uniqueness of the living God and accord Him and His people honour in the world. This proposition was for the good of Israel, for their righteousness, peace, joy and glory. It would be abundant life to them! This would be achieved by building a tabernacle for God among them.

God through Moses made a call to those who desired His grace and glory among men to give willingly for the construction of the tabernacle and the materials of it.

Exodus 25:1, 2, 8:

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2 Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take My offering.

8 And let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

Christ-like givers of the Old Testament responded joyfully and gave joyfully and bountifully for the building of the tabernacle that the Lord might dwell among them for His glory and for the blessing of humanity.

Exodus 35:20-29:

29 And all the congregation of the children of Israel

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departed from the presence of Moses.

21 And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the LORD'S offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments.

22 And they came, both men and women, as many as were willing hearted, and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold: and every man that offered an offering of gold unto the LORD.

23 And every man, with whom was found blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, and red skins of rams, and badgers' skins, brought them.

24 Every one that did offer an offering of silver and brass brought the LORD'S offering: and every man, with whom was found shittim wood for any work of the service, brought it.

25 And all the women that were wise hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, both of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine linen.

26 And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair.

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27 And the rulers brought onyx stones, and stones to be set, for the ephod, and for the breastplate;

28 And spice, and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense.

29 The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the LORD, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all manner of work, which the LORD had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses.

God still gives divine calling today to men and women who desire His glory, righteousness and holiness in the church and in human society around them to give of their money, material resources and service for His service and to support His faithful servants.

Again David desired to build a temple for the Worship of Jehovah God and prepared various kinds of precious materials for the work. He motivated his people to give freely and willingly for the building of a magnificent temple unto the Lord their God. What looks remarkable here is the manner in which David and His people gave unto the Lord:

1 Chronicles 29:9-17:

9 Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because WITH PERFECT HEART THEY

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OFFERED WILLINGLY TO THE LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.

10 Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be Thou, LORD God of Israel our father, for ever and ever.

11 Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is Thine; Thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and Thou art exalted as head above all.

12 Both riches and honour come of Thee, and Thou reignest over all; and in Thine hand is power and might; and in Thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

13 Now therefore, our God, we thank Thee, and praise Thy glorious name.

14 But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee.

15 For we are strangers before Thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding.

16 O LORD our God, all this store that we have prepared to build Thee an house for Thine holy name cometh of

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Thine hand, and is all Thine own.

17 I know also, my God, that Thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy Thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto Thee.

There are many things to observe in this passage. But let's consider the manner in which these people gave unto the Lord:

- {i} They gave willingly: none felt coerced or cheated by what he gave.
- {ii} They gave with a perfect heart: they were in right relationship with God and their fellowmen.
- {iii} They gave joyfully, counting it a privilege to give to the Lord, being righteous and acceptable to Him.
- {iv} They gave humbly, acknowledging that what they were giving to God came from Him
- {v} They gave in praise to God for the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty of God: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is His.
- {vi} They gave purposefully, for the building of the magnificent temple of God.

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{vii} They gave in hope of eternal life with God, counting themselves strangers in this world.

This remains the qualities of acceptable givers before God. Those who desire to give for the course of God must endeavour to cultivate these qualities to make their service rewarding in time and in eternity.

Suppporting The Great Commission Materially

What humanity needs can be obtained through the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel contains the full package of eternal life. God has given us all things for life and godliness in Christ. What is required is to carry the gospel to all men in all places, using all means that all might be saved. This requires money and material resources. The following are required for the success of the great commission:

{i} Lands

{ii} Buildings

{iii} Machines

{iv} Vehicles

{v} Equipment: electrical, electronic, etc.

Besides the above, money is required for the following needs

[i] Maintenance of gospel preachers and workers.

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- [ii] Salaries and wages.
- [iii] Payment of rents, bills, etc.
- [iv] Crusades, Retreats, and other gospel programs.
- [v] Capital projects for gospel advantage.
- [vi] Procurement of good Bibles, Christian literature and materials for spiritual development and ministerial excellence.
- [vii] Production of tracts, magazines, books, drama, music, etc, to propagate the gospel.
- [viii] Training of preachers and gospel workers for effectiveness.
- [ix] Financial and material support to the poor and needy.
- [x] Travelling expenses for gospel business: by road, by air or by sea.
- [xi] Hotel accommodation.
- [xii] General running costs

To support the gospel of Christ and distribute abundant life to men on earth, we must give of our money and material possessions. This must be done in the spirit by which Christ gave Himself for us. Your desire for human salvation from sin and from eternal damnation in hell must be expressed by Christ-like giving. Give what you have and what you can to sponsor the gospel of Jesus. Release your lands, vehicles, buildings, machines,

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equipment, etc, to support preachers, ministries and churches who are out to distribute abundant life in Christ to men. Release money abundantly according to your power to sponsor Christian Crusades, Retreats, and Publications. Support the preachers with your money, material resources and prayers.

When the word is properly preached and taught through the right means the Lord will work among men to save their souls, sanctify their hearts, heal their body, deliver their lives, build their faith, mature them, anoint them with the Holy Spirit, turn them into gospel workers, give them wisdom, knowledge and understanding, bless and prosper them, and fill them with life! Jesus Christ has given Himself in order to achieve these in human life. You give all you can, including your money and material resources to achieve these in humanity as a co-worker with God and the Lord Jesus. God will be well pleased when He sees men, women, youths and children of all nations, tribes, and races turn to His righteousness. And the men, women and children you save from hell through your Christ-like giving shall bless God for you in time and in eternity. May the Lord spare your soul and grant you the privilege of working together with Him in this great task of distributing eternal life to mankind through the gospel.

CHAPTER 4

DIVINE REVELATION ON TITHE DEFAULTERS, ROBBERS OF GOD!

Malachi 3:8,

8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings.

9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed Me, even this whole nation.

Many people do not understand why God says those who do not pay their tithe and do not give Him offering are robbers. Yes, these are robbers because they deny men, women and children the privilege of hearing the gospel of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, hence, they rob God of His glory among men. More than just being robbers!

{i} ***They are wicked:*** because they do not pity their fellow men on their way to destruction.

{ii} ***They are selfish:*** because they think only on themselves and care not for other people around them.

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{iii} ***They are rebellious:*** because God gave them money and material possessions so that they would give back to Him for His glory, but they turn these things to their glory and reject the glory of God.

{iv} ***They are ungrateful:*** because they refuse to express praise and gratitude to God with the money and material possessions He has given them.

{v} ***They are unreasonable:*** because they do not realize that they are strangers in this world who brought nothing to it and will carry nothing from it.

{vi} ***They are useless:*** because God cannot put their money and material possessions into honorable use for the glory of His name.

{vii} ***They are wretched:*** because they have no eternal investment in the kingdom of God.

Therefore God has cursed them with a curse! The God who placed a curse on Cain has placed a curse upon them, for refusing to honour Him and promote His course and glory on earth through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Numbers 14:23, 35:

23 Surely they shall not see the land which I sware unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked Me see it.

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35 I the LORD have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against Me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.

Hebrews 3:7-13:

7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,

8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

9 When your fathers tempted Me, proved Me, and saw My works forty years.

10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known My ways.

11 So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Why don't you give tithes and offering to support God, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit among men on earth? Why don't you give your riches and wealth to

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support true preachers of the gospel to make the gospel of salvation in Christ reach all men? What are you using your riches, wealth and influence to do? After your death who shall take over? What shall become of your money and wealth? One of the greatest evils you can do to God in this life is to deny Him the privilege to use your money and material possession for the spread of His salvation, righteousness, holiness and eternal life among men on earth through the preaching and teaching of the word of God in the name of Jesus. What account shall you give of yourself to God concerning your riches and wealth which you deny God of in this world? God is saying you have robbed Him of His power to save Men. You have denied Him the privilege of manifesting His eternal love to mankind while they are still alive on earth. You have kept His presence away from many communities, villages, towns, cities and nations. You have not supported His plan of restoring biblical truth, righteousness and holiness to His church in our generation. You are unwilling for the return of Jesus Christ to the earth for His saints. You have denied the saints the privilege of leaving this Satan-polluted earth soonest! It means you are siding Satan; you are his agent! You are cursed with a curse. Hell fire is inevitable and inescapable for you!

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Tithe Defaulters Seen In Hell Fire

Acts 2:16-19:

16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS:

18 And on My servants and on My handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

19 AND I WILL SHEW WONDERS IN HEAVEN ABOVE, AND SIGNS IN THE EARTH BENEATH....

As prophesied by the scripture, the Holy Spirit in this end time gives people the vision of heaven and Hell Fire. Many people are being taken to heaven and to hell by the Lord Jesus and shown eternal realities which are to be made known to men on the earth. When these ones testify of what they saw and heard the message of the scripture is made plain; ambiguity and arguments are settled. We have presented below extracts from divine revelations on the issue of tithes payment from three separate sources so that we may know the mind of God on this subject and

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take it seriously.

{i} Divine Revelation of Hell Fire to Seven Colombian Youths

Jesus took seven Colombian youths to hell to see the tortures of hell fire and to know why some people ended their lives in hell. Among the many things they saw, they saw Christians, who did not give tithes and offering to God when they were still on earth, passing through great torments in hell fire. Here is their account below:

*"We continued walking, seeing thousands and thousands of people. There were young people, adults and elderly people suffering torments. We arrived in a place that looked like a big swimming pool of fire, with thousands of men and women inside of it. Each of them had a metal plate on their chest that read: '**I am here for not giving tithes and offerings.**' When I read that, I asked the Lord, 'Lord, how can this be possible, that people are here for this reason?' The Lord responded, 'Yes, because these people thought that tithes and offerings were not important, when My Word shows it as a command: In Malachi 3:8-10 it says, **Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.**'*

9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed Me, even this whole nation.

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10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house.....

The Lord told me that when His people withhold their tithes, they hinder the work of the Lord, and the Gospel is not preached. People in this place suffered a thousand times worse than others, because they knew the Word of the Lord, but disobeyed it.

{ii} Divine Revelation Of Hell Fire To Emmanuel Angyarko In Ghana

This man of God was taken to hell fire by the Lord Jesus Christ. He saw defaulters of tithes and offerings passing through the judgment of God in our time. Here is his account below:

"I saw four pastors in hell, who were there because they did not pay their tithes. One was called Albert and another was Daniel, a pastor of Church of Christ; this church does not believe in tithing. Daniel said he told his congregation not to pay tithes as it was no longer necessary. He was in hell for basically two things: first of all, he was not paying tithes himself and secondly, because he also stopped others from paying it. For Albert, his church believed in paying tithes, but he thought it was meant for only the congregation and that pastors were excluded from paying tithes. He wished he could come back to earth to start all over again to pay his

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tithes. The other two pastors also did not pay their tithes. One of them simply said that he did not think he had to pay tithes, even though he knew he should be paying his tithes. The other one said he thought ministering before God is not working, so there was no need to pay any tithes.

{iii} Divine Revelation of Hell Fire To Angelica Zambrano

Jesus took a young lady called Angelica Zambrano to hell fire. Among the horrors she saw was the scene of those who defaulted in tithes and offering when they were on earth. Here is her account bellow:

We went down among flames once more, and I started to cry. It was not easy to be there. I said, 'Lord, I want to get out of here, please help me, help me.' I heard the screams of millions of people. Some were saying, 'Oh Lord, have mercy on me, help me please, Lord, give me another chance.'

Among all those people, I heard someone saying, 'I ask for your forgiveness now, Lord, because I have stolen from you. Forgive me for stealing. I stole from You, Lord, and I do not want to do it again.' I asked, 'Lord, who is he and why does he say he stole from You?' 'My child I will show you who he is.' We entered his cell and I saw a disfigured man. The flames opened up and I could see

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that he was being tormented.

*All those people who are in hell have a plate on their chest and 666 on their forehead. This man extended his hand and said, 'Lord forgive me.' I asked, 'Why are you here, why are you asking for forgiveness from the Lord, why? You say you have stolen from God, but nobody can steal from God? This is impossible, why do you say you have stolen from Him?' He replied, 'I will tell you my story...I was a Christian leader. For 20 years I had known Christ, but during the 20 years I said: All the money from my tithes and offerings were just going to sustain the pastors, but I regret it because I now know that it wasn't for them, it was for the Lord, and that is why I say I have stolen from God ... At this very moment there are many people on Earth that are robbing the Lord like I did. When you return to Earth, tell all those people who don't want to give their tithes and offerings, not to steal from the Lord, otherwise, they'll wind up in Hell, and no thief will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. I knew the Holy Word, {Malachi 3:8-10] but now I regret it that I robbed the Lord. Tell the people that when they give to God, they should give with true love.' (2 Cor 9:7.) This man kept pleading, 'Lord, forgive Me.' But the Lord replied, '**It is too late, there is no opportunity for you.**' I asked the man, 'But why did you rob God, why? You knew very well we cannot steal God's tithes and offerings.' He answered,*

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'Yes, I knew very well, but never did follow it. I never did because I was a very proud man.'

Don't ever steal from the Lord. Give your tithes and offerings to God because what we give the Lord on Earth is not for men. When we give to God with all our heart, it is for the King of kings and Lord of lords. The Bible says that the Lord wants us to test Him with our tithes, Malachi 3:8-10 : ' You are cursed with the curse, for you are robbing Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes (the whole tenth of your income) into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and prove Me now by it, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.' If you want God to greatly bless your life and your family, don't ever steal from God. It's time to bless God with our tithes and offering, so He can bless our lives."

Revelation 2:11

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Isaiah 1:19, 20:

19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

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20 But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

CHAPTER 5

TITHES AND OFFERINGS IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

The giving of tithes had been the practice of the godly on earth long before the law of Moses. Hence tithing did not originate from the law of Moses and so did not end with it. We shall examine spiritual disciplines or practices of those who served God on earth before the law was given to Moses.

The Practices Of The Godly Before The Law.

Although the world was in the darkness of sin, the scripture gives us account of righteous or God fearing men on earth before Israel became a nation. No doubt, they were very few on earth. The following righteous practices were exhibited by them.

{i} Meditation on the word of God

The word of God was known by them and the godly ones received it, examined and meditated upon it for their spiritual nourishment.

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Genesis 24:63

And ISAAC WENT OUT TO MEDITATE in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming.

God had given His word to Abraham and to Isaac. Meditation on this word was required for understanding, faith and obedience.

{ii} *Faith in God*

Again the godly in the Old Testament time, before the law was given to Moses, exercised faith in God. Faith in God is the reason for prayer to Him, which godly men before the law fully practiced.

Genesis 15:6

And HE BELIEVED IN THE LORD; and He counted it to him for righteousness.

Abraham here believed in the Lord and was justified by Him. There were other righteous people then, although very few, who believed in God and prayed to Him. They obtained justification or the righteousness of God by faith and the blessings of God through answers to their prayers.

{iii} *Offering of Animal Sacrifices*

The godly in the Old Testament before the law of Moses offered animal sacrifice to God as an act of

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worship.

Genesis 46:1

And Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and OFFERED SACRIFICES UNTO THE GOD of his father Isaac.

{iv} *Truth, Righteousness And Holiness*

Before the law there were godly ones upon the earth who feared God and maintained righteous and holy life with Him.

Genesis 17:1

And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; WALK BEFORE ME, AND BE THOU PERFECT.

Genesis 20:4, 5:

4 But Abimelech had not come near her: and he said, LORD, WILT THOU SLAY ALSO A RIGHTEOUS NATION?

5 Said he not unto me, She is my sister? and she, even she herself said, He is my brother: in the INTEGRITY OF MY HEART AND INNOCENCY OF MY HANDS have I done this.

People loved God and obeyed His word. They practiced truth and justice toward fellow men in the fear

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of the Lord.

{v} Payment of Tithes To God

In some ways the revelation of the mind of God had been given to men, even the law was given to Moses, that the tenth of all their income belonged to God. The citizen of every nation pay tax to their human Government from their earnings, profits and gains to appreciate the work of the Government over them and to support her course. Hence the payment of tithes is an obligation upon man as an expression of gratitude to God for giving him freely all the bounties of the world to exploit; tithing also helps to support the course of God in the world.

Genesis 28:21, 22:

21 So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God:

22 And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: AND OF ALL THAT THOU SHALT GIVE ME I WILL SURELY GIVE THE TENTH UNTO THEE.

Abraham's account showed us how the tithes were paid to God at that time.

Genesis 14:18-20:

18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.

19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of

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the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. AND HE GAVE HIM TITHES OF ALL.

We understand here that the tithes were given to those who were in charge of God's business, to promote the course of God on earth.

{vi} *Rendering Divine Service*

As seen above there were people engaged in the service of God before the law was given. Milchizedek was the priest of the most high God, rendering acceptable service to God. Such services as offering sacrifices to God, making people to know the most high God, blessing people in the name of the most high God, receiving tithes and offerings which men bring to God, and putting the tithes and offerings into proper use for God's glory.

The above six disciplines of godliness were practiced during the law. Only one of these six practices was abolished with the law, which is, animal sacrifice or sacrifice by fire. This is because Jesus Christ has been sacrificed for all men once and for all. The blood of Jesus Christ has obtained for men a perfect redemption.

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John 1:29

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Hebrews 9:12

Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

The blood of animals is no more required. Christ is the end of all such sacrifices. The sacrifice of Jesus is the end of all sacrifices for the purpose of obtaining the righteousness of God. All that is required now to obtain God's righteousness is faith on the Lord Jesus Christ. The remaining five practices of the godly before the law listed above remain valid till this day. Jesus summarized the duties of the godly man in the scripture below:

Matthew 23:23

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

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{I} Judgment: truth and righteous living before God and man.

{II} **Mercy:** forgiveness, and charity towards men.

{III} **Faith:** acknowledgment of God, with full surrender, confidence, and reliance on Him.

{IV} **Payment of tithes:** divine obligation on man for inheriting, possessing, exploiting and benefitting from God's creation, as gratitude to Him and a contribution for the promotion of His name on earth.

The above had been God's requirement of men before the law, during the law and after the law.

The law of Moses commanded some kinds of giving to be observed by the nation of Israel. These kinds of giving ended with the law. They are not enforced in the New Testament. These include the following:

Offering By All Males Three Times In A Year

Deuteronomy 16:16, 17:

16 Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which He shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: AND THEY SHALL NOT APPEAR BEFORE THE LORD EMPTY:

17 Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which He hath given

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thee.

In this scripture, the males who came before the Lord for the specified feasts were to bring a freewill offering to the Lord. This was a commandment of the law and ended with the abolition of these feasts in Christ. Believers can come before the Lord as often as they desire in solemn meetings without the obligation of bringing a monetary offering. This scriptural phrase is wrongly quoted by some assemblies every meeting day during offering time: **they shall not appear before the LORD empty:** This ministers guilt to the poor worshippers among them. This is not a commandment to the New Testament worshippers. The Christian worship congregation is made up of men, women and children, some of these are very old, very young or disabled, and some are very poor. We must not minister guilt to them during the worship service. This does not mean that believers should not bring an offering to God during the worship service. Freewill offering to God is acceptable during Christian worship service, but not mandatory as per the above instruction during the law.

The Three Kinds Of Tithing In The Law

A proper understanding of tithing commanded on Israel during the law is important to us who are in this dispensation of grace. This is because many Assemblies

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are into error concerning the subject of tithe payment. Some say tithing has been abolished with the law in Christ. Some others say since the Israelites were instructed to eat their tithes, they too can put their tithes to personal uses. Some other Assemblies also say the Israelites were instructed to give their tithes to the poor, the widows and the fatherless, they also will give their tithes to the poor around them.

2 Timothy 2:14-16:

14 Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.

15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

{I} The Tithe Of The Lord

This is the tithe which Israelites gave to God as His own portion in their earning.

Leviticus 27:30

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD.

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Leviticus 27:32

**And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock,
even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth
shall be holy unto the LORD.**

The above scriptures present God's universal commandment to all mankind and applied to godly men before the law, during the law and remains valid in this dispensation. Anyone who does not give tithes and offering to God has robbed Him of His property and such is cursed by Him.

Malachi 3:8, 9:

8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings.

9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed Me, even this whole nation.

Do not listen to ungodly teaching that forbids you from paying tithes to God your Creator. You are cursed in this earth and in eternity, for not paying the tithes of your income to the Lord. Repent and begin to do the right thing that you may prosper and inherit eternal life. However, the instructions God gave to Israel on how the tithes paid to Him should be treated, was restricted to the time of law. These instructions cease effect in this

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dispensation of grace. God's instruction on the tithes was as follows:

Numbers 18:21-32:

21 And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

24 But the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer as an heave offering unto the LORD, I have given to the Levites to inherit: therefore I have said unto them, Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance.

25 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

26 Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the LORD, even a tenth part of the tithe.

27 And this your heave offering shall be reckoned unto you, as though it were the corn of the threshingfloor, and as the fulness of the winepress.

28 Thus ye also shall offer an heave offering unto the LORD of all your tithes, which ye receive of the children of Israel; and ye shall give thereof the LORD'S

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heave offering to Aaron the priest.

32 And ye shall bear no sin by reason of it, when ye have heaved from it the best of it: neither shall ye pollute the holy things of the children of Israel, lest ye die.

The above passage shows that the Lord gave the Levites the right to use the tithes received on His behalf, since they did not have inheritance among Israel. The Levites too were instructed by the Lord to pay tithes to the Lord from the tithes received from the people. The priests were authorized by God to collect the tithes of the Levites and use same for their maintenance. The Levites were warned by God against abusing the issue of tithing. The judgment of God would come upon them, if they sinned in the issue of tithing.

Believers and ministers of the New Testament are living and operating on different covenant and promises from those of the priests and Levites under the Old Testament.

Hebrews 8:6, 7:

6 But now hath He obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

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The ministers of the New Testament have not been scripturally authorized to use the tithes people bring to the church in honour of God for their personal needs. There is no New Testament scriptural instruction or example in that respect. Tithes brought to God by His worshippers in a thriving church in a city is often a great sum of money. No holy minister will carry the tithes in the church to himself, without having his conscience defiled before God. However the New Testament has given instructions and promises on the maintenance of gospel ministers. The following are a few:

Galatians 6:6

Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

1 Corinthians 9:7- 15

7 Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?

8 Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also?

9 For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?

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10 Or saith He it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.

11 If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

12 If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.

13 Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?

14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

15 But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me: for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void.

Acts 20:33, 34:

33 I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel.

34 Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me.

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2 Thessalonians 3:7-9:

7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

The New Testament instructs those who benefit from the ministry of gospel ministers to support them financially or materially. However, the gospel minister is informed that he must not allow the gospel to be abused by those he desires support from. Hence he can resort to personal income generation service in the ministry, if required, in order to preserve himself in holiness and protect the purity of the gospel of the Lord Jesus. We shall learn more later how the tithes and offering brought to New Testament church should be used.

{II} Tithing For Personal Use At The Yearly Feasts In Jerusalem

God instructed the children of Israel to tithe their income yearly for their personal use. This tithe was not to be used when they were at home, but in Jerusalem during the yearly feasts. This instruction was required to

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provide for their maintenance during their annual feasts in Jerusalem. By this instruction no Israelite would miss going to Jerusalem for the stipulated annual feasts due to lack of provisions to satisfy their necessities in Jerusalem. Since the Levites also would attend the feasts at Jerusalem, they were instructed to support the Levites by giving them a part of this tithe for personal use.

Deuteronomy 14:22-29:

22 Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year.

23 AND THOU SHALT EAT BEFORE THE LORD THY GOD, IN THE PLACE WHICH HE SHALL CHOOSE TO PLACE HIS NAME THERE, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always.

24 And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it; or if the place be too far from thee, which the LORD thy God shall choose to set His name there, when the LORD thy God hath blessed thee:

25 Then shalt thou turn it into money, and bind up the money in thine hand, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose.

This tithe may be sold and the money taken to

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Jerusalem to cater for personal expenses during the meeting. Note that this is not the main tithe which is unto the Lord. The tithes brought to the Lord are for the Levites and must not be put to personal use. Note again that this is a commandment of the law and does not apply to believers of the New Testament. Nobody can put the Lord's tithe in his hand into personal use and be blameless.

{III} *The Tithe Of The Third Year*

The third and last kind of tithe is the tithe of the third year. The Lord instructed the Israelites to tax their resources on the third year and give them to the Levites, the widows, the fatherless and the strangers.

Deuteronomy 26:12, 13:

12 When thou hast made an end of tithing all the tithes of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled;

13 Then thou shalt say before the LORD thy God, I have brought away the hallowed things out of mine house, and also have given them unto the Levite, and unto the stranger, to the fatherless, and to the widow, according to all Thy commandments which Thou hast commanded me: I have not transgressed Thy

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commandments, neither have I forgotten them.

Since the land in Israel has been shared to tribes and families, the strangers among them may not have land to cultivate. The widows and orphans may not have those to provide for them. The Levites did not have inheritance among them. Hence the tithe of the third year is God's way of providing for the strangers, widows, and orphans and is His way of making additional provision for the Levites.

Remember that this is a commandment of the law and does not apply to believers of the new Testament. The New Testament informs believers to be charitable to the poor and to entertain strangers.

Galatians 2:10

Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.

Galatians 6:9

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Hebrews 13:1, 2:

1 Let brotherly love continue.

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2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

1 Timothy 6:17-19:

19 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

In summary an Israelite under the law paid twenty percent tithes every year: ten percent to God and ten percent for his expenses at Jerusalem during the early feasts. He paid thirty percent tithes every third year: ten percent to God, ten percent for expenses at the yearly feasts in Jerusalem and ten percent for the Levites, widows, fatherless and strangers.

In this time of grace the believer only pays ten percent as tithes to the Lord as practiced by the godly before the law.

Genesis 14:18-20:

18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.

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19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. AND HE GAVE HIM TITHES OF ALL.

Genesis 28:22

And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: AND OF ALL THAT THOU SHALT GIVE ME I WILL SURELY GIVE THE TENTH UNTO THEE.

Administration Of Tithes In The Old Testament

We shall examine the administration of tithes in the reign of King Hezekiah as stated below :

2 Chronicles 31:4-19:

4 Moreover he commanded the people that dwelt in Jerusalem to give the portion of the priests and the Levites, that they might be encouraged in the law of the LORD.

5 And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of corn, wine, and oil, and honey, and of all the increase of the field; and the tithe of all things brought they in abundantly.

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6 And concerning the children of Israel and Judah, that dwelt in the cities of Judah, they also brought in the tithe of oxen and sheep, and the tithe of holy things which were consecrated unto the LORD their God, and laid them by heaps.

7 In the third month they began to lay the foundation of the heaps, and finished them in the seventh month.

8 And when Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed the LORD, and His people Israel.

9 Then Hezekiah questioned with the priests and the Levites concerning the heaps.

10 And Azariah the chief priest of the house of Zadok answered him, and said, Since the people began to bring the offerings into the house of the LORD, we have had enough to eat, and have left plenty: for the LORD hath blessed His people; and that which is left is this great store.

19 Also of the sons of Aaron the priests, which were in the fields of the suburbs of their cities, in every several city, the men that were expressed by name, to give portions to all the males among the priests, and to all that were reckoned by genealogies among the Levites.

The passage shows the following:

{I} The tithes and offering were brought to the house

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of the Lord by the people.

{II} They were kept in store.

{III} Faithful men were appointed over them to distribute them accordingly to the priests and Levites.

This was done to encourage the priests and the Levites in the service of the Lord. The Lord blessed His people according to His promise.

Malachi 3:10

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.

The tithes brought to the house of the Lord in this dispensation goes into general uses for the furtherance of the gospel. They are not only restricted to the salaries and maintenance of gospel ministers and workers, but are also used for gospel projects and program.

Ecclesiastes 10:19

**A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry:
BUT MONEY ANSWERETH ALL THINGS.**

CHAPTER 6

THE STORE HOUSE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

We have established that giving of tithe to God is a divine injunction that is binding on all children of God today. It had been a human practice before the law of Moses and did not cease with the abolition of the law of Moses. Many who encountered the Lord Jesus Christ today by Divine Revelation reiterate the issue of tithing, according to the message they received from the Lord. You have read the account of a few of them which we presented earlier.

Malachi 3:8-10:

8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings.

9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed Me, even this whole nation.

10 Bring ye all the tithes into the STOREHOUSE, that there may be meat IN MINE HOUSE, and prove Me now

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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.

The question now is: Where is *the store house* in this gospel dispensation? The same passage presents the answer that *the store house* is the *House Of God*. The next question is: Where is *the house of God*? Let the scriptures answer this question. The following scriptures reveal where the house of God is.

{I} It is a place where two or three are gathered together in the name of the Lord for His worship.

Matthew 18: 20

For where two or three are gathered together IN MY NAME, there am I in the midst of them.

{II} It is a place where sin and evil are contended against in the zeal of the Lord.

John 2:14-17:

14 And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

15 And when He had made a scourge of small cords, He drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

16 And said unto them that sold doves, Take these

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things hence; make not MY FATHER'S HOUSE an house of merchandise.

**17 And His disciples remembered that it was written,
The zeal of Thine house hath eaten me up.**

{III} It is a place where the truth about God and His righteous ways as contained in the Holy Scripture is upheld and taught to mankind.

1 Timothy 3:15

But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

{IV} It is a place where people go to seek the living God in faith and prayer to receive His blessings for themselves and for others: salvation, righteousness and holiness; anointing, power and gifts of the Holy Spirit; healing deliverance and miracles; prosperity, protection, etc.

Isaiah 56:7

Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.

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{V} It is a place where sinners are evangelized and souls of saved men are conserved and nurtured in the word of God and in His righteousness.

Acts 2:40-42, 47:

40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

{VI} It is a place where ministers of God render service to God and to humanity by the will of God and in His righteousness. Hence it is a place where ministers of God preach the gospel.

2 Chronicles 31:2-5:

2 And Hezekiah appointed the courses of the priests and the Levites after their courses, every man according to his service, the priests and Levites for

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burnt offerings and for peace offerings, to minister, and to give thanks, and to praise in the gates of the tents of the LORD.

4 Moreover he commanded the people that dwelt in Jerusalem to give the portion of the priests and the Levites, that they might be encouraged in the law of the LORD.

5 And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brought in abundance the first fruits of corn, wine, and oil, and honey, and of all the increase of the field; and the tithe of all things brought they in abundantly.

1 Corinthians 9:13, 14:

13 Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?

14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

{VII} It is a place where believers meet to exhort and edify one another in the spirit of righteousness, holiness and Christian service in preparation for Christ's imminent return.

Hebrews 10:25

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as

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the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Luke 19:12, 13:

12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

Now the house of the Lord, the store house where tithes should be brought to is clear.

The Store House In This Gospel Dispensation

In this gospel dispensation the *store house* or the *house of God* consists of all Christian churches and ministries which operate in accordance with God's word. Some of them are denominational and some are non denominational or interdenominational. Some are membership oriented, while some are not. Some have large membership, some few. As the human body has many members which are each unique and diverse from the other, yet operate together as a single body, so also is the body of Christ, the church. There are many ministries in the body of Christ, according to the gift and calling of God for each minister. All these different and diverse ministries work together to accomplish the same

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purpose- the glory of the Lord and the salvation and eternal life of men, women, youths and children.

1 Corinthians 12:12

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

14 FOR THE BODY IS NOT ONE MEMBER, BUT MANY.

15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

18 BUT NOW HATH GOD SET THE MEMBERS EVERY ONE OF THEM IN THE BODY, AS IT HATH PLEASED HIM.

19 And if they were all one member, where were the body? 20 But now are they many members, yet but one body.

21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

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22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:

23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:

25 THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO SCHISM IN THE BODY; BUT THAT THE MEMBERS SHOULD HAVE THE SAME CARE ONE FOR ANOTHER.

26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

Christian ministries are diverse in nature, but aim at the same thing: the glory of the Lord and the salvation and eternal life of men.

The all wise God who set each member in our physical body has also in His wisdom set each ministry in Christ's body, the church. All the various ministries the Lord has raised up are essential to the church and to the world.

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God desires all of them to be supported. The great commission is not the work of one denomination, ministry or man of God. We are working together as a team to achieve it. Hence we must accept one another, provide for one another, encourage one another and protect one another. Resources come from ***the store house of God*** to all Christian churches, ministries and ministers. If this truth is understood and accepted, the excesses which some churches and Christian ministries have which they use to display their wealth and might, could be given to less privileged churches and ministries to advance the gospel of Christ in the world. If we claim we have one Lord Jesus then all our resources belong to Him and should be used selflessly for His name in whichever place He directs us. Hence the **store house** in this gospel dispensation is whichever Church or place of Christian service or ministry that God directs His obedient child to take His resources to for the progress of His service.

The Store House Before The Law

We have learnt that the saints of the Old Testament paid tithes even before the law was given to Moses. The issue we want to examine is where did they pay it or to whom did they pay it.

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Genesis 14:18-20:

20 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.

19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. AND HE GAVE HIM TITHES OF ALL.

We understand the following from the above passage of scripture:

{i} Melchizedek was a true servant of the most high God whom Abraham also served.

{ii} He was a priest of the most high God, a minister of righteousness.

{iii} He did not live in the same place with Abraham, hence, did not worship in the same place.

{IV} Abraham gave him tithes of all.

{v} Abraham did this because God is one all over the earth and His name should be exalted everywhere in the world and His ministers should be encouraged and supported wherever they live and work by the will of God.

{vi} Melchizedek ministered to Abraham freely in the

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name of the most high God as a fellow human being on earth whom he desired to edify and bless.

{vii} Melchizedek received these tithes from Abraham as a representative of God and put them to use in ways that would promote the name and service of the Lord.

The scripture revealed that Abraham's children yet in his loins paid tithes along with him to Melchizedek.

Hebrews 7:1-10:

1 For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;

2 To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;

8 And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth.

9 AND AS I MAY SO SAY, LEVI ALSO, WHO RECEIVETH TITHES, PAYED TITHES IN ABRAHAM.

10 For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.

The scripture said Melchizedek who **receiveth tithes liveth**. Abraham was promised children by God. These children of Abraham paid tithes in Abraham. Since we

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are children of Abraham by faith, we too should pay tithes in this dispensation of grace because he who **receiveth tithes from Abraham liveth.**

Galatians 3:7, 29:

7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

God declared Jesus Christ as a Priest after the order of Milchizedek. Jesus Christ *liveth* and *receiveth tithes* from the children of Abraham by faith, which children we are. Hence we must pay tithes to Him, to His *representatives* on earth.

Hebrews 7:17, 24:

For He testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

24 But this man, because He continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

God's Guidance In Tithes Payment

The scripture gives us an account of Jacob and the promise to Give a tenth of all he possessed to God on success and prosperous return from Haran.

Genesis 28:20-22:

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20 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on,

21 So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God:

22 And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: AND OF ALL THAT THOU SHALT GIVE ME I WILL SURELY GIVE THE TENTH UNTO THEE.

Jacob showed here that he would give the tenth of all that God would bless him with to the Lord. The question is, where did he pay his tithes? It is not stated, but it was according to the pattern laid down by Abraham and according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God guided him to where he would pay his tithes acceptably, faithfully and fruitfully to God. Believers today must be led by the Holy Spirit to where their tithes can be given to God acceptably, faithfully, fruitfully and rewardingly. The belief that tithes must be given to the church where one regularly worships God is a tradition and not a commandment or specification of the New Testament. As reasonable as this tradition seems, the believer must not be controlled by it, but by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit should lead the believer to where to give the tithe of the Lord, according to His will. That is the *store house* at that instance.

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Romans 8:14

For as many as are LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD, they are the sons of God.

Psalms 32:8

I will instruct thee and teach thee IN THE WAY WHICH THOU SHALT GO: I will guide thee with Mine eye.

Luke 5:4-7:

4 Now when He had left speaking, He said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

5 And Simon answering said unto Him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless AT THY WORD I WILL LET DOWN THE NET.

6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

As seen above, Peter and his brethren followed the normal principles of fishing, toiling all night without catching anything. But when he submitted to divine guidance from the Lord, they enclosed a great multitude

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of fishes and filled their ship plus their neighbour's to their amazement. If the believers will submit themselves to the guidance of God as to where to pay their tithes and which ministry to support financially at a given time, and not be limited by the tradition of paying tithes only to the church they worship with, there will certainly be great harvest of souls, much gospel progress and bountiful rewards. But much money and resources are wasted today because of tradition. How many of these churches use these resources and money for Jesus? How many invest them on evangelism and on the works of righteousness? Rather they use them to lay treasure on the earth where moth and rust corrupt and where men break through and steal.

Principles Of Tithing And Gospel Support For The Believer

The following should guide the believer on giving of tithes and material support for the work of the Lord:

{i} As you see the Lord Jesus as one Lord over the church, also see the true churches and ministries in the body of Christ as one, notwithstanding their different names and titles.

{ii} See that it is Jesus who has raised up the true churches and ministries to labour for Him in the work of the gospel.

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{iii} See that it is Jesus who has called the true ministers of the gospel and has given them the various ministries they operate in for His name: for the salvation of sinners and for the edification of the saints.

{iv} See that it is the one Spirit of Christ that has anointed these ministers with power and given them spiritual gifts for effective service in the body of Christ.

{v} Aim at the overall success of the church of Christ in the great commission given by The Lord.

{vi} See that you and your resources belong to the Lord and not to a man of God or a church, whatever role that man of God or church plays in your life.

{vii} See that Jesus is the sole provider for all true churches and ministries and for all His faithful ministers.

{viii} See that you are but a custodian of His money and material resources.

{ix} See that only He reserves the right to direct His resources in your hand to where He desires for His work and the glory of His name.

{x} Ensure that you seek His consent at all times on where to pay your tithes and give material support; do not seek to impress or satisfy a man or a church with your material resources, but God. It is God you should seek to satisfy.

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{xii} Know that the Lord can assign you and, or your resources to the support of a church, a ministry or a particular man of God, according to His will. Ensure you confirm such special guidance from Him.

{xiii} Know that it is not the will of God that your resources be used to support ungodly works and workers or be wasted.

{xiv} See that the tithe you pay to your church is done by the will and guidance of God and not by traditional bondage upon you. The belief that tithes must be paid to your immediate church or denomination is a tradition of men and not the word of God and is responsible today for the gospel setbacks and the many rich *Laodicean* churches that glory in their material wealth and riches and are unaware of their spiritual nakedness. Prayerfully, wisely and firmly avoid unscriptural traditions and the schemes set up to effect them on you.

{xv} Prayerfully, wisely and firmly avoid unscriptural traditions on tithing and the schemes set up to effect them on you, tithe card, tithe register, etc. Make your conviction on tithing known to your leader if necessary. Mind not the persecutions you may suffer because of this scriptural stand. God is with you! So you may invest your resources according to scriptural truth and Spirit's guidance in order to please God and receive

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His reward.

{xvi} Know that God can lead you to share your tithes among a number of churches, ministries or ministers, according to His will.

{xvii} As you freely release your money and material resources to serve God in other churches, ministries and ministers, God will use the members of other churches and ministries to serve His purpose in your church and in your ministers also, that there may be equality, if your church and ministers are true and obey Him.

{xviii} If you refuse to submit your resources to the will of God, the gospel of Christ will suffer and you will be accountable to God for that.

Tithe Of Tithes

Many churches and ministries pay tithes of tithes and encourage others to do. Every practice of the church today must be examined by the scriptures to see whether it is a scriptural command binding on us or not.

Acts 17:11

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

We will want to examine the issue of tithe of tithes as

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seen in the Old Testament. Abraham was a prophet of God. The tithes he paid to Melckizedek was not tithes of tithes, but the tithe of his earning at that time. The issue of tithe of tithe was unknown before the law was given to Moses. Tithe of tithes emanated during the law and was restrictive to the Levites. The priests were not included in this issue as seen below:

Numbers 18:26-29:

26 Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the LORD, even a tenth part of the tithe.

27 And this your heave offering shall be reckoned unto you, as though it were the corn of the threshingfloor, and as the fulness of the winepress.

28 Thus ye also shall offer an heave offering unto the LORD of all your tithes, which ye receive of the children of Israel; and ye shall give thereof the LORD'S heave offering to Aaron the priest.

29 Out of all your gifts ye shall offer every heave offering of the LORD, of all the best thereof, even the hallowed part thereof out of it.

The Lord hath given the Levite all the tithes which the

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Children of Israel brought to Him. In the passage of scripture above He instructed the Levites to see the tithes collected by them and all the gifts they received as their own earned income and so should pay tithes on it to the Lord. The Lord authorized the priests to collect for their use the tithes paid by the Levites. This is the doctrine of tithe of tithes practiced under the law. The temple did not pay tithes to the Lord out of the tithes and offerings collected from the people of Israel. The duty of those in charge of the temple and her administration was to put these tithes and offerings into right uses according to the specification of the law.

The commandment of tithe of tithes was restricted to the Levites only and is of the law. Tithe of tithes is not an instruction to the church of Christ. The church of Christ today is the temple or house of God. The church or Christian ministry could receive tithes from believers and disseminate them according to the will of God for gospel programs and projects. The church is not commanded to pay tithes to other churches or ministers. Those who want to do so should do it as a matter of their personal conviction or choice and not of commandment of scripture. We are not under the law and are not subject to that commandment. However, every minister of the gospel should pay tithes out of his earned personal income or quantifiable gift received. A man may not pay

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tithe out of the gift of a car received, but will pay tithe out of the gift of a good sum of money received. Again a man may not pay tithe out of the gift of one chicken received, but will pay tithes out of the gift of a good number of chickens received. The Holy Spirit will guide you in this area. You also may need the counsel of holy preachers who understand the truth of God's word in this area.

Numbers 18: 29

Out of all your gifts ye shall offer every heave offering of the LORD, of all the best thereof, even the hallowed part thereof out of it.

CHAPTER 7

GOD'S PROMISES OF BLESSING FOR CHRIST-LIKE GIVERS

God is the first giver. He gave us His only Son.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son...

What has God gained from giving us His Son? Great! He gained the following:

{i} The salvation of men, women, youths and children from sin, Satan and everlasting damnation in the lake of fire which makes Him joyful, happy and satisfied.

Luke 15:4-7:

4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

5 And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

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7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

{ii} He gained the praises, worship and service of the redeemed which are offered to Him in purity, love, joy and gladness.

Luke 1:74, 75:

74 That He would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve Him without fear,

75 In holiness and righteousness before Him, all the days of our life.

{iii} He gained by the turning of the kingdoms of this world to Him and His Christ.

Revelation 11:15

And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever.

{v} Today His name fills the earth, His will is done on earth as in heaven and the earth is full of His glory.

Malachi 1:11

For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down

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of the same My name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto My name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.

The Lord shall be praised and worshipped for ever and ever by His saints. All that belong to us shall be His for ever and ever. Similarly our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ came into this world as a man and gave Himself as a sacrifice for the salvation of men. What has He gained from this? Great! Being one with the Father, He gained all the above blessings of giving besides:

The highest exaltation and honour by the Father.

The highest and greatest name in heaven, earth and under the earth.

The highest and greatest authority in the universe.

The Lordship of heaven, earth and under the earth.

Perfect and eternal defeat of Satan and his evil kingdom.

The highest glory of the Father!

Philippians 2:9-11:

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of

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things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

If we give ourselves and material resources to the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and for the distribution of eternal life to men in the world in Christ-like spirit, we too shall receive great rewards.

Rewards Of Christian Giving

As seen above, God who gave us His Son has unspeakable rewards. Jesus also who gave Himself has unspeakable rewards. All who partake in this Christ-like giving, giving to support the gospel of Christ and His ministers: for the salvation of souls, establishment of believers in the word of truth, for the eternal life of men, women, youths and children, and for the glory of God on earth shall receive unspeakable rewards, both in this life and in the life to come. Let's examine the following scriptural promises:

{I} God Will Open The Windows Of Heaven

Only God understands the full content and operation of the promise below.

Malachi 3:10-12:

10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there

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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.

11 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.

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

If you will give your tithes and offerings to the house of the Lord for gospel programs and projects such as crusades, Retreats, ministerial training, production and distribution of gospel literature and materials, acquisition of vehicles, machines, lands, buildings, etc for the furtherance of the gospel, the Lord has given the following great promises for you in the above scripture:

- (i) He will open for your blessing the windows of heaven and pour upon you His blessings beyond measure.
- {ii} He will defeat Satan and his forces of evil against you, your property and possessions.
- {iii} The Lord will delight in you and make you

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honourable in this world.

{II} God Will Bless You

Azariah the chief priest remarked that God blessed His people who brought in tithes and offering to the house of the Lord.

2 Chronicles 31:5-10:

5 And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of corn, wine, and oil, and honey, and of all the increase of the field; and the tithe of all things brought they in abundantly.

8 And when Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed the LORD, and His people Israel.

10 And Azariah the chief priest of the house of Zadok answered him, and said, since the people began to bring the offerings into the house of the Lord, we have had enough to eat, and have left plenty: FOR THE LORD HATH BLESSED HIS PEOPLE; and that which is left is this great store.

When you give tithes and offerings to the house of God, the ministers and Christian workers will have food to eat, clothes to wear and money to maintain themselves. Their families also will be sustained to allow them minister well to the Lord and His people. The

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ministers will have required materials for their spiritual development and effectiveness. The above scripture reveals that the Lord blesses His people who are faithful in tithes and offerings, in order to strengthen the hands of His ministers. These blessings are diverse in nature and include: financial supply, healing, sound health, deliverance, protection, promotion, progress, prosperity, special answers to prayers, spiritual revival soundness, etc.

{III} You Shall Be Watered

Watering is required for hard and dry ground to make it prepared for sowing seed. Tenderly growing plants and transplanted plants need watering. This also applies to spiritual matters. Some gospel soil needs watering. Some gospel converts require tender care and protection. The widows, orphans, physically challenged, poor, sick, and others in the church require charity and care. They are encouraged by this tender care to continue in the faith. Many people respond to church and Christian programs when there is free transport and feeding. Some have no clothes to put on for church services and are encouraged to come for worship when they can get clothes and shoes to put on.

Proverbs 11:25

The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth

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shall be watered also himself.

He that gives himself to financial and material supply to assist the church minister, the poor and needy to facilitate their conversion and spiritual growth and establishment in the Christian faith is doing a great service to God. God has promised to make such a person fat in the blessings of God and water him in dry and hard times in his life. The Lord shall take good and tender care of him in this life.

{IV} *You Shall Be Filled With Joy*

There are some kinds of giving that are costly and painful. Such was the kind Christ did when He gave Himself for us on the cross. He cried with a loud voice due to pain and agony. But such cry and pains turned to great joy and gladness afterward because of the bounty harvest of sheaves.

Psalms 126:5, 6:

5 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

To some the amount involved in their tithing looks too great. Some others are led to give a large sum of money for gospel work. Some are poor and feel pained to give

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tithes and offerings from the little they have. Whatever is the case that causes you to sow in tears and to move forward in love and commitment to God doing the will of God in tears, you shall doubtless come again with rejoicing with great harvest of blessings, as promised. God shall surprise you in this life and shall sufficiently comfort you with His goodness.

{V} Sundry Promises

So many promises are given in the scripture to encourage righteous and faithful givers

2 Corinthians 9:8-15:

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.

10 Now He that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

12 For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;

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13 While by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;

14 And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you.

15 Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.

The numerous blessings in the above scripture include the following:

- {i} God will make all grace abound towards you.
- {ii} You will have all sufficiency in all things.
- {iii} Your righteousness shall remain steadfast.
- {iv} The Lord shall supply you food to eat.
- {v} He shall multiply your investments.
- {vi} He shall increase the fruits of your righteousness.
- {vii} The Lord shall enrich you in every thing to all bountifulness.
- {viii} Men shall glorify God because of you.
- {ix} The saints shall pray for you.
- {x} You will be considered a gift from God, worthy of thanksgiving to God by men.

CHAPTER 8

THE REWARDS OF BIBLE GIVERS

We shall examine some givers in scripture to see what blessings followed them from their service of righteousness.

{I} *Barzillai*

The Bible gives account of this blessed giver as follows:

2 Samuel 17:27-29:

27 And it came to pass, when David was come to Mahanaim, that Shobi the son of Nahash of Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and Machir the son of Ammiel of Lodebar, and Barzillai the Gileadite of Rogelim,

28 Brought beds, and basons, and earthen vessels, and wheat, and barley, and flour, and parched corn, and beans, and lentiles, and parched pulse,

29 And honey, and butter, and sheep, and cheese of kine, FOR DAVID, AND FOR THE PEOPLE THAT WERE WITH HIM, TO EAT: for they said, The people is hungry,

and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness.

God gave the throne of Israel to David, a man after God's heart, to rule in righteousness. David was a just king, ruling in the fear of God. God had promised to establish his kinship over Israel for ever and Jesus the Son of God would come into the world in the name of the Son of David to rule mankind forever. Satan wanted to disrupt this divine plan, hence, he stirred up Absalom to take over the kingdom. To save his life David and the multitude of men with him fled to the wilderness. This was an unprepared journey. How would they feed in the wilderness? Barzilai and his group loved God and loved David. They wanted to sustain David and his men that the will of God concerning him might be established. They wanted the ministry God had given David to prosper unfailingly. They supplied abundantly the resources they needed in the wilderness. He was immediately rewarded on earth when David was restored back to the kingdom; and that of heaven awaited him surely!

2 Samuel 19:31-38:

31 And Barzillai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim, and went over Jordan with the king, to conduct him over Jordan.

32 Now Barzillai was a very aged man, even fourscore

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years old: and he had provided the king of sustenance while he lay at mahanaim; for he was a very great man.

33 AND THE KING SAID UNTO BARZILLAI, COME THOU OVER WITH ME, AND I WILL FEED THEE WITH ME IN JERUSALEM.

34 And Barzillai said unto the king, How long have I to live, that I should go up with the king unto Jerusalem?

37 Let thy servant, I pray thee, turn back again, that I may die in mine own city, and be buried by the grave of my father and of my mother. BUT BEHOLD THY SERVANT CHIMHAM; LET HIM GO OVER WITH MY LORD THE KING; AND DO TO HIM WHAT SHALL SEEM GOOD UNTO THEE.

38 And the king answered, Chimham shall go over with me, and I will do to him that which shall seem good unto thee: and whatsoever thou shalt require of me, that will I do for thee.

David promised him appointment in his cabinet to make him rule with him in his government over the nation. What a reward for just one act of love and charitable service! The Lord has promised that we who give all for His name and the gospel shall sit with Him in His throne and rule with Him! Barzillai declined David's offer due to his old age, but rather requested for his son to take his place in that blessed appointment. The blessings

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of God on the righteous giver extends to his children! Giving for God's service is a sure investment for your posterity!!

{II} The Widow Of Zarephat

God knew the poverty of this widow, but sent Elijah to her to sustain him. He knew that the woman and her son were preparing to die for lack of food and desired to prevent that death. He knew that the widow had only one meal left and wanted to multiply it. The way to this divine intervention in her life was through costly giving-to sustain the man of God! The thought God has toward us is thought of peace and wellbeing and not of evil; He desires to give us our expected end.

1 Kings 17:8-16:

8 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,

9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.

10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and

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said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

12 And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.

14 For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.

15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.

16 And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.

All that the woman needed to do was faith and obedience. God was involved in this business!

2 Chronicles 20:20

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**... and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said,
Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem;
Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be
established; believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper.**

This widow obeyed the word of God from the man of God and went forth to act by faith. The miracle happened to her surprise and to amazement of men to this day. Thank God for Elijah, who did not fix his eyes on men. He would never have accepted to go to a widow woman who was about dying for lack of sustenance. But he was a man of faith who relied on God and followed strictly His word. He sought the glory of God and not his own wealth. Let the ministers of the gospel follow carefully divine leading and refuse to walk by sight and there shall be sufficient supply and enduring testimony for the glory of God.

The widow of Zarephat gained in her giving more than just the multiplication of food stuff. Her dead son was raised to life by Elijah whom she sustained by her giving spirit.

1 Kings 17:22-23:

22 And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.

23 And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him

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unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth.

The Lord knew that this woman's son would die and desired to show her mercy, but that would be if she would accept to provide for His minister. The rewards of giving are diverse in nature. Only God knows the full reward of an obedient act. Submit to God's special guidance in your life for a surpassing, surprising rewards.

{III} The Shunamite Woman

The Shunamite woman was godly and prosperous. She was kind-hearted and generous. She loved God and men that served the Lord in holiness. When Elisha came on her way she mobilized her husband that they might invest into his life and ministry. She had a dear need: she had no child. But this was not her drive for the support she rendered to the man of God. She was not sowing seed into his life to reap a child as many teach and practice today. They think that the gift of God can be bought with money; they do not know that they are doing evil before the God of grace. Rather this woman was doing service to God because she loved God.

2 Kings 4:8-11:

8 And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread.

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9 And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I PERCEIVE THAT THIS IS AN HOLY MAN OF GOD, which passeth by us continually.

10 LET US MAKE A LITTLE CHAMBER, I PRAY THEE, ON THE WALL; AND LET US SET FOR HIM THERE A BED, AND A TABLE, AND A STOOL, AND A CANDLESTICK: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither.

11 And it fell on a day, that he came thither, and he turned into the chamber, and lay there.

The God of grace and miracles moved Elisha to reward this generous woman by given her that which her heart desired but was hopeless about. Our God is a rewarder. He will reward our kind actions and generosity. He will reward our sacrifice for His name and His people.

2Kings 4:12-16:

12 And he said to Gehazi his servant, Call this Shunammite. And when he had called her, she stood before him.

13 And he said unto him, SAY NOW UNTO HER, BEHOLD, THOU HAST BEEN CAREFUL FOR US WITH ALL THIS CARE; WHAT IS TO BE DONE FOR THEE? wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host?

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And she answered, I dwell among mine own people.

14 And he said, What then is to be done for her? AND GEHAZI ANSWERED, VERILY SHE HATH NO CHILD, AND HER HUSBAND IS OLD.

15 And he said, Call her. And when he had called her, she stood in the door.

16 And he said, ABOUT THIS SEASON, ACCORDING TO THE TIME OF LIFE, THOU SHALT EMBRACE A SON. And she said, Nay, my lord, thou man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid.

17 And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life.

Satan manifested himself to disrupt the blessing of God in her life by causing the child to die, but the grace and power of God prevailed in her life. The devourer was rebuked and the child revived to her joy and the glory of the Lord.

2 Kings 4:18-37:

18 And when the child was grown, it fell on a day, that he went out to his father to the reapers.

19 And he said unto his father, My head, my head. And he said to a lad, Carry him to his mother.

20 And when he had taken him, and brought him to his

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mother, HE SAT ON HER KNEES TILL NOON, AND THEN DIED.

21 And she went up, and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door upon him, and went out.

22 And she called unto her husband, and said, Send me, I pray thee, one of the young men, and one of the asses, that I may run to the man of God, and come again.

33 He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the LORD.

36 AND HE CALLED GEHAZI, AND SAID, CALL THIS SHUNAMMITE. SO HE CALLED HER. AND WHEN SHE WAS COME IN UNTO HIM, HE SAID, TAKE UPTHY SON.

37 Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out.

If you are faithful and generous for the name of the Lord and for His people, God will meet your special needs. He will rebuke the devourer for your sake and protect you round about to His glory.

{iv} *The Woman That Anointed The Head of Jesus*

There are people who do not consider the cost when it comes to spending their resources on Jesus. This was the case with this woman.

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Matthew 26:6-9

6 Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper,

7 There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on His head, as He sat at meat.

8 But when His disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this wasted?

9 For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor.

This woman walked in to meet Jesus where He sat at meal among others in love, humility and determination for service and poured oil upon His head. The oil was very costly. Her action was not the easy type. It was done in public, in the view of everyone. Many misunderstood her. But the Holy Spirit had led her; she was bold and courageous. Many condemned her indeed. But the Lord justified her and pronounced upon her everlasting reward. Her courageous action earned her great reward!

Matthew 26:10-13:

10 When Jesus understood it, He said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon Me.

11 For ye have the poor always with you; but Me ye

have not always.

12 For in that she hath poured this ointment on My body, she did it for My burial.

13 Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.

Note that this woman did not render this service to the Lord for the reward of it, but in joy rendering a Spirit-led service to her Lord. This is the spirit of true service and Christian giving. You must be bold and courageous if you must carry out some special leading of God on Christian giving. You may not be understood by others. You may even be criticized and resisted. But if you can develop courage and boldness to do what God leads you to do, the Lord who has led you shall reward you exceedingly.

{v} *Tabitha/Dorcas*

Tabitha was a disciple of Christ. The Bible did not tell us how rich she was. But we are told how kind-hearted and generous she was to the people of God. She became sick and died.

Acts 9:36-39:

36 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named

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Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: THIS WOMAN WAS FULL OF GOOD WORKS AND ALMSDEEDS WHICH SHE DID.

37 And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.

38 And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them.

39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: AND ALL THE WIDOWS STOOD BY HIM WEEPING, AND SHEWING THE COATS AND GARMENTS WHICH DORCAS MADE, WHILE SHE WAS WITH THEM.

Her kind deeds spoke for her when she died. Those that enjoyed her charity teamed up against the spirit of death and prevailed by faith and prayed for her to return to life and continue her kindness. Apostle Peter was summoned for this purpose. The widows brought out her gifts to them and showed them to Peter.

Acts 9:40, 41:

40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha,

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arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

41 And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.

Your deeds of charity which you do in the name of the Lord gives you special place among men and provokes prayers and intercession for you among the saints. The faithful God answers these prayers over you to enrich you in all things so you may be able to continue to minister to the saints.

{vi} Philippian Believers

This is a case of a community church. Paul the apostle laboured in Philippi as he did in other cities and communities. Many of these places he had laboured did not consider to support him financially or materially. But the believers in Philippi were thoughtful and felt obligated as those who had benefited from his ministry to give him financial and material support in order to strengthen his hands in the work of the gospel.

Philippians 4:15, 16:

15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving

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and receiving, but ye only.

16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

Apostle Paul commended them for their benevolence and care over his life. He showed them that supporting the ministry of true servants of God gives them the privilege of partaking in the fruit of the gospel service of that minister in time and in eternity. Their material support made them partners with the apostle in his ministry in gospel labour, in the abounding fruit and in the heavenly reward. What a privilege to partner with a faithful minister of the gospel! It shall end you a heavenly crown of the soul winner!!

Philippians 4:17, 18:

17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

Some ministers do not know how to show appreciation to those who support them materially. Apostle Paul was an appreciative minister. He could express his joy plainly to those who have blessed his life

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in the name of the Lord so they might be encouraged to do more good to gospel ministers. He showed the Philippians that God accepted their gift which he described as **an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God.** More than just wished them eternal reward, he received divine inspiration to invoke upon them spiritual and material rewards:

Philippians 4:19, 20:

19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

20 Now unto God and our Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

What the Philippian Christians gave to Paul glorified God. Let the church learn how to take care of their ministers. If you invite a minister to your local church let the church bless him in the love of Christ with material gifts after his service. Supporting God's ministers glorifies Him.

{vi} Onesiphorus

When Isaac wanted to bless Esau his son, he asked for a present, an act of love that would give him the ground and inspiration to bless him. A gift received from a lover inspires the heart to utter words of blessing to the giver.

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Inspired by the gifts and loving care of Onesiphorus for his life, Apostle Paul uttered Spirit-inspired prayer to God for him.

2 Timothy 1:16-18:

16 THE LORD GIVE MERCY UNTO THE HOUSE OF ONESIPHORUS; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain:

17 But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me.

18 THE LORD GRANT UNTO HIM THAT HE MAY FIND MERCY OF THE LORD IN THAT DAY: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well.

Onesiphorus invested much of his resources into the life and ministry of Paul the Apostle. He often refreshed him. He ministered to the necessity of Paul when he was in Ephesus. When Paul was in prison in Rome, he visited him in prison and gave him fellowship, love and provisions. His brotherly love and charity deeply comforted Paul who was deserted by many brethren at this time of adversity. Paul prayed apostolic prayer for Onesiphorus that:

{i} The Lord might give mercy to Onesiphorus and to all the members of his house. This is a prayer for God's

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sufficient grace for every one of his house members. It is blessed to belong to a benevolent and charitable family. Encourage your spouse, your parent and your children to give for the name of the Lord and you shall share in the blessings from God.

{II} *The Lord might show him mercy by granting him eternal life at the end.* This is the best wish and prayer for a mortal man. Onisiphorus received this fervent prayer from God's faithful Apostle. May the Lord grant you favour before God and His ministers as you sincerely, diligently and richly bless His course and His ministers with your resources.

{viii} Gaius

Gaius was a sound believer who believed the total truth of the Holy Scripture. He committed himself to walk in the truth and to support those that practiced and preached the truth. He gladdened the heart of Apostle John who gave a public commendation of him.

3 John 1:3, 4:

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.

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

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Gaius was patriotic for the truth. He supported preachers of truth with his resources in order to promote and spread of the true gospel. The whole church knew him as a lover and supporter of the truth. Apostle John had confidence in him and encouraged him to continue his material support for true preachers.

3 John 1:5-8:

5 Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;

6 WHICH HAVE BORNE WITNESS OF THY CHARITY BEFORE THE CHURCH: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:

7 Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.

8 We therefore ought to receive such, THAT WE MIGHT BE FELLOWHELPERS TO THE TRUTH.

We are exhorted here to help the spread of the true gospel. This can be achieved by supporting the ministry of true preachers with our money and material resources. Apart from apostolic commendation and confidence which he gained in this patriotic stand on truth, the Apostle prayed for his prosperity and sound health.

3 John 1:1, 2:

1 The elder unto the well-beloved Gaius, whom I love in

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the truth.

**2 Beloved, I wish above all things THAT THOU MAYEST
PROSPER AND BE IN HEALTH, even as thy soul
prospereth.**

If you love the truth of the gospel to be preached, then support preachers, churches and ministries that are committed to the true gospel with your money and material resources. To fight error we must promote the truth. In this day of multiplied errors, may the Lord raise up financiers among those that love the truth who will release their resources to fight the battle for truth, the good fight of faith. The Lord shall pour His double prosperity upon them and commend them publicly before God and man.

CHAPTER 9

CONDITIONS FOR DIVINELY ACCEPTABLE GIVING

Romans 12:1, 2:

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, THAT YE PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY, ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

There are those who are more concerned for the gift presented than the state of the giver. These ones receive all gifts without questioning, and bless every giver without considering their state in the sight of God. But the scripture reveals that God is more concerned with the state of the giver than the gift presented by him.

Matthew 5:23, 24:

23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there

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rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

**24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way;
FIRST BE RECONCILED TO THY BROTHER, AND THEN
COME AND OFFER THY GIFT.**

There are conditions for your gift to be accepted by God. These include the following:

{i} Genuine Repentance

God is more concerned for your righteousness than your sacrifice and service. Apostle Peter rebuked Simon the sorcerer who in bond of iniquity offered money to him. His heart was not right in the sight of God.

Acts 8:18-23:

18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, HE OFFERED THEM MONEY,

19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

20 But Peter said unto him, THY MONEY PERISH WITH THEE, BECAUSE THOU HAST THOUGHT THAT THE GIFT OF GOD MAY BE PURCHASED WITH MONEY.

21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

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22 REPENT THEREFORE OF THIS THY WICKEDNESS, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

23 For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

The sinner has no portion in this holy service. The gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is not a business investment opportunity for sinners to give and take and make quick riches. All who give in sin have no reward from God. Many preachers work in opposite direction to God. They are more interested in the money and material gifts of the people than in their righteousness . These preachers do not profit the people at all. They are not ministers of truth and righteousness, but of their own belly. Peter firmly declared to Simon the sorcerer that he was sinful and wicked. Giving money earned in sin to God is equally wickedness and incurs the judgment of God.

Deuteronomy 23:18

Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog, into the house of the LORD thy God for any vow: for even both these are abomination unto the LORD thy God.

Repentance from sin, evil works and professions is required of the sinner. To give to God acceptably you

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must first give yourself to Him. You must first accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. It is only by this that you and your material resources belong to Him and your gifts can be precious in His sight. This was the situation with the churches of Macedonia. They first gave themselves to God and His righteousness and then committed their resources to support His course and His faithful ministers.

2 Corinthians 8:1, 5:

1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

5 And this they did, not as we hoped, BUT FIRST GAVE THEIR OWN SELVES TO THE LORD, AND UNTO US BY THE WILL OF GOD.

Are you a child of God? Do you love Him? Do you desire His salvation for mankind? Then commit your resources to spreading His word in the world.

{ii} Holiness

God is holy. The Bible says without holiness we cannot see Him. His followers must be holy inside their hearts and in their clothing and adornment for their gifts and service to be accepted by Him.

Romans 12:1, 2:

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of

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God, THAT YE PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY, ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Seek purity of heart and holiness of life so that your gifts can be pure and holy before the Holy God. Your clothing and adornment must be according to the word of His righteousness. To dress in abominable clothing and adornment as harlots and wayward men do and come with gifts to God is to abuse His holy presence and attract His judgment. The money and material gifts brought as offering must not be stolen property. They must not be the gains of lies. They must not be the gains of treachery and human oppression. They must be gained in truth and righteousness.

Malachi 1:6-8:

6 A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise My name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised Thy name?

7 YE OFFER POLLUTED BREAD UPON MINE ALTAR; and

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**ye say, Wherein have we polluted Thee? In that ye say,
The table of the LORD is contemptible.**

8 AND IF YE OFFER THE BLIND FOR SACRIFICE, IS IT NOT EVIL? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

Fear God! Respect God! Honour God! Be clean and holy and let your gifts also be clean and holy, befitting the holy God.

{iii} Willing And Cheerful Heart

Although our resources are given to us by God and He naturally expects us to give Him His portion in acknowledgment of His Fatherhood, yet He does not force us into this obedience. Give to God willingly, happily, joyfully and with understanding. Give Him in appreciation of His kindness. Rejoice in the privilege you have to give to the Lord.

Exodus 25:1, 2:

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2 Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering: OF EVERY MAN THAT GIVETH IT WILLINGLY WITH HIS HEART ye shall take My offering.

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2 Corinthians 9:7

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: FOR GOD LOVETH A CHEERFUL GIVER.

There are many preachers who use all means and say all things in order to extract money from people. If you are not led to give, your heart is not willing, you are complaining, murmuring, and grudging because you feel forced, your gift cannot be accepted by God, hence, don't give. God loves a gift or service that is rendered out of a joyful and willing heart. Do not submit to the compulsion of preachers who are bent on extracting money from their audience in the name of giving it to God. Those are ignorant of His ways. There is no reward for such compulsive giving, because such is giving to the one who compelled you and not to God who seeks your willing and cheerful heart.

{iv} Service To God

Christian giving is a service naturally expected of children of God. It may not be seen as a business deal with God in which we expect Him to pay us for everything we give or do in His name. We feel happy and satisfied when we give to God our Father. Often we expect nothing back from Him, but His love and fellowship.

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1 Chronicles 29:8-14:

8 And they with whom precious stones were found gave them to the treasure of the house of the LORD, by the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite.

9 Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.

14 BUT WHO AM I, AND WHAT IS MY PEOPLE, THAT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO OFFER SO WILLINGLY AFTER THIS SORT? for all things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee.

David and his men gave willingly and cheerfully to the Lord for the construction of His magnificent temple. Their minds were not on the reward of their giving. Rather they rejoiced for the privilege to serve God with their material resources. They praised and worshiped God for accepting their gift and service of love. We too must have this attitude in our giving to God.

{v} Faith in His Promises

We have understood that we should give to God as service rendered to our Creator without thinking of receiving reward for our service. However we see in scripture also that God is a rewarder. All who have given

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to Him were clearly rewarded by Him one way or the other. God Himself has given several promises in scripture assuring Christian givers of His rewards.

Malachi 3:10

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.

Luke 6:38

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

These promises are true and effectual. They are a call on us to believe God for His reward when we faithfully and righteously give Him our material resources. God is faithful to His promise. Therefore give Him in faith that He will reward you according to His promise.

Hebrews 6:10-15:

10 FOR GOD IS NOT UNRIGHTEOUS TO FORGET YOUR WORK AND LABOUR OF LOVE, WHICH YE HAVE SHEWED TOWARD HIS NAME, in that ye have ministered

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to the saints, and do minister.

11 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

13 For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself,

14 SAYING, SURELY BLESSING I WILL BLESS THEE, AND MULTIPLYING I WILL MULTIPLY THEE.

15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

Faith demands patience. Those who have walked with God by faith have also been men and women of patience. Times and seasons of His blessings are in the hands of God and you must wait for the time of His visitation which His wisdom has calculated. But you must continue your work of faith and labour of love till His promises become “yea and amen” in your life.

{vi} Prayer of Blessings

The promises of God often require prayers for their fulfillment. When you have obeyed the word of God and given your tithes and offering, pray that God may fulfill His promise. Request from Him His blessing upon your

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life.

Psalms 118:25

Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity.

1 John 5:14, 15:

14 And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us:

15 And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.

Perseverance and humility should characterize our prayer. In due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

CHAPTER 10

THE APPROPRIATE PLACE TO GIVE FOR GOD'S WORK

If you are a child of God, you are born again, you know the true teaching of the word of God, you are living a holy life, you are determined to enter heaven, you are waiting for the rapture of the saints which shall take place soonest, you are sorrowful for the doom hanging over sinners around you and in the world, you are grieved over the state of the church today, backslidden and lukewarm, you long for the revival of true Christianity in your community and in the world, you desire to kindle it or to support the fires of end time revival of the true gospel of Christ Jesus with your money and material resources, then it essential you know where to invest your resources in order to realize your desire. The types of churches and ministries in our world today are presented in the following scriptures.

{i} The Broad Way And The Narrow Way Churches

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The two ways stated in the scripture below represents the two kinds of churches and ministries in the world today.

Matthew 7:13, 14:

13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, THAT LEADETH TO DESTRUCTION, and many there be which go in therat:

14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, WHICH LEADETH UNTO LIFE, and few there be that find it.

Many churches and ministries are in the broad way and their end is hell fire. You would not use your resources to support hellish business! You would not want to encourage anyone to go to hell with your tithe and offering. You may be in one of these churches yourself as Lot was in Sodom, but Lot would not pay his tithes in Sodom! Every investment done in Sodomic churches and ministries shall be destroyed by fire.

Few churches and ministries are in the narrow way to heaven. Support churches, ministries and ministers that are following the narrow way with your money and material resources. They have the divine calling and direction. They have the message and doctrines of truth. They have the vision and are on the mission of bringing souls to Christ and believers to His holiness. They have

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the divine backing of the Trinity. They are committed to the heavenly vision and are determined to carry men to heaven. They have the life and the discipline for the ministry. They shall surely inherit eternal life alone with those that accept their work. Support them with your money and material resources, whatever denominational or ministry name they are called by. They are of God and are trustworthy. Financiers of the broad way are many, but of the narrow way, the financiers are few. Be a narrow way financier!

{ii} Bad And Good Ground Churches And Ministries

The following scriptures reveal four types of ground that receive the seed of God's word. Three are bad grounds and only one is good ground.

Matthew 13:3-9:

9 And He spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

4 And when he sowed, SOME SEEDS FELL BY THE WAY SIDE, and the fowls came and devoured them up:

5 SOME FELL UPON STONY PLACES, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:

6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

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7 AND SOME FELL AMONG THORNS; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

8 BUT OTHER FELL INTO GOOD GROUND, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

You are a sower who has money and material resources to sow into the gospel of Christ Jesus. The Lord Himself is telling you that not all grounds are good for sowing, if you desire a harvest. He gave the characteristics of each ground as follows:

{i} *The Way-Side Churches*

Matthew 13:19

When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

The men who receive the tithes and offering in the way-side church do not have spiritual understanding on their use for God's glory. This money is being taken over by Satan for the promotion of sin and wickedness, to make them twice the children of hell. There is no spiritual fruit for you the sower, but rather judgment for encouraging wickedness with your money.

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{ii }*The Stony-Heart Churches*

Matthew 13:20, 21:

20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

This kind of churches or ministries carry out some activities or projects that appear to be for the interest of the gospel, but there is no root, no continuity, no sincerity, no salvation of souls, no holiness of members, hence no spiritual value for the money they have received. Money and material resources invested in this kind of churches or ministries have no eternal reward from God because they have not served His purpose.

{iii }*Thorny- Churches*

Matthew 13:22

He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

These churches are given to the love of the world and for riches. They spend money a lot on cathedrals,

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decorations, parties, ceremonies and fancies. The ministers dress in costly and flamboyant attires and travel round the world for sight-seeing. They build the best houses and buy the best cars. All the money get wasted with riotous living. Spiritual activities for soul winning and Christian establishment in righteousness and holiness are not considered. They have a name and wide expanse but are dead. Your tithes and offering in churches of this nature have no reward.

All the above three categories of churches have enough members to finance them, but for you, concentrate on the true churches which are good ground for sowing your financial seed.

Luke 9:60

Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

{iv} The Good-Ground Churches

Matthew 13:23

But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

This kind of church or ministry has understanding. They have the knowledge and understanding of God, of

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the Lord Jesus Christ, of the power and works of the Holy Spirit, of the gospel message and how to effectively present it to men. They need money and material support. They are faithful stewards of Christ who put His resources to judicious use for the salvation of mankind and establishment of believers in righteousness and holiness. These are the churches and ministries you need to invest into for end time gospel revival. Scatter your resources among them or concentrate your resources on any one of them, whichever way the Lord leads you.

{iii} The False And The True Ministers

The Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers, etc. we have today are categorized into false ministers and true ministers. Each group is looking for money. The Bible speaks of these two categories of ministers.

{a} Description Of False Ministers

The passage below describes the false ministers.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15:

13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose

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end shall be according to their works.

The above scripture gives the following description of these evil ministers:

- {i} They are false ministers, destitute of the truth of Christ.
- {ii} They are deceitful ministers, who glory in their ability to make people believe their lies.
- {iii} They are ministers of Satan, appointed by him and sent to distort the gospel of Christ and damn the souls of men.
- {iv} They camouflage as ministers who preach righteousness.
- {v} They and their followers shall end up in destruction.

The above ministers are soliciting for funds for their work. They want tithes and offering to be paid to their church and ministry. They have great programs and projects they want to raise funds to execute. To support these ministers with your money puts you at war against Jesus, the salvation of the souls of men and the establishment of Christ's church on truth, righteousness and holiness. These false preachers must not be supported. Their building projects, crusade programs, conferences, and traveling round the world must never

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receive financial support of righteous children of God. They have enough of their kind to sponsor them.

2 John 1:9-11:

9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, RECEIVE HIM NOT INTO YOUR HOUSE, neither bid him God speed:

11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

The money in our hands belongs to God. It must not be given to support His enemies.

{b} Description Of True Gospel Preachers

What Apostle Paul said about Himself and about the ministers that work with him is a good description of true gospel preachers.

2 Corinthians 4:1, 2:

1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

2 BUT HAVE RENOUNCED THE HIDDEN THINGS OF DISHONESTY, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of

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the truth commanding ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

- {i} They have been saved from sin by the mercy of God through faith on the Lord Jesus Christ.
- {ii} They have been given the Christian ministry according to the grace and calling of God.
- {iii} They are able and zealous ministers of the gospel.
- {iv} They ensure sin and evil do not cleave to them in their walk with God and service for Him.
- {v} They do not use human wisdom or craftiness in the ministry; they are not pursuing personal gains or ambitions.
- {vi} They are not liars or deceivers; what they preach and teach is the word of God and not human philosophy.
- {vii} The truth they teach is verifiable from the Holy Bible.
- {viii} Those who see them acknowledge that they are righteous, holy and true.
- {ix} God who sees into the heart approves them through signs and wonders in the name of Jesus.

These are the ministers you are to support. Whatever

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you give to them is truly given to the Lord. These are they who have the mandate to evangelise the world, plant churches and teach the believers the whole counsel of God. Partner with them through your money and material resources. Pray for them as you support them materially that the work of God may prosper in their hands. Please do not allow any one of them to be starved because he is not in your denomination. There is no denomination in Christ and in heaven. May the Lord grant you deep understanding in this matter.

Making A Vow Or Pledge For God's Work.

Believers are often called upon to make vows or pledges for the work of God. The vow or pledge should state how much he or she will give for the work of God within a given time. Children of God must be careful when making a vow. The following scriptures should guide you.

Psalms 76:11

Vow, and pay unto the LORD your God: let all that be round about Him bring presents unto Him that ought to be feared.

Ecclesiastes 5:4

4 When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for He hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou

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hast vowed.

5 Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.

2 Corinthians 8:12, 13:

12 For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.

13 For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened.

Take note of the following facts:

{i} Do not make vow or pledge in a rush; ponder well before doing so.

{ii} Do not commit yourself to pledging an amount which you have no ability or opportunity to redeem.

{iii} Do not specify a time limit which you are uncertain of.

{iv} Do not submit to force or pressure to make a vow or pledge.

{v} Firmly resist vowing if you are not willing or convinced to do so.

{vi} When you make a vow or pledge ensure that you redeem it, because it is a sin to vow and not redeem it.

{vii} If it is applicable, let an “If” be in your promise,

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as, “I will give this or do this if...”

{viii} In case of some accidents of life you are sincerely incapable of redeeming your vow or pledge contact the church and make your case known for their consideration and Spirit guided decision.

Beware Of The Prevalent Doctrine Of Seed Sowing

Many preachers induce their audience to “Sow seed,” so God may answer or bless them speedily. This strange doctrine suggests that whatever you want from God, just give Him something and God will answer you and you will have what you are looking for. Some go to the point of saying the more your offering, the faster or more surely the answer to your prayer. Preachers of seed sowing do not bother about the sins of the people. To them what is more important is their gift of money and material resources to God. Some of these preachers demand money and material gifts from those that come to them for prayer. Some others go into negotiation of how much money to give for deliverance to be carried out. Apostle Paul lamented because of these preachers:

Philippians 3:17-19:

17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and

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now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

God is being misrepresented by these preachers. His free offer of salvation and blessings through Christ are made “for sale” by these preachers. The scriptural command below is not heeded

Matthew 10:8

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: FREELY YE HAVE RECEIVED, FREELY GIVE.

Jesus declared that He came to preach the gospel to the poor. But these preachers deprive the poor of Christ's gospel because they have no money to buy it. The God they present to them can only be pleased with money. Unfortunately the poor do not have money and so cannot benefit from Him. Certainly they are not of God, but of the devil. Many of them use demonic power to heal the sick and do the commercial miracles which they do. They specialize on the use of handkerchiefs, anointing oil, holy water and other physical substances. Note the following:

{i} The salvation, healing, deliverance, miracles and

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all blessings of God are free and cannot be bought with your money.

{ii} It is a sin in the sight of God to offer money for them.

Acts 8:20

But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

{iii} Seek the salvation and blessing of God through genuine repentance, righteous and holy living, faith on the promises of God and on the name of Jesus, restitution of past wrong actions, praying together with righteous brethren, receiving prayers from true men and women of God.

{iv} Avoid preachers who parade themselves about with handkerchiefs, anointing oil, holy water and other physical substances. These things are made to take away your faith from Jesus. The way these false preachers use anointing oil is not scriptural.

{v} Most of the testimonies these preachers share are untrue and are designed for your money and material possession.

{vi} Sometimes the Holy Spirit can inspire you to give a challenging offering to God as a demonstration of

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faith in Him so that He may manifest Himself in a specific area of need in your life. But this is rare and should not be a common practice. No preacher should induce this in your life, asking you to give God money {seed faith} before your prayers would be answered.

{vii} Be patient and wait for the time of God's visitation in your life; do not complicate your issue by running to covetous preachers and soothsayers who pretend to be God's ministers.

CHAPTER 11

CHRISTIAN GIVING TO THE POOR AND NEEDY

God is compassionate and caring. In His commandment to Israel, He made sufficient provision for the poor and needy among them. He Exhorted the Israelites to be compassionate to the poor and to open their hand wide to them.

Deuteronomy 15:7-11

7 If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother:

8 BUT THOU SHALT OPEN THINE HAND WIDE UNTO HIM, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth.

11 FOR THE POOR SHALL NEVER CEASE OUT OF THE LAND: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and

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to thy needy, in thy land.

Under the ministry of Jesus the disciples witnessed compassionate care for the poor by the Lord Jesus Christ. The scriptures reveal this.

Matthew 19:21

Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, AND GIVE TO THE POOR, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow Me.

Matthew 26:8-9:

8 But when His disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste?

9 For this ointment might have been sold for much, AND GIVEN TO THE POOR.

Helping the poor and needy was part of apostolic focus and exhortation to believers in the early church.

Galatians 2:10

Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.

The following reasons account for the presence of the poor among us.

{i} Body infirmity, such as deformity, sickness, etc.

{ii} Natural disaster, such as floods, earthquake, etc.

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- {iii} Accidents of life, such as fire outbreak, etc.
- {v} Thefts
- {vi} unemployment.
- {vii} widowhood
- {viii} Sin, laziness
- {ix} Etc.

Believers have responsibility towards the poor and needy. We must remember that they are creatures of God with eternal souls. Their condition may affect their response to the gospel and continuity in it. The devil takes advantage of their state to tell them God does not exist, God hates them, and God cannot help them. The poor among us need love, care and friendliness. They need supply of needs, recognition, honour, intercessory prayers and visitation. They need to be evangelized, to be exhorted to faith, righteousness and holiness. They need comfort and encouragement. Through our practical love and care for them many of them will find the Lord and shall inherit eternal life. Helping the poor is a rewarding service.

Psalms 41:1-3

1 Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.

2 The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and

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he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies.

3 The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.

Proverbs 19:17

He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will He pay him again.

Providing For Needy Brethren In The Church

Galatians 6:10

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Believers are exhorted to do good to all men in the world. Through our good works and benevolence many sinners and religious men and women will be attracted to Jesus and gospel doors will be opened for us in their lives. In this same way believing wives are instructed to be obedient and kind to their unbelieving husbands. However, the apostle showed that more attention should be given to the poor and needy among the saints. Be concerned for the less privileged brethren. Strengthen them as much as you can that they may enjoy Jesus as you do. Provide for them money, wears, food,

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sponsorship, and medical care. Marry for them if you can. Be willing that God may use you to fulfill His promise or promises in their lives. The early church brethren provided for the poor and needy among them, both for those who were far and those who were near.

Acts 11:28-30:

28 And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.

29 Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea:

30 Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2:

1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.

2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gathering when I come.

2 Corinthians 8:1-4

1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

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

3 For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;

4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

The churches of Christ in the apostolic era cared for one another. Churches which faced hardship were supported to protect the faith of the believers. This same spirit is required today. Denominationalism of the churches of Christ today should not blind our eyes to the fact that we all belong to one body. True churches of Christ must care for one another without denominational restrictions.

God's Word To Rich Men And Women In Christ

The Lord is the One that makes His children rich in this world. He gives the power, privilege, wisdom, and grace to make wealth to His children. Not all are materially rich as we can see in scripture and in real life. But in the body of Christ there are brethren who are financially and materially rich. God knows the blessings of riches and the destructive force of riches. When riches and wealth are handled well, they give earthly and

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eternal blessings.

Proverbs 10:22

The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it.

However when material riches and wealth are not subjected to the word of God in their uses and management, they result in all kinds of miseries and the everlasting damnation of hell fire.

James 5:1-6

1 Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.

2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten.

3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

4 Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.

5 Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.

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6 Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.

The following counsels are important to guide the rich and wealthy believer.

{I} Do not set your heart on money, but on God.

1 Timothy 6:9-12:

9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Do not love money; do not set your heart on riches; instead love God and set your heart on Him. Do not pursue after riches and human greatness, instead follow after righteousness, faith, humility, kindness, and brotherly love. Do all that is in your power and in the

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grace of Christ to remain in Christ's righteousness and holiness in order to inherit eternal life.

{ii} Do not serve money; serve God only.

Matthew 6:24

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Do not serve money or riches; instead serve the Lord your God. Do not share your service between money and God, instead cleave to God and serve only Him. Do not abandon the worship of God in the church. Do not abandon your Bible study, devotional life and prayer due to lack of time for spiritual things or because of the pressure of riches. Remain attached to your Bible, to prayer and fellowship of the brethren.

{iii] Do not associate closely with the rich and great men of this world.

1 Corinthians 15:33

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Do not seek identification and friendship with the rich and great men of this world. They do not know Jesus. Their ways are not righteous. Many of them have sold

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their souls to Satan. They will certainly corrupt you and destroy your faith and hope in Christ. You will learn their ways and suffer damnation. Do not go into business partnership with them. God forbids that. Relate with them in a general sense only as duty brings you together, but not as close and intimate friends. Seek fellowship with the brethren. Be humble and be content to identify with the lowly in Christ who are rich in faith, prayer and righteousness; they will strengthen your spiritual life and keep you from falling.

{Iv} Seek the will of God for all things.

James 4:13-15:

13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

3 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

Seek the will of God in all you do. Do not go into any

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investment without seeking the will of God. Do not embark on any project without seeking God's will. Projects or investments done to make a name, create wealth or to impress others promote pride and spiritual death. These also result in wastage of the Lord's resources in your hand. Carry out investments and projects by God's will and guidance. What He directs you to do His grace will be sufficient for you to keep you truthful, righteous and humble.

{v} Lay your treasure in heaven.

Matthew 6:19-21

21 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Lay up for yourself treasures in heaven by giving your tithes and offering faithfully. It was said of a rich man who began with giving ten percent tithe to God and later increased the portion of God to twenty percent and later to thirty, later to forty, until God's portion became ninety

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percent and His ten percent. The blessings of God were great in his life, even in this life, how much greater in heaven! Investing your resources in God's work will keep your heart fixed on God and heaven where your treasure is.

{vi} Trust in God and not in your wealth.

1 Timothy 6:17

**Charge them that are rich in this world, that
they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain
riches, but in the living God, who giveth us
richly all things to enjoy.**

God is a Defense for those that trust in Him. Money also possess to be a defence to the rich. Reject the defense offered by money and wealth which inspires pride, arrogance and contempt of the law. Trust in God makes you meek, careful, humble, gentle and righteous. Trust in God keeps you truly protected and peaceful. Money and riches are temporal. They can vanish anytime. To boast because of them is as one with a closed fist boasts that he has enclosed much air in his hand. At any time he opens his hand he sees nothing. God is everlasting God: Trust in Him when things are shaking, going down or going up. Trust Him to give you victory, wisdom, favour, open door and sound health, and

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protection. Those that trust in God will not be moved. A rich man was asked, “Sir, if all these great riches you have are taken away, will you get them again?” He answered, “Yes, because my riches and wealth come from God. He will cause them to come again.”

{vii}Be Rich In Good Works

1 Timothy 6:17-19:

17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Be good, very good. Be kind, very kind. Be merciful and compassionate towards the poor and needy. Let God guide you into fruitful giving. Help the poor, strengthen the weak and encourage the discouraged in life through your resources. Be generous to all men, especially to those in the body of Christ.

Things To Watch Against

Proverbs 4:20-27:

20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto

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my sayings.

21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

24 Put away from thee a foward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

25 Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.

26 Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

27 Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

There are things to watch against in the *ministry of giving* for the work of God and for the welfare of brethren. To maintain your righteousness and enjoy the rewards of Christian giving, the following should be observed.

{i} Watch against pride and high-mindedness in your life due to praise and honour of men; watch also against rough and arrogant utterance due to pride.

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{ii} Watch against men giving you worship and undue praise due to the kindness they enjoy from you.

{iii} Do not over enrich a church or a man of God to the point they lose focus on God and serve money. If you have much to give, remember other true churches and men of God too. God wants them to enjoy His sufficient supply too.

{iv} Make sure you do not remove the faith of the man of God from God to yourself and that you do not take over the control of the man of God or the church from God through your money. Deal wisely and humbly.

{v} Use various methods in ministering your gifts for the purpose of protecting yourself and the others and giving all the glory to God:

Give publicly

Give privately

Give secretly

Give directly

Give indirectly, using someone else.

{vi} Pray always for God to give you sufficient grace for this ministry of giving and battle in faith against Satan who always seeks to corrupt your service before God.

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{vii} Some cases of Christian giving may require sufficient counsel before you can embark on them. Please, seek godly counsel on such cases, that your good deed may not be misinterpreted.

Exodus 35:4, 5, 20-35:

4 And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying,

5 Take ye from among you an offering unto the LORD: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD; gold, and silver, and brass,

20 And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses.

21 And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the LORD'S offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments.

22 And they came, both men and women, as many as were willing hearted, and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold: and every man that offered an offering of gold unto the LORD.

23 And every man, with whom was found blue, and

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purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, and red skins of rams, and badgers' skins, brought them.

24 Every one that did offer an offering of silver and brass brought the LORD'S offering: and every man, with whom was found shittim wood for any work of the service, brought it.

25 And all the women that were wise hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, both of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine linen.

26 And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair.

27 And the rulers brought onyx stones, and stones to be set, for the ephod, and for the breastplate;

28 And spice, and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense.

29 The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the LORD, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all manner of work, which the LORD had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses.

30 And Moses said unto the children of Israel, See, the LORD hath called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah;

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31 And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship;

32 And to devise curious works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass,

33 And in the cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of wood, to make any manner of cunning work.

34 And he hath put in his heart that he may teach, both he, and Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan.

35 Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, even of them that do any work, and of those that devise cunning work.

You have heard the commandment of the Lord to give for His work so that men may receive eternal life through the gospel of Christ. He has told you to give for the welfare of the poor and needy brethren. Go and begin to do so in obedience to the Lord your God for His eternal rewards in your life.

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Revelation Of Heaven And Hell By A Korean Pastor

Ezekiel 40:4

And the man said unto me, Son of man, behold with thine eyes, and hear with thine ears, and set thine heart upon all that I shall shew thee; for to the intent that I might shew them unto thee art thou brought hither: declare all that thou seest to the house of Israel.

A Korean Presbyterian Pastor named Yong Park had a tragic near death experience and was shown things in Heaven and things in Hell by the Holy Spirit. The following is an excerpt from his testimony:

My beloved brethren, I was a conservative Presbyterian pastor who ignored such testimonies as this. But now I must witness and testify to you what I have seen. Please, do not hesitate to live a holy life. Please, avoid this miserable torment and judgment of hell. Be saved. Do not live for your flesh; submit to Jesus Christ.

IN HEAVEN

The angel escorted me to the place where the saints lived in nice homes. This is where the saints who have evangelized much lived..... within the Korean believers, there was a lay believer who has a large home. This lay believer had built many churches with his possessions. He had given three bags of rice to the poor. He secretly

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helped thousands of pastors and leaders financially. He helped students studying theology or in Bible schools with their tuition fees. He had also taken a pastor {65 years old} into his own house and took care of him. His own church had kicked him out.

IN HELL

I saw the demons piercing and stabbing the stomachs of the people with sickles. Their screams were unbearable to me. I asked my escort angels, What did these people do when they were alive on earth? I was told:

*These people had jobs, houses, and families, but THEY DID NOT GIVE TO GOD. They did not help the poor, the churches and or godly ministries. They were very stingy and greedy. They saw the poor and needy and ignored them. They did not care for the poor. They only cared for themselves and their family. They had a comfortable life, well fed and well clothed. Their bellies were full of greed, that is why their stomachs are now being pierced by demons.' **Proverbs 28:27** **He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.** It was a frightening scene.*

When I revived on the earth, after witnessing such a scene, I gave all of my money and possessions to others.

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Salvation cannot be earned with money and property. It is by faith. Hell is an unbearable and miserable place. It is eternal torment!

Use your money, possession, riches and wealth well, according to Bible prescription and you will not go to hell. They will rather give you honour and glory in heaven. Praise God! Christ used His riches well for you. You too use yours' well for Him. Thanks.

We shall exchange greetings in heaven.

Pastor Paul Rika

The End

Your testimonies, questions, and remarks should be sent to **holinessrevivalmovement@gmail.com**

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HOLINESS REVIVAL MINISTRY WORLDWIDE
AKA
HOLINESS REVIVAL MOVEMENT WORLDWIDE
(HOREMOW)

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

HOREMOW is a non-denominational Ministry having the following aims and objectives:

1. To hold Crusades, Conferences and Revival meetings in churches and nations of the world so as to bring sinners to Christ's salvation and believers to His holiness. (**Acts 26:16-18**)
2. To produce Christian literature that promotes salvation of souls, sound Bible teaching and holiness of believers in churches and nations of the world. (**Luke 1:1-4**)
3. To produce audio and visual taped messages for the spread of gospel truth in churches and nations of the world.

The Aims and Objectives

4. To bring denominational churches into Christian unity through the belief and practice of the faith once delivered unto the Saints. (**Eph. 4:12-15**)
5. To support believers, ministers, ministries and churches with free Christian materials for their spiritual development in holiness. (**Isaiah 65:1**)
6. To raise members and supporters of Holiness Revival Movement Worldwide from churches and Christian ministries all over the world who will submit their lives to biblical holiness and be spiritually, materially and evangelically equipped to make others righteous and holy in their churches and in the society around them. (**2 Timothy 2:2**)
7. To establish Christian bookshops in many places within and outside the nation, equipped with holiness materials for the promotion of holiness in the churches of Christ in world. (**Romans 17:17**)
8. To establish a body of believers called Holiness Revival Movement in every nation who will sponsor the production of the holiness materials of the ministry and other recommended holiness materials. (**Acts 4:36; 2 Cor. 8:1-7**)
9. To translate or interpret ministry materials into as many local, national and international languages

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as possible. (**1 Cor. 14:9-13**)

10. To place the Ministry book: Divine Revelation of God's Holiness and Judge-ment by **Michael Thomas Sambo** in hotels, hospitals, prisons and in places that can attract public reading, for the salvation of sinners and holiness of believers. (**1 Cor. 9:18-22**)
11. To own Satellite Channel for the publishing of the messages and programmes of Holiness Revival Movement to the world.
12. To establish Bible colleges where believers and ministries can receive biblical and ministerial training for sound Christian ministry. (**2 Tim. 2:2**)
13. To have ministry camp ground in various quarters and nations where holiness camp meetings can be held regularly. (**Hebrews 10:25**)
14. To hold zonal, national and international holiness conferences regularly for the promotion and spread of holiness in the lives of believers and in Christ's Church. (**Colossians 1:28,29**)
15. To mentor Churches registered under the ministry on sound doctrine, holy living and ministerial establishment. (**Titus 1:5-14**)
16. To support believers, ministers and ministries financially where required for their spiritual

The Aims and Objectives

encouragement and establishment in holiness.

17. To have chapters of HOLINESS REVIVAL MOVEMENT in local Governments, states and nations, holding regular meetings, with clear goals and uniform operation, which are submissive to central administration.
(Philippians 4:8, 9; Hebrews 13:17)

PASTOR PAUL RIKA

Int'l Director/Founder

HOLINESS REVIVAL MINISTRY WORLDWIDE (AKA.)
HOLINESS REVIVAL MOVEMENT WORLDWIDE is a non-denominational Ministry given to the promotion of biblical Righteousness and Holiness in Churches and Nations of the world through Crusades, Conferences, Revival meetings, production and spread of Holiness literature and materials. The membership of the MOVEMENT is opened to all that love to live the Righteous and Holy life and to spread same in their church, Christian community and nation.

For Audio and Video messages, Christian literature and other materials of the Ministry/ Movement or for inquiry, call 08136356813; 08056834323;

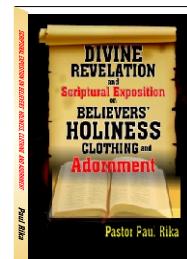
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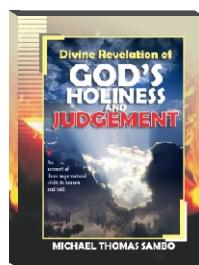
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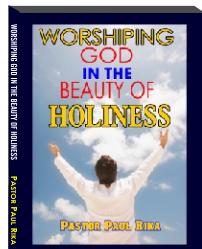
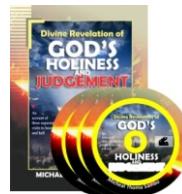
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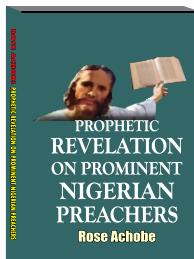
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