



THE PRINCIPLES OF GIVING

"Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything. The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed."

Proverbs 11:24-25 NLT

Giving is an essential part of a Christian's life, and so is receiving. God is a natural giver, and He delights in giving to His children. As His children, we have been called to exhibit this nature of giving. He gives us so that we can be givers too. What we have received from Him is not for us to selfishly hold. Furthermore, God gives in many ways. He uses anything and anyone for His children.

It's common these days for one to grow greedy and selfish after God has given them something; this is due to the fallen nature of man. We begin to focus only on what would benefit us and think that giving is losing. Whereas the Bible says, "The one who gives freely, becomes richer; the one who saves excessively, only becomes poor." Proverbs 11:24 KJV

Selfishly holding on to what God has given you is a form of mismanagement. In contrast, giving with a generous heart is a sign of good management, and it entails some important values in you. Firstly, it keeps you HUMBLE. You will not boast about how much you have or how much you can make. It removes the focus from "you" and keeps you from being selfish. Secondly, it makes you ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD! You learn to acknowledge Him as the source, the provider, and the one that allows an increase in your finances.

When it comes to money, the truth is that there is much power in it, and the only way to overcome that power is by giving. Unlike other areas, money only obeys certain principles. The money we have serves three purposes and should be allocated accordingly. There is your share, the share of others, and God's share.



1. Your Share

One's share can be divided into SAVINGS and BREAD. The bread refers to what one "eats," and the savings refer to what is kept away for the rainy day after subtracting your spending and expenses. It is essential not to spend the entire income! Learn to save! In contrast, don't put the entire income into your savings and ignore essential needs. Saving in excess means: ignoring the part of God and others. There needs to be a healthy balance between spending and saving.

2. The Share for Others

"If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important." Galatians 6:3 NLT
When it comes to the portion for sharing with other people, this is where you become a blessing to other people. God uses men to reach out to men, and when you find yourself with "extra" money, which you don't know what to do with, ask for wisdom. Seek God first and watch how you become an answer to someone else's needs. Your finances become a solution to the problem of others. Sometimes God does not know how to give you certain things because He is concerned that it will not affect or reach others. God thinks about other people through people!

3. God's Share

The last portion is God's share, which is called "the seed." It can be further divided into three aspects. Firstly, it's the OFFERING and TITHE. Some people give because they see others doing so rather than what God expects them to do. Offerings refer to any amount you deliberately give to the church on different occasions.

Tithe refers to 10% of your salary or revenue that you give to the local church you belong to for its good functioning. You ought to take it as you receive your money, which is considered the first expense you make with your income. Not paying your tithe is robbing God. The Bible says: "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse..." (see Malachi 3:10-12); there is a promise to the givers.

Secondly, it's CHARITY, which differs from normal offerings to the church, and refers to giving specifically to people in need (Matthew 6:1-4). Though you are helping the needy, be careful not to blow trumpets to be seen or recognized by people. Give, and God will reward you!

The third aspect is the **FIRSTFRUITS** which is your very first income that you freely offer to God. All of it goes to God (Proverbs 3:9-10). When the income increases, it becomes the first fruit. Often, we grew up being taught that your first salary goes to your parents, but allow God to always come first, and the parent can get the second salary. It is also crucial to remember that we always receive for people. You are never richer for yourself; you get richer for people. (see Galatians 6:9-10) These are all principles, and money obeys these principles. Don't live a life controlled by money, be the one that controls it.

The dynamics of resources are that nobody has everything, which forces us to humbly need each other. Some people have what you need, and acknowledging them and walking with them requires faith and humility, just like failing to see them can keep you in lack. At times your poverty can be relational poverty. The devil knows that and will try to isolate you from the people you're supposed to receive from (Luke 22:31)! Don't be quick to quit or walk out of certain relationships; seek God first and be humble enough to acknowledge the one who has what you need and to receive it from them.

