

Partnering with Jesus: Power Encounters in Finances

I. WE ARE TO TEST THE LORD IN FINANCES

- A. When I speak of “power encounters” in finances, I am referring to times when God answers our giving or prayers about finances in a way (amount, timing, etc.) that we clearly see it as from Him. He allows us to test Him in giving finances to develop “our history in God” related to money.

¹⁰“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse...and try Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not...pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.” (Mal. 3:10)

- B. Before His return, Jesus will shake the nations, resulting in many desiring to receive salvation. Jesus will be revealed as the “Desire of all Nations.” He will open manifest His ownership over finances.

⁷“I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations [Jesus], and I will fill this temple with glory...⁸The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,” says the LORD... (Hag. 2:7-8)

- C. Biblical prosperity is to have money to meet our needs, bless others, and advance the kingdom. The kingdom perspective of prosperity includes “seeing souls when we see money”—to view God’s blessing on our money as a means of reaching people by financing the kingdom work.

¹⁸...God...gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant... (Deut. 8:18)

¹God...bless us...²that Your way may be known...Your salvation among all nations. (Ps. 67:1-2)

- D. We are to believe God to increase financial blessing to us in proportion to the measure of our giving (Lk. 6:38). Be committed to generosity and refuse the *spirit of poverty* with its mentality of lack.

⁸“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” (Lk. 6:38)

1. ***Give***: We overcome fear related to money by operating in the opposite spirit—generosity.
2. ***It will be given to you***: We are to engage our faith to believe God to fulfill this promise.
3. ***With the same measure you use***: We determine the “size of the container” we bring to God. We can determine “how far” we will partner with Him in the area of our finances.
 - a. ***A good measure***: The amount of grain that is measured back is more than expected.
 - b. ***Pressed down***: The grain is pressed down in the vessel to hold as much as possible.
 - c. ***Shaken together***: The grain is shaken so that the container can hold even more.
 - d. ***Running over***: The grain is pictured as running over.
 - e. ***Will be put into your bosom (lap)***: The grain overflows the container so that one’s garment is used as a makeshift container to catch the abundance.

II. OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LORD IN KINGDOM WORK AND FINANCES

- A. The Father is looking for partners to be channels of financial supply for His kingdom purposes. The Lord loves a cheerful giver because He is a cheerful and generous giver (2 Cor. 9:7).

⁶...He who sows [financially] sparingly will reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷So let each one give as he purposes in his heart...for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸God is able to make all grace abound toward you [financially] that you, always having all sufficiency [financially] in all things, may have an abundance [financially] for every good work. (2 Cor. 9:6-8)

1. **Purpose:** Determine the percentage of your financial resources that you seek to dedicate to God. Ask for grace to reduce your lifestyle before you reduce giving that percentage.
 2. **Having all sufficiency:** God promises to give us money to accomplish His will in our life.
 3. **Grace abound:** Our ability to generate money is not limited by our abilities or opportunities.
- B. God provides us with finances for two purposes—He gives it as *seed to sow* and as *bread to eat*.

¹⁰May He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness...¹¹which causes thanksgiving...to God. (2 Cor. 9:10-11)

1. **Bread to eat:** He gives money for personal use—family, food, home, bills, recreation, etc.
 2. **Seed to sow:** He gives money to sow in the kingdom and to be multiplied.
- C. Ask the Lord, “Which part of my money is seed to sow and which part is bread to eat?” It is important that we do not eat our “seed money” because seed only multiplies after it is sown.

III. GOD’S PROMISE OF AN OPEN HEAVEN (MAL. 3:10)

- A. The Lord promised to open the windows of heaven financially (supernatural increase) to those who obey and believe Him with their money. He commands His people to bring “all” the tithes to Him.

¹⁰“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food [provision] in My house, and try Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.” (Mal. 3:10)

- B. Tithing speaks of giving 10% of all of our financial resources to advance the kingdom.
- C. When we tithe, we declare that Jesus is the “Lord” and “source” of the rest of our money.
- D. Giving involves emotional dynamics that cause us to wrestle with who we trust as our ultimate source—the Lord or ourselves.
- E. Tithing is the starting place in our partnering with God in our money. God requires tithing because His people often *default to fear* related to their money instead of developing their history in God.

²¹“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Mt. 6:21)