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Theme: "Tithing"

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6 (NIV)

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

A Thought: Recently I read an article on tithing and it was an eye-opener to be sure. It stated there are many types of givers or tithing souls. The author zoned in on three types that were easy for me to digest in one sitting.... *"the flint, the sponge and the honeycomb."* As you know in order for a "flint" to ignite you have to strike it with a hard element and if you're lucky a few sparks will be the result. A second kind of a giver according to the article is the "sponge." A wet sponge will not dry unless you truly squeeze it very very hard....often and often. Now...we have the honeycomb. The hexagonal cells of wax where busy bees working overtime store their honey and eggs. This miraculous wonder overflows....Proverbs 11:24-25 (NIV) *"Some people give much but get back even more. Others don't give what they should and end up poor. Whoever gives to others will get richer; those who help others will themselves be helped."* It would seem that many churches experience all three and possibly other sorts. By the way, the "other" includes our respective houses of worship. To be clear and to give equal treatment there is a movement promoting "spirit-led giving." Meaning that if we ask God about anything and everything why is it necessary to follow an Old Testament law? They go on say that we should trust and rely on the Holy Spirit to lead us in this very important financial matter. Possibly our giving will be more than a tithe (a tenth)....1 Cor. 9:7 (NIV) *"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* A few years ago I attended a Sunday service where there they did not pass the offering plate. As we exited the church there was a collection box located at each of the exits. By the way, that particular church has grown from 200 souls to over 2,000 plus registered members.

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- Are you currently tithing? If not, examine the reason why in accordance to scripture. Examine your motives with prayer.
- Do you know the difference of the following...tithe, gift, offering and charitable giving? Teach your child the importance of tithing/giving.

Scriptures to read:

- Genesis 14:18-20, 28:20-22; Lev. 27:30-32; Numbers 18:20-32;
- Deu.12:5-11,18, 21, 26:1:1-4,12-15; Deu. 12:29; 2 Chronicles 31:5-12;
- Proverbs 11:24-2; Nehemiah 10:37-38, 12:44,12:5-12; Amos 4:4; Malachi 3:8-12;
- Matthew 23:23; Luke 11:42, 18:12; Hebrews 7:5-9 Bible verses on Spirit Led Giving Galatians 5:18; Romans 6-8; Matthew 10:8; Acts 1:8, 5:3, 11:28-30;
- 1Peter 4:10; 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 9:7 Luke 4:1; John 16:13

Quote: Martin Luther, Monk, Priest and Leader - Protestant Reformation

“There can be no doubt that this possessive clinging to things is one of the most harmful habits in the [christian] life. Because it is so natural, it is rarely recognized for the evil that it is. But its out workings are tragic.” (Dailychristianquote.com)

Bottom Line: For years I was a reluctant tither. I thought that my offerings on Sunday, charitable donations and family financial gifts satisfied my spiritual duties. Finally the Lord spoke to me through scriptures and a few not many exhortations from the pulpit. It was time to get my “act” together. It was as though the apostles John and Peter after their session before the Sanhedrin and subsequently meeting with their own people were whispering in my ear Acts 4:32...*“All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had”* (NIV). I’m a believer! This is the right thing to do. Tithing or Spirit Led giving should not be a form of punishment...2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV) *“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”* To be clear it is important to be a giver. Nevertheless, we must note and adhere to the Lord’s admonition to the Pharisees... Matthew 23:23 (NIV) *“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.”* **NOW.....THAT’S THE BOTTOM LINE.**

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray