



Defiant Faith in Giving

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Money can be a difficult subject for believers to study. It is a tool, a magnifier, and has the potential to be something we serve. We are called to steward it well, as it is an important part of faith.

Romans 10:17 "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Mark 4:13-20 "Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? The farmer sows the word. Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown."

Deuteronomy 14:22-23 "Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and olive oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the Lord your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, **so that you may learn to revere the Lord your God always.**"

2 Corinthians 9:7 "Let each man give according as he has determined in his heart; not grudgingly, or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver."

- *What do you believe?*

- *What will you do with what you believe?*

- *Do your behaviors match your beliefs?*

- *Is there a gap between what you say you believe and how you live?*

There are financial principles (laws) that govern and guide the kingdom of God. Those principles are not for finances only, but for all of life.

If we do not understand how to manage money, we need to learn. **You are called to be a steward of your money.** Not to be a worshiper of or ignorant towards money, but knowledgeable, wise, and a good steward of the finances God gives you.

We should look at all areas of life through the lens of being a steward. It enables us to take concepts from the word of God and apply them in practical ways to our everyday life.

Genesis 8:22 "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

1 Peter 1:23 "For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God."

John 12:24 "Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

Seedtime and harvest: Specifically, speaking about money, tithes, and offerings. Faithful leads to fruitful.

Galatians 6:7-9 "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

As it is in the natural realm, it is in the spiritual. If it is found in our disobedience, it will also be discovered in our obedience.

2 Corinthians 9:6 "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

Proverbs 11:24-25 "One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty."

Proverbs 11:25 "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

This is the upside-down kingdom. Giving is counter-cultural. ***It is living a defiant faith.***

Tithing is giving 10% of your income. To tithe is about obedience, gratitude, and trust. To give an offering is to participate in God's kingdom.

The Principle of Stewardship of the Seed

A farmer sows a seed. He must decide to take something owned and release it in return for a harvest. He sows a specific seed and then expects a specific fruit.

Sometimes we pray and we put seed in God's hands while we remain faithful. We trust, we rest, we hope, we thank God for the future harvest. We may not have to do anything else.

Other times, we pray and God will bless what we do. He will bless the work of our hands or our obedience.

Faith gives. Faith sows.

Our job is to steward the seed and God's job is to produce the harvest. Our faith cannot be in the seed, but rather **in the One who produces the harvest.**

When it comes to offerings, we don't scatter seed. We should be intentional about sowing; where, in whom or what place, and what is the harvest. We sow into what we are believing for.

- It moves us from **wishful thinking** to **defiant faith.**
- We can engage the Lord on the seeds we've sown.
- We don't quit and we don't say things contrary to what the word says. We believe what God says and who He is.
- Stay in tune with the Holy Spirit and how He may lead you in the process of sowing and reaping to position ourselves to receive a harvest.

Our job is to steward the seed, steward our heart and our expectation. It is God's job to be the God of the harvest. Our confidence can't be greater in the seed than the God of the harvest.

Trusting God with your finances and sowing in faith is an intentional decision.

Isaiah 28:23-29 "Listen and hear my voice; pay attention and hear what I say. When a farmer plows for planting, does he plow continually? Does he keep on breaking up and working the soil? When he has leveled the surface, does he not sow caraway and scatter cumin? Does he not plant wheat in its place, barley in its plot, and spelt in its field? His God instructs him and teaches him the right way. Caraway is not threshed with a sledge, nor is the wheel of a cart rolled over cumin; caraway is beaten out with a rod, and cumin with a stick. Grain must be ground to make bread; so one does not go on threshing it forever. The wheels of a threshing cart may be rolled over it, but one does not use horses to grind grain. All this also comes from the Lord Almighty, whose plan is wonderful, whose wisdom is magnificent."

Giving moves
us from *wishful
thinking* to
living *defiant
faith.*

God wants to engage and teach us in our sowing and reaping. It is relationship. He wants to provide wisdom to us and wants us to trust Him in every single area of our lives. He will speak to our spirit, not necessarily to our intellect. In other words, sometimes faith does not make sense. Again, it's the upside down, counter cultural kingdom. **It is living defiant faith.**

Luke 4 - Peter and disciples fishing

John 6 - Miracle of feeding the 5,000

Defiant (intentional) faith provides God something to work with.

Giving has several results:

- It opens the principles of the kingdom of God in sowing and reaping.
- It teaches stewardship.
- It creates priorities.
- It breaks the mindset of poverty.
- It teaches how to live within means.
- It teaches contentment.
- It teaches generosity.
- It challenges to believe for more- not for consumption but for impacting God's kingdom.

- *What do you believe?*

- *What will you do with what you believe?*

- *How has God met you in the harvest?*

- *Have you ever experienced "giver's remorse"? How has God responded?*

- *For those who trust God in their giving, how intentionally are you tending to your expectation?*