

Foundations: Giving, Tithes, and Offerings

RECAP: The Gospel from **Acts 2:16-47**
Revelation - God/Lord/Messiah, Died/
Crucified, Raised/Resurrected, Exalted/
Glorified, Poured out His Spirit
Response - Convicted, Confess, Repent,
Baptized, Believe, Devoted
Result - Forgiven, New Life, Holy Spirit,
Family of Faith, New Mission

The “What Now” Questions:

How do I live as a Christian?

How do I grow into Christlikeness?

Acts 2 (2:42)

Continued Steadfastly = Daily Disciples

Apostles Doctrine = Bible Study and Learning

Fellowship = Real Sharing of Lives

Breaking of Bread = Communal / Communion

Prayers = Individual and Corporate

Changed hearts and shared lives

Jesus' Spiritual Practices

Disciplines - Individual Habits of godly living

- **Absence and Engagement**

Christian Living Concepts:

1. Disciples (apprentice/follower/learner)

A. Church

i. Worship, Praise, and Singing

ii. Giving, Tithes, and Offerings

iii. Serving



Acts 2:42 - {42} All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. {43} A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.

{44} And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.

{45} They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.

{46} They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— {47} all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved. - Acts 2:42-47 NLT

Conclusion of Definitions:

Worship and Praise are acts of submission, devotion, gratitude, celebration, and honor of the Lord, who He is, what He has done, and should often manifest in song, thanksgiving, and blessing.

Conclusion of Key Passages:

Worship involves sacrifice, can be directed to the Lord, or about the Lord, can be contemplative, or celebratory, is modeled by the Lord, should be an overflow of the heart, is commanded in scripture, and is unified by the gospel.

Giving in the OT -

Connected to Worship and Redemption

Offerings: Gen. 4:3 (c.f. Gen. 3:21)

{3} And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.

{4} Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,

- Genesis 4:3-4 NKJV

Giving in the OT :Offerings

Voluntary:

1. burnt (Lev. 1; 6:8; 8:18; 16:24)

2. grain (Lev. 2; 6:14)

3. peace (Lev. 3; 7:11)

Mandatory:

4. sin (Lev. 4; 5:1; 6:24; 8:14; 16:3)

5. trespass (Lev. 5:14; 6:1; 7:1)

Giving in the OT :Offerings

Gen. 4:3 (& 3:21) = Worship/Redemption

Leviticus

= burnt, grain, peace, sin, trespass

3 Portions: God, priests, and giver

Giving in the OT - Tithe = tenth or 10%

Worship = Gen. 14:18-20, 28:22; Lev.

27:30 (cf. Heb. 7:4-10)

1. Levitical, sacred tithe (Num. 18: 21, 24)

2. tithe of the feasts (Deut. 14:22-27)

3. tithe for the poor (Deut. 14:28, 29)

Giving in the OT - The Heart (problem)

1. to obey is better than sacrifice (1 Sam. 15:22)
2. disobedience = disaster (Jer. 44:23)
3. would not give to the Lord that which cost him nothing (2 Sam. 24:24)
4. "robbing God" (Mal 3:6-12)

Giving in the OT - The Heart (problem)

- 1.** sacrificial system was inadequate and points to Christ (Col. 2:17, Heb. 4; 9; 10; 13)
- 2.** offering our own lives as a living and holy sacrifice (Rom. 12:1; 1 Pet. 2:5)

Giving in the NT -

The Church is no longer under the law

(Rom 10:4; Gal 3:23-25, 5:8; Eph

2:15; Col 2:14)...

Not law... but love

Giving in the NT -

- Jesus speaking of tithing of mint, anise, and cumin (Matt 23:23; Luke 11:41-42), “give alms of such things as you have”
- The widow woman that gave all (Mark 14:41-44)
- Acts 2 all things in common as needed

Giving in the Early Church -

-Irenaeus took literally Jesus' command to give everything to the good of the Church, not just a tenth (Irenaeus, *Adversus Haereses* 4.18)

The Didache may promote tithing, but they refer to the practice implicitly (Didache 1:5–6; 13:4–7; Powers, *Historical*, 15).

Giving in the Early Church -

-Jerome and Augustine conceded that if Christians are unwilling to eschew physical goods, they should at least tithe (Jerome, Letters, 52.5; Augustine, Sermons 35.5; 56.3; Powers, Historical, 39, 49).

Freely in love, sacrificial, cheerful, voluntary, proportionate, supporting ministry, care of the poor, and proper worship and stewardship of all as it belonging to God.

(Mat. 6:2; 25:34; Mar. 4:24; Luk. 6:38; 12:15, 34; 20:25; 21:1; Act. 2:44; 4:32; 20:35; Rom. 15:25; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:2; 9:6; 1 Tim. 6:17; Heb. 13:16; 1 Pet. 4:10; 1 Jn 3:17)

- (1) Of increase the Lord supplies/directs.
- (2) First priority determined beforehand, not as an afterthought of what is left.
- (3) Of their very best.
- (4) Sacrificially.
- (5) Cheerfully. Joyfully. Excitingly.

(6) To preach and teach the Word

(7) Caring for the poor, widow, and orphan of the Church.

(8) Privately and regularly

(9) As a steward of God's resources

(10) To love God and others.

Matthew 6:19-24 NIV

{19} "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

Matthew 6:19-24 NIV

{20} But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Matthew 6:19-24 NIV

{21} For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-24 NIV

{22} "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light.

Matthew 6:19-24 NIV

{23} But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

Matthew 6:19-24 NIV

{24} "No one can serve two masters.

Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Stewards, Not Owners

(1 Chr. 29:14; Luk. 12:48; 2 Cor. 9:6; 1 Pet. 4:10)

“It is the Lord’s order, that, in whatever way He is pleased to make us His stewards, whether as to temporal or spiritual things, if we are indeed acting as stewards and not as owners, He will make us stewards over more.” - George Muller

Proverbs 3:5-10 MSG

Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all. Run to God! Run from evil! Your body will glow with health, your very bones will vibrate with life! Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best.

Bibliography/Recommended Reading:

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4. Meeks, Charles. 2016. "Tithe." In *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*, edited by John D. Barry, David Bomar, Derek R. Brown, Rachel Klippenstein, Douglas Mangum, Carrie Sinclair Wolcott, Lazarus Wentz, Elliot Ritzema, and Wendy Widder. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.
5. *The Anatomy of a Disciple: So Many Believers. So Few Disciples.* by Dr. Rick Taylor

