

What Happens When You Give God First Place January 28th, 2018

Hos 4:6 NKJV

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.

John 8:31,32 NKJV

“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

2 Cor 2:14 NKJV

Now thanks *be* to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

In the Garden, God set man in abundance. Yet, He reserved a tree for Himself.

Battle of Jericho

The spoils are mine.

Alas they all lost.

You cannot claim divine promises while violating divine principles!

Prov. 3:9,10 NKJV

Honor the LORD with your possessions,
And with the firstfruits of all your increase;
¹⁰ So your barns will be filled with plenty,
And your vats will overflow with new wine.

Mt 6:21 NKJV

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

Jesus said the way a man handles the temporal determines his depth and involvement in the eternal. (Luke 16:10-12)

1Kings 3:4 NKJV

Now the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place: Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask! What shall I give you?”

Acts 10:1-4 NKJV

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, ² a devout *man* and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. ³ About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, “Cornelius!”

⁴ And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, “What is it, lord?”

So he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.

Luke 9:12-17 NKJV

When the day began to wear away, the twelve came and said to Him, “Send the multitude away, that they may go into the surrounding towns and country, and lodge and get provisions; for we are in a deserted place here.”

¹³ But He said to them, “You give them something to eat.”

And they said, “We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we go and buy food for all these people.” ¹⁴ For there were about five thousand men.

Then He said to His disciples, “Make them sit down in groups of fifty.” ¹⁵ And they did so, and made them all sit down.

¹⁶ Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke *them*, and gave *them* to the disciples to set before the multitude. ¹⁷ So they all ate and were filled, and twelve baskets of the leftover fragments were taken up by them.

1. Money Has to Be Blessed Before it Can Multiply

So many people tell me that they give but they don't give to the Lord first.

- It doesn't have the potential to multiply if it's not blessed.
- What if they had given it away before it was blessed?

Many people give but they don't give the first portion to Jesus

- Jesus is the one who receives our tithes (Heb 7:8)
- Multiplication only happens when our finances are blessed by Him!

2. First Things First!

The First Portion is the redemptive portion

Rom. 11:16 NKJV

For if the firstfruit *is* holy, the lump *is* also *holy*; and if the root *is* holy, so *are* the branches.

Matt 6:33 AMP

But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides.

Is it really faith to give 10% after we've paid all of the bills first?

- Aren't we establishing our priorities when we willingly pay everybody else first
- And then see if there's enough leftover to give God His Portion?

The First Portion is the redemptive portion!

- There are so many blessings that go along with tithing
- But it's the principle of putting God first
- And the principle of faith that initiates the blessings!

3. It has to be given away before it can multiply

What are you going to do with what is blessed and has the potential to multiply but never will if it's not given.

- We need to give over and above.
- The bread was blessed and had the potential to multiply but what if they had eaten it themselves?

3. God Does Not Work In Your Life According To Your Need of Him, But According to Your Knowledge of Him!

2 Pet. 1:3 NKJV

as His divine power *has given to us all things that pertain to life* and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

Romans 8:32 NKJV

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Testimony

William Colgate was a tither throughout his long and successful business career. He gave not merely one-tenth of the earnings of Colgate's soap products; but he gave two-tenths, then three-tenths, and finally five-tenths of all his income to the work of God in the world. During the later days of his life he revealed the origin of his devotion to the idea of tithing. When he was sixteen years old he left home to find employment in New York City. He had previously worked in a soap manufacturing shop. When he told the captain of the canal boat upon which he was traveling that he planned to make soap in New York City the man gave him this advice: 'Someone will soon be the leading soap maker in New York. You can be that person. But you must never lose sight of the fact that the soap you make has been given to you by God. Honor Him by sharing what you earn. Begin by tithing all you receive.' William Colgate felt the urge to tithe because he recognized that God was the giver of all that he possessed, not only of opportunity, but even of the elements which were used in the manufacture of his products.