

KINGDOM Heartbeat

Pastor Shawn

Generosity

March 30, 2025

*"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your **partnership in the gospel** from the first day until now... not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; for even when I was in Thessalonica, **you sent me aid more than once when I was in need**. Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that **more be credited to your account**. I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are **a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God**. And my **God will meet all your needs** according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."*
Philippians 1:3-5, 4:15-20

"We want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up into rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us."
2 Corinthians 8:1-5

- Paul believed that giving was partnership in the sharing the Gospel
- Paul believed that generosity demonstrates spiritual maturity and love
- Paul believed that giving was an eternal investment
- Paul believed that giving was an act of worship that pleased God (not legalism)
- Paul believed that generosity is to trust in God's provision

Where does this come from? Key teachings about giving and finances

Worship & Offering (Genesis 4, Deuteronomy 26, Mark 12, 1 Corinthians 16)

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."
Proverbs 3:9-10

Our hearts & our money (1 Timothy 6:9-10, Luke 12:15)

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, ... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." Matthew 6:19-24

Our worries & trusting in God's provision (Matthew 6:25-33, Hebrews 13:5)

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."
Malachi 3:10

Lordship Vs Ownership - Mark 10:17-25, Luke 12:13-21, Luke 16:10-11

"How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!... It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."
Mark 10:23-25

Stewardship & eternal accountability - Matthew 25:14-46,

"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"
Matthew 25:21

Living in the Kingdom of God today requires growing in generosity, being free from the love of money, trusting in God's provision, and faithfully stewarding resources.

Practicing Kingdom giving includes regular disciplined worship offerings, spirit-led responsive giving to needs, and sacrificial giving as led by the Holy Spirit.

Worship & Offering (Genesis 4, Deuteronomy 26, Mark 12, 1 Corinthians 16)

“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.” Proverbs 3:9-10

“And now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, Lord, have given me.” Place the basket before the Lord your God and bow down before Him.” Deuteronomy 26:10

“Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering.” Genesis 4:3-4

Widows Offering - Mark 12:41-44

“Now about the collection for the Lord’s people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income...”
1 Corinthians 16:1-3

“A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.” Leviticus 27:30

Our hearts & our money

1 Timothy 6:9-10 - “Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. **For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.** Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”

Luke 12:15 - “Then He said to them, ‘Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.’”

Our financial worries & Our trust in God’s provision

Proverbs 11:28 – “Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.”

“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’” Hebrews 13:5

The Only Place God Invites Us to Test Him – Malachi 3:10

➔ Malachi 3:10 – “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not

worry saying, What shall we eat? Or “What shall we drink? Or “What shall we wear?” For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6:25-33

Lordship & ownership - Mark 10:17-25, Luke 12:13-21

hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!... It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” Mark 10:23-25

Luke 12:13-21 – Bigger Barn Syndrome

Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.” 1 Chronicles 29:14

Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year.” (Deuteronomy 14:22)

Financial decisions & eternal accountability - Matthew 25:14-46,

“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” Matthew 25:21

