



***Series Title—Spiritual Growth***

***Part Eight—Give***

***Deuteronomy 14:22-23***

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***Objective Sentence:*** Everyone can grow spiritually by making nine commitments to the Lord Jesus Christ: (1) Where it all Begins (2) Give Your Full Attention (3) Make a Calendar Clock Commitment (4) Love the Church (5) Be Baptized in the Holy Spirit (6) Be A Witness for Christ (6) Witness you're your Words (6) Witness with Your Life (7) Be A Servant (8) Give (9) Be Sanctified.

***Introduction; Pastor Wayne Friedt:*** Life is broken down into increments of time. One sells those increments of time for money. Forty hours of time is forty hours of life. Jesus cares about life; therefore, Jesus cares about money. If your money is in a motor home, your heart will be on the open road. If your money is in a motor boat, your heart will be on the open sea, if your money is in the Kingdom of God, your money will be in the church and its mission of spreading the Gospel. Your offering represents your faith or your unbelief, your obedience or your rebellion, your liberty or your captivity, your advancement into your promised destiny or your retreat into the captivity of your past. People give according to their faith. Our heart follows our money because Jesus said in **Matthew 6:21-24**, “Where your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. **Ephesians 5:5** No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. **Colossians 3:5-6 NLT** So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. <sup>6</sup> Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming.<sup>1</sup>

***#1. Give***

***A. Carlos Ruiz Zafon: Presents are made for the pleasure of the one who gives them, not the merits of those who receive them. Ben Carson: Happiness doesn't result from what we get, but from what we give. Charles Dickens: No one is useless in this world***

*who lightens the burdens of another.*

1. **Respect** (*One of the most important benefits associated with tithing is respect for God that is gained by giving to Him*) *Deuteronomy 14:22-23* You must set aside a tithe of your crops—one-tenth of all the crops you harvest each year. <sup>23</sup> Bring this tithe to the designated place of worship—the place the LORD your God chooses for his name to be honored—and eat it there in his presence. This applies to your tithes of grain, new wine, olive oil, and the firstborn males of your flocks and herds. Doing this will teach you always to fear [*Amplified Bible: with awe –filled reverence; profound and respect*] the LORD your God)
  - a. *Luke 6:38* Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over [with no space left for more] will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use [when you do good to others], it will be measured back to you [in return].
  - b. *Pastor Dan:* Giving, sowing and tithing are more about honor and trust than it is about money.
  - c. *Proverbs 3:5-9* Trust [and rely confidently] in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> in all your ways [know, recognize and] acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths [removing obstacles that block your way]. <sup>7</sup> Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil. <sup>8</sup> It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones. <sup>9</sup> Honor the LORD with your possessions [wealth], and with the firstfruits of all your increase [income]; <sup>10</sup> So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.
  - d. *Dave Ramsey:* So why does He ask us to give 10% to Him? Tithing was created for our benefit. It is to teach us how to keep God first in our lives and how to be unselfish people. Unselfish people make better husbands, wives, friends, relatives, employees and employers. God is trying to teach us how to prosper over time.
  - e. *Proverbs 11:24-25* There is *one* who scatters, yet increases more; and there is *one* who withholds more than is right, but it *leads* to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich,  
And he who waters will also be watered himself.
  - f. *Dave Ramsey:* Giving liberates the soul of the giver. You never walk away feeling badly. Whether through a tithe, a charitable contribution, or a gift to someone in need; giving not only generates good; it generates contentment. And contentment is a by-product of honoring God.
  - g. *Galatians 6:6-8* Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. <sup>8</sup> For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. <sup>9</sup> And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.
  - h. *Pastor Dan:* You will lose so much more than you will gain by withholding your tithe from the Lord—financially, spiritually, emotionally, family.
2. **Gratitude**
  - a. *Psalms 50:7-15* O my people, listen as I speak. Here are my charges against you,

O Israel: I am God, your God! <sup>8</sup> I have no complaint about your sacrifices or the burnt offerings you constantly offer. <sup>9</sup> But I do not need the bulls from your barns or the goats from your pens. <sup>10</sup> For all the animals of the forest are mine, and I own the cattle on a thousand hills. <sup>11</sup> I know every bird on the mountains, and all the animals of the field are mine. <sup>12</sup> If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for all the world is mine and everything in it. <sup>13</sup> Do I eat the meat of bulls? Do I drink the blood of goats? <sup>14</sup> ***Make thankfulness your sacrifice to God, and keep the vows you made to the Most High.*** <sup>15</sup> Then call on me when you are in trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory.

- b. **2 Corinthians 9:6-11** Remember: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written: They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever. <sup>10</sup> Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.
- c. **Larry Burkett:** Way to avoid love of money is balance the ability to make money with the ability to give. **John Wesley:** Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.
- d. **John Bunyan:** There was a man some called him mad but the more he gave the more he had. **Proverbs 11:24-25** There is *one* who scatters, yet increases more; And there is *one* who withholds more than is right, but it *leads* to poverty. <sup>25</sup> The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.
- e. **Matthew 10:8** Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. **Dr. Charles Stanley:** If we are truly grateful, we'll want to share what we have. On the other hand, if we're self-centered, we'll want to keep as much as possible for ourselves. Of course, we cannot mail anything to God, so the only way we can actually give to Him is by being generous to each other and to the work of His kingdom. Let's not be guilty of what may be the greatest sin of all: indifference and ingratitude toward almighty God.
- f. **Source Unknown:** Many in our day seem to be afflicted with that terrible disease known as Cirrhosis of the Giver. This terrible malady renders the afflicted person's hand incapable of moving from the wallet to the offering plate. The only known cure is to remove the sufferer from the Lord's house, where the condition seems able to cure itself. This is seen in the fact that the sufferer is more than willing and able to spend money at restaurants and in activities which he/she enjoys. If you have this disease, there is a permanent cure. It is called repentance and obedience to the Lord. If you are afflicted by Cirrhosis of the Giver then allow me to point you to Dr Jesus. He has the cure you need. **Matthew 6:21** For

where your treasure is there will your heart [your wishes, your desires; that on which your life centers]

- g. *Ralph Waldo Emerson:* You cannot do a kindness too soon because you never know how soon it will be too late.

*Invitation and closing: Watchman Nee: John 6:11 Jesus feeds a multitude with five loaves he received from a boy:* For most of His miracles God makes use of material. Jesus accepts five loaves and two fishes. He might have turned stones to bread, but he did not. He chose instead to work with what was offered Him. “Bring the five loaves to me,” he said. What He does, he does through us. All miracles begin here, with my all in God’s hands. Keep my two loaves to myself and one man is fed. Give them up to Him, and me and a multitude is nourished. In a day of extreme national poverty the prophet Malachi brought to Israel God’s answer to her problem. It was: Bring all the tithes into the storehouse—and see! It takes only a tiny stopper to close a very large bottle, so withholding from us its entire contents. And heaven is like that. Often for us there is no miracle, simply because we give God nothing to work on. He asks only a very little—what we have! But He needs that.