



CHRIST COMMISSION FELLOWSHIP  
LOS ANGELES  
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## *Pursuing Intimacy with God through Giving*

**WORSHIP:** Cover the Earth/ How Great is our God/ Send Your Rain/ Power of Your Love

**WELCOME:** The Price is Right

Give an intelligent guess of the price of the following items: ipad3, a Louis Vuitton bag, a Caribbean cruise, Botox injections, 2013 jaguar, an Armani suit, a new house in Beverly Hills,

**WORD:**

Our relationship with God is likened to the relationship of a husband and wife in *Ephesians 5*. He wants us to continue to pursue a relationship with Him as we continue to grow spiritually.

We can test ourselves if we are truly pursuing a relationship with Him in these areas:

1. Test of Communication

- when we love someone we enjoy talking to them, conversing with them
- in the same way, when we fall in love with God we will want to be in constant communication with Him
- prayer then does not become a chore, rather it becomes exciting and something we should look forward to

2. Test of Communication

- Like husband and wives, they enjoy being in each other's company. They love doing things together.
- In the same way, when we are intimate with God we want to linger in His presence

3. Test of Service

- We enjoy doing things for each other, we enjoy performing little acts of service for each other
- There is a difference between submission and surrender. We can surrender but often surrendering leaves room for us to do the task grudgingly whereas submission comes hand in hand with respect and delight

4. Test of Fear

- Fear here does not refer to a phobia or an actual fear rather it refers to the fear of displeasing God.
- We pursue intimacy with Him because we want to be pleasing to Him, we want to make Him happy.

5. Test of Giving

- "You can give with loving, but you cannot love without giving."
- We are encouraged to find joy in giving

What does the bible talk about giving, prosperity, or blessing?

- The words giving, prosperity and blessing is mentioned 2,200 times
- Fifteen percent of Jesus' parables also deals with giving
- There is a fundamental connection between our spiritual lives and how we think about and handle money

God wants to prosper you.

- He wants to bless us. *3 John 1:2*
- God's blessing is directly proportional to our spirituality. *2 Corinthians 9:11*
- But God doesn't bless us so that we can accumulate riches, God blesses us so that we can become an instrument of blessing to others. *Deuteronomy 28:13*

### **Seed Time and Harvest Principle**

*"Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed. Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness." 2 Corinthians 9:10-13*

- The very reason why God wants us to give is so that we can give back. And when we give back we are able to participate in good works and bring more people to Christ.

How do we do this?

1. GOD WANTS TO PARTNER WITH US.

- God is the capitalist, the owner, the consultant. We are merely His stewards, His managers.
- He will provide the seeds and also provide the instructions on how we will plant the seeds and care for the seeds.
- “If what you have in your hand is not enough for the harvest, turn it into a seed of faith.”
- There are three things we should understand:

<sup>19</sup> “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; <sup>21</sup> for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. <sup>22</sup> The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is <sup>[a]</sup>clear, your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup> But if your eye is <sup>[b]</sup>bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! <sup>24</sup> No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and <sup>[c]</sup>wealth. <sup>25</sup> “For this reason I say to you, <sup>[d]</sup>do not be worried about your <sup>[e]</sup>life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the <sup>[f]</sup>air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? <sup>27</sup> And who of you by being worried can add a single <sup>[g]</sup>hour to his <sup>[h]</sup>life? <sup>28</sup> And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. <sup>30</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! <sup>31</sup> Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ <sup>32</sup> For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But <sup>[i]</sup>seek first <sup>[j]</sup>His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be <sup>[k]</sup>added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will <sup>[l]</sup>care for itself. <sup>[m]</sup>Each day has enough trouble of its own.” Matthew 6:19-34

- a. Proper investment
  - When we invest on worldly things, it is risky but when we invest in heaven we are risk-free
- b. God is the boss.
  - You cannot serve both money and God
  - The principle of the world entices us to put value on money, on our jobs, on our careers, on our possessions
  - God’s principle is that we should give. Give. Give.
- c. Be worry free
  - We should find rest in God’s presence.
  - God does not want us to worry.

2. PLAN YOUR GIVING

- We should have a desire to give.
- We should prioritize God’s part in every harvest and should grow in faith and progress in our giving
- In the story of Cain and Abel, God showed His pleasure with Abel because Abel always gave Him as an offering the first of the harvest. He always gave God the best of his crops and not his left overs.
- In Malachi 3:10, God challenges us to give to the storehouses with a cheerful heart, and He will bless us abundantly.
- A story in Luke 21 tells us of a rich man and a widow who gave their offerings. Jesus emphasizes that the rich man followed the law and gave a tenth of his earnings, the widow gave her last two pennies.
- She gave from her heart. She gave everything she had. And this is what God wants from us. He wants us to give Him our whole hearts, our total being.

3. PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- We need to be sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.
- Often times the Holy Spirit would prompt us to extend a helping hand, to share our blessings, to give above what we usually give in our tithes
- This prompting is a relational experience with God and may be used by God so that we become avenues of His blessing to others

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the things that hinder you from giving?
2. After understanding and experiencing God's abundance, what do we commit ourselves to in our giving?
3. PARTNER. How do we partner with God? Have we dedicated to Him our business, our jobs?  
PLAN. What are my plans in my giving?  
PROMPTING. Have i experienced promptings to give? How have i responded?

**WORKS:**

God wants to get involved in our life, in our finances, in our giving because He wants us to be intimate with Him. To experience being free of the chains of anxiety that bind us to the world. Instead, He wants us to put Him first. To give to Him the best of the harvest and to allow Him to use us as instruments of His blessings.

In your quiet time, ask God to enlighten you in the areas of your life that you need to evaluate regarding your giving – in your partnering with Him, in your planning to give and in the promptings you receive.

Ask yourself: How have i become a Godly steward of what God has given me? Do i seek His will in my decisions on how i spend my time? My talents? And my treasures?

God blesses us so that we might bless others. How would you complete these statements: God saved me because \_\_\_\_\_ . God's purpose for me is \_\_\_\_\_ . I can be a blessing to others by \_\_\_\_\_ .

Pray with your dgroup and ask them to keep you accountable for the commitments that you have decided to pursue. Our Father is asking us to give Him our all. He is telling us to submit to Him and to pursue intimacy with Him. He wants us to understand the value of giving, of being blessed and having abundance. He wants us to have a surrendered life, so that we may enjoy the abundance of His blessing and His presence. In your journal, write your realizations and insights regarding partnering with God, planning and the prompting of the Holy Spirit. What are you committing yourself to do after these insights?