

TRUST—BLESSINGS FROM OUR GENEROSITY TO GOD

Pastor Charlie Arellano – February 23, 2020

GENEROSITY can be defined in three different ways : TIME, TALENT, TREASURE

The Bible speaks about:

- > Baptism 40 times
- > Faith 350 times
- > Treasure (finances & wealth) 2,350 times!
- > Prayer 275 times
- > Love 850 times

In the 2,350 times the Bible addresses treasure, Jesus says this, *“Money is the greatest single indicator of our Spiritual Position.”*

Dr. Tony Evans says it this way, *“Our spiritual position always shows up in our checkbook.”*

AN INDICATOR God gives us 2,351 warning lights indicators including:

Matthew 6:21 *“Where your treasure is; there your heart will be also.”*

Jesus is not concerned with our money, it’s all about obedience, trust in Him. It is all about the spiritual condition of the heart.

Proverbs 3: 5-6 *Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all of your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.*

HERE IS A BOLD STATEMENT: What we do with our money doesn’t lie. It is a bold statement to God of what we truly VALUE.

Malachi 3:7-10 *“Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from My decrees and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord Almighty. “But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’ “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob Me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing You?’ “In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing Me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”*

- As seen in Malachi chapter 3, from the beginning of recorded time, man has struggled with the thought of giving back our *first* and our *best*. We call this FINANCIAL PARALYSIS.
- God makes it very clear; we are to give back to Him from what we earn the first best 10%. He generously tells us that the remaining 90% is ours and we can do with that what we need to in the way of supplying our needs. He says, “Use it wisely and I will multiply it for you.”

2 Corinthians 8:4 *They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem.*

- This was not a rich community, they were poor, but yet they were filled with joy (the blessing) and the outcome was rich generosity.
- In Chapter 9 Note an important principle that is given to us in the act of giving. This is where we can get tripped up; we don't give to a church, we give to God.

2 Corinthians 9: 6-9 Refers to The principle of Sowing and Reaping

- The principle is true about our financial position, but it also speaks to everything that we sow.
- When we sow kindness we will reap kindness, when we reap forgiveness we will reap forgiveness, and when we sow generosity we will reap generosity.

(Ref Malachi Ch. 3)

1. When we do not give our first fruits, our best, we **ROB** from God.
2. There is a Biblical standard. The Tithe is **10%**.
3. This is the only place where God asks us to test Him.
4. The result is seen in verse 10 where God promises He will open the floodgates of heaven and pour out the **BLESSINGS**.

Luke 6:38 *Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.*

Lord God, forgive me for not trusting You as I should in every aspect of my life. Teach me to rely on Your entire Word and help me in the areas of obedience and trust. I pray You enlighten me and that my heart is forever changed because I surrender all to You. I am simply a manager and You are The Source of all. AMEN.