

Giving to God First

Proverbs 3:9-10

Introduction

For many believers, there is no greater test of our love for God and faith in God, than how we spend our money. God wants us to recognize Him as our source and desires that we honor Him as such. We demonstrate our love for God and esteem Him highly when we prioritize Him in our giving. There is great value and importance in honoring God's position and His provision in our lives.

What do we give Him? We give in the right manor to God, when we give Him the first fruits that come from the work of our lives. First fruits, in Biblical times, referred to the earliest fruit, and many times the best fruit of the season. Before the farmer knew how much more fruit he would harvest or had any guarantee of his profitability, he gave to God first. Today, first fruits can be said to be the first product or result of anything we have. For most of us, that means giving to God first out of our finances.

When we give to God first, we do so, not because He needs our help, but out of our love for Him. Giving is a form of worship. When we honor God in this way, others are blessed when we give. "So your barns will be filled with plenty..." (Proverbs 3:10a). Every believer needs to grasp the beauty of giving; our giving allows us the privilege of ministering to others. We too are blessed when we give! "...And your vats will overflow with new wine." (Proverbs 9:10b) While we shouldn't give-to-get, there is truth in the fact that God prioritizes those who prioritize Him.

Getting Started

1. Sermons on giving sometimes make church-goers cringe? What about you? Are sermons about giving or finances hard to hear? Why or why not?
2. Do you struggle with the concept of giving? Share your answer with your group.

Let's Get Personal

1. Do you truly recognize God as your source and everything else as your resource OR are you treating your resources as your source? What are some behaviors that may distinguish who your source is and what your resources may be? Be honest. Share your answer with your group and explain why you answered as you did.
2. When you give, are you giving with a ministry mindset or do you think that you are giving with the hopes of getting something in return?
3. Does anyone in your group have a testimony of how God has blessed you as a result of giving with the right mindset?

Take the Next Step

1. How has your outlook on giving changed as a result of today's sermon? What do you intend to do differently in light of this truth?
2. If you truly view God as your source and all else as a resource, how should that affect decisions that you face in regards to your work, livelihood, spending habits, and financial concerns?
3. Want to read more about experiencing God? Look at Philippians 4:15-19, Luke 6:38, Malachi 3:10.
4. For more in depth reading on what giving looks like in the context of the local church, read 2 Corinthians 8-9.

Renew Your Mind

*Honor the Lord from your wealth
And from the first of all your produce;
Proverbs 3:9-10*
