

## Tithes and Offerings, Please explain?

Well, I have been back and forward to my Dad's again, he has not been well, while there I went to the usual church I go to up there in Harvey Bay and I listened to the best teaching I have ever heard on "Tithes and Offering". Here is a paraphrase of what we learnt on the morning and night services. We started off in **2 Corinthians 9:10-15** *Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) 11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. 12 For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; 13 Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men; 14 And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you. 15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.* Here we see Paul writing to the church thanking them for their generosity and that their generosity is causing an abundance of thanksgiving to go to God, not man.

Then we see Paul in Ephesians **Phi 4:10-20** But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. **11** Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. **12** I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. **13** I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. **14** Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. **15** Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. **16** For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. **17** Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. **18** But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. **19** But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. **20** Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever.

Paul received finances from the churches, thanksgiving was given to God, and the church distributed the finances to the saints as there was a need! Then the Pastor went to Malachi and showed us that God only wants 10% of our finances but he wants **100%** of our heart, if we don't give cheerfully we are not giving 100% of our heart. Many of us have heard the preacher saying sow into this ministry and God will give you back a 100 fold return - A Lie! Our offerings must be given where God tells us to give them. See tithing is an act of worship, giving is also an act of worship, and worship is an act of obedience, so we must be in obedience to what **God says and not man**. If God tells you to bless your neighbour financially, physically, or whatever - do it! If he tells you to give to missions, ministries or people - do it!

Yes your tithe goes into the storehouse, that is where you are spiritually fed, then there also must be some accountability that the people in the storehouse don't go without too. If you look after your Pastor, then he will be in good spirits and love God, giving thanks and the sermons will get better and better and you will grow spiritually. Then we went on to sowing and reaping, in **Galatians 6:7** where it says God is not mocked, whatever a man sows that also will he reap, if you sow generously you will reap generously, sowing is seed, **not tithes**. Seed can be the word of God, Finances, time, spiritual, or effort. Just because you sow \$100 because the preacher says so, does not mean you will get back \$1000, but if you sow \$100 because God says so, then you will get back financially, it can come in the way of getting a bargain at a car yard, or buying a house, maybe even filling up with fuel at the right time before it goes up 10cents a litre.

Tithes and Offerings are a principal of the Bible, just like salvation, healing, wholeness. If we sow into these areas as God shows us we will reap a harvest, it may not happen overnight but it will happen. A few times I have just walked up to a Pastor and blessed him with money to take his family out to dinner, at other times I have blessed children to go buy that favourite toy, each time God has told me to do it and I can look back and say I have been blessed. Earlier this year, I worked for 7 months trying to go back to work to get off the pension. I sowed and I reaped rather quickly, my wife was able to pay \$4000 for a nice car, the best we have ever owned, I bought a \$4000 Bike that is just what I needed, and I have also bought a \$5000 bed for myself to help me cope with my injuries. All in 7 months, how? We sowed, and therefore we reaped!

The sermon went on to say, don't eat your seed. Some people do not stop and seek God's guidance and end up **giving all** they have away, like a farmer who reaps his crop, then gives away all the crop but fails to keep any seed for next years harvest, he then goes without the next year. So giving "your best" or "your all" is not an answer to the get rich quick scheme, it is an answer to **disaster** and I have seen it many times over. We need to hear from the Holy Spirit on what to give and where, then we do it cheerfully, and a crop will follow some time after. Then he went on to being faithful in the little before God can put us in charge of much.

We have to be faithful in tithing, faithful in obedience to the Holy Spirits leading before we can be placed in charge of much **which we also have to be faithful in**, we are not a storehouse we are a distribution centre for the love of God, people will not see the love of God by driving the best, living in the best, they see it because they see how we love them. The Love of God surpasses all understanding, and it is only that in my life that has attracted people to Jesus. Passion for the lost, homeless, destitute, down and out, God wants to pick people up and lift them up on high, but we are the tool he uses to do that and we need to be faithful in what he wants us to do.

**Bless ya - Roscoe.**