UNDERSTANDING GOD’S PRINCIPLES OF GIVING AND RECEIVING

INTRODUCTION:

A key to successful prayer is to come before the Lord and ask with persistence (Lk. 11:8). This keeps the promises of God continually before us, reminding us of His willingness to answer our prayer and keeps our heart in a position of faith before Him. Our faith then is expressed by reminding God of His promises He has made to us and thanking Him for them, even before they are manifested to us in the natural realm.

“You will make your prayer to Him, He will hear you, and you will pay your vows. You will also declare a thing, and it will be established for you; so light will shine on your ways.” Job 22:27-28

“So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”’” Mark 11:22-24

I. COME BEFORE GOD WITH FAITH AND WITH PERSISTANCE

A. Come with His promises in mind.

“Remember the word to Your servant, upon which You have caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life.” Psalms 119:49-50

“Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Jeremiah, what do you see?” And I said, “I see a branch of an almond tree.” Then the Lord said to me, “You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word.” Jeremiah 1:11-12

B. Come remembering His willingness to hear and answer our petitions.

“Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, and said: “O Lord God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You? Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever? And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying, ‘If disaster comes upon us—sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine—we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.’” 2 Chronicles 20:5-9
“And give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.”
Isaiah 62:7

C. Come positioning your heart in faith before the Lord.

“I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the
land of the living. Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart;
Wait, I say, on the Lord!” Psalms 27:13-14

“And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was
about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. He did not waver at the
promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being
fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.” Romans 4:19-21

II. THE PRINCIPLE OF TITHING, GIVING AND RECEIVING

A. The tithe was not introduced through the law of Moses. Many believers believe and think that
tithing first was introduced in the Old Testament through the law that Moses gave to the nation
of Israel. However, the Bible reveals to us that giving and tithing was a sacrificial act that was
somehow revealed to Adam, Noah, Abraham and all who served the Lord before tithing was
ever mandated in the law of Moses.

“Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and
his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his
countenance fell.” Genesis 4:4-5

“Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird,
and offered burnt offerings on the altar.” Genesis 8:20

“'And blessed be God Most High, who has defeated your enemies for you.' Then Abram gave
Melchizedek a tenth of all the goods he had recovered.” Genesis 14:20 (NLT)

“Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your
barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.” Proverbs 3:9-10

B. God makes it very clear through His word that it is His desire and will to bless His people with
sufficient provisions to meet all their needs.

“Let them shout for joy and be glad, who favor my righteous cause; and let them say
continually, ‘Let the Lord be magnified, Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.’”
Psalms 35:27
“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

*Philippians 4:19*

**C.** Jesus taught that God returns blessings to us in proportion to the measure of our giving. Money/resources is one of the most prominent themes found in all the Bible. The Apostle Paul taught that the believer will receive according to the measure of his/her giving.

“All who receive, giving as the Lord has enabled them, will receive eternal life.”

*1 Corinthians 15:58*

“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

*Luke 6:38*

“But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

*2 Corinthians 9:6*

**III. GOD’S PROMISE OF RESPONDING TO OUR GIVING**

**A.** Giving involves voluntary obedience to God's revealed will. We are promised not only blessings on earth but treasures in heaven that await the believer. We can choose to seek for treasures on the earth or better yet choose the treasures of heaven.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

*Matthew 6:19-21*

**B.** As a response to our love and obedience in the area of giving, God promises to open the financial windows of heaven (supernaturally) and He commits to rebuking the devourer of our provisions.

“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this, ‘Says the Lord of hosts, ‘If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,” Says the Lord of hosts.’”

*Malachi 3:10-11*

**C.** Giving with faith releases God's activity in our lives spiritually, relationally, financially, etc. God asks that we trust Him with the giving of the tithe because His people often act and live in fear when it comes to their money. Fear refuses to trust God by telling us to not give financially. This shuts down the process of supernatural provision that God has promised to do in our behalf. Tithing is simply the beginning and not the ceiling. God’s ability to provide for us is beyond any ability we may posess.
“Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness.” 2 Corinthians 9:10

D. God's promise of provision does not only benefit us with natural blessings (food, clothing, shelter). His goodness has spiritual blessings attached to His faithfulness and promises. The story of Cornelius beautifully displays how household salvation came about through Cornelius' honoring of God in giving offerings and alms to the needy.

“About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, ‘Cornelius!’ And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, “What is it, lord?” So he said to him, ‘Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.’” Acts 10:3-4

“So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God… While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.” Acts 10:33, 44

IV. RESIST FEAR AND UNBELIEF – TRUST HIS WORD

We need to declare war on our fear in relation to our money. We must refuse to give into the spirit of poverty with its mentality of lack by operating in the opposite spirit which is giving in faith. Giving is not a get rich scheme as some preachers have made it to be. It is God's way of teaching us faith by relying upon His goodness and willingness to provide for His children. Our only limitation is God's will for each of our lives, not our own ability to make money.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.” So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Please bring me a little water in a cup that I may drink.” And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, “Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” So she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil injar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.’” So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by Elijah.” 1 Kings 18:8-16