



# Holy Habits

Holy Habits  
Part 3  
April 21, 2024

The Book of Proverbs 3:1-12, “My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, <sup>2</sup>for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. <sup>3</sup>Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. <sup>4</sup>So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. <sup>5</sup>Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup>In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. <sup>7</sup>Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. <sup>8</sup>It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. <sup>9</sup>Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; <sup>10</sup>then your barns will be filled with

plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. <sup>11</sup> My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, <sup>12</sup> for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word, In Jesus Name! Amen!

The topic that I am going to discuss today, I understand, can be controversial to some and there may or perhaps will be those who disagree with what I am teaching today. But what I request of everyone is to be willing to hear me out today and what I share from the Scripture.

Verses 9 & 10 of this Proverbs 3, <sup>9</sup> Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; <sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.”

Now before we go any further, I am going to speak to a few points:

- Has the message of financial giving and tithing been abused? Yes.
- Have church leaders and organizations ill-treated the Scripture. Yes.
- Have people been manipulated? Yes. Is this the result of sin? Yes.
- But should others misuse of Scripture strip it of its authority in our personal lives? No.

Friends, men have striven to misuse Scripture for a multi-millennium of time but just because there was misuse, it does not forfeit us of our responsibility to the purity of the Word of God and the expectations spelled out in Scripture.

I am a firm believer in tithing and financially supporting the local church; you should honor the Lord with your wealth in the house which you are fed and ministered to. With that said, where did all of this come from? (Teach) Therefore point #1...

**1) When Holy Habits begin to Develop in our Lives, We will see the Value of Investing our Resources into the Work of the Church!**

a) Our opening text makes it clear..., **“<sup>9</sup>Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce”**

b) Church family, we honor God in our finances by how we apply the word of God to our finances and we honor God with our finances by what we do with it!

c) All throughout the New Testament, we can easily discover that the Early Church saw the Value of Investing themselves into the Work of the Local Church!

d) The Early Church was supportive and collectively willing to rally around its faith community to support it financially for the sake of the Great Commission tasked by Christ Himself.

- e) The Early Church was faithful to sow their time, their talents and their treasure into the Work of the Local Church; whether it was through gathering together for prayer, utilizing their talents to facilitate certain roles within the church to assist in ministry needs, or placing their treasures into the hands of Church Leadership for the furtherment of the Church and its Ministries.
- f) The bottom line is this. They were fully committed to the Cause and the Call of the Church because they believed in it; The Church believed in The Church and we must collectively, as The Assembly West Monroe, to do the same.
- g) My question, for us all, is do we truly believe in this house? Or do we just benefit from it? If we truly intend to call ourselves faithful to the fundamental principles established in the Scripture and then, Church family, there must be evidence of our time, talent and treasure being found in this House on a consistent basis.
- h) Christ Jesus stated in the Gospel of Saint Matthew 6:19-21, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,<sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

- i) With this text in mind, if we treasure His Church then our Heart will be for His Church and if our Heart is for His Church then our Treasure will be found in His Church as well.
- j) Remember, when Holy Habits begin to form in our lives, we will see the Value of Investing our Resources into the Work of the Church! Point #2...

## 2) When Holy Habits begin to Develop in our Lives, We will Honor Christ with our Provision by Supporting His Work in the Earth!

- a) 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, “<sup>6</sup>The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.”
- b) Allow me to share the following thought: There are those who contend against tithing and those who are for it. There are those who champion it and those who war against it; however, the question has to be asked, no matter your position, are you honoring God with your wealth?

- c) No matter where you stand on the point of tithing, do you honor God in your finances? Because if you do not, then you are in error.
- d) Friends, every blessing that we have has come from the Lord and we must come to the realization that all that we have is from Him! And according to the Scriptures, in both the Old Testament and in the New Testament, there is a Biblically sound expectation for us to give financially to the work of the ministry!
- e) It is through our willingness to commit to the Church by way of our support that we understand that giving in support of the Vision of the Church is expected. But sadly, far too many are benefiting from the ministries of the Church without being willing to do anything to support the Church.
- f) Church family, we can't operate nor facilitate all that we do without all of you being willing to partner in your time with attendance, in your talent with volunteering, and in your treasure by way of tithes and offerings and financial support.
- g) Our partnership with Christ includes our honoring of Christ with our increase to ensure that the ministries of His House are funded and facilitated. I can't do it without you no more than the Apostles couldn't do it without the partnership of those in the early church.

- h) If you want the ministries of this house to flourish and this church to continue to succeed in its mission then it's time that you commit to the cause and be willing to rally behind the mission and vision of this House.
- i) It is time for us to stop consuming from the House and start contributing into the House. The one thing that I have learned in ministry is that Complainers never Contribute and Contributors never Complain; We need Contributors in this House.
- j) Remember, when Holy Habits begin to develop in our Lives, We will Honor Christ with our Provision by Supporting His Work in the Earth! In closing, Point #3...

### 3) When Holy Habits begin to Develop in our Lives, We will be Willing to Invest our Resources into an Eternal Effort!

- a) Note the Words of Paul in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, "We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, <sup>2</sup>for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. <sup>3</sup>For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, <sup>4</sup>begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief

of the saints—<sup>5</sup> and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.”

- b) Just as the Churches of Macedonia, our giving is more than just pieces of paper or coinage; it is the investment of temporal means for an eternal purpose because we, just as they, gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us!
- c) Our dollars given as tithes and offerings are far more than budgets, and expenses; our giving equates to souls being saved, disciples being made, families being healed, our youth and children being ministered to, as well as a multitude of missionaries around the globe being supported and our local community being impacted by the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ!
- d) The Mission of the Local Church is made possible when we Partner together with that Mission with all that we have and all that we are.
- e) If we are thankful for His Provision then let the proof be found in our Thankfulness of Giving and Support of this House.
- f) Remember, when Holy Habits begin to develop in our lives, we will be willing to Invest our Resources into an Eternal Effort!