

## Living Word Fellowship Church

Pastor Paul Cannings, D.Phil.

### A Biblical Analysis of How God Defines Stewardship

#### THE PLAN OF ACTION

(Most of this document was written by the late Dr. Harry Leafe, New Testament Professor for the College of Biblical Studies)

#### Lesson #5

- A. Understanding what the Bible says about giving is obviously important. We must now do it! And for many people, drawing up a specific plan is helpful.
- B. When Christians prioritize giving to God, they can expect their barns to be filled with plenty and their vats to overflow with new wine (Proverbs 3:9-10; 10:22; 11:24-25; 28:19-20). When this happens outside of God's blessings, it is temporal (Luke 12:13-20), and for a believer who relied on their wealth and did not serve the Lord would be "wretched, miserable, poor and blind and naked." (Revelation 3:15-18)
- C. Listed below are some principles to help you in formulating a plan for giving:
1. Why should I give?
    - a) Response to God's grace--(2 Cor. 8:9; 9:15)
    - b) Response to man's needs--(Acts 4; Phil. 4; 2 Cor. 8; Gal. 6:10; Matt. 25:34-40; Matt. 15:3-7).
    - c) To reap rewards (Mal. 3:10; 2 Cor. 9:6,8)
  2. To whom should I give?
    - a) The local church (Acts 4:32-37)
    - b) Aged parents and grandparents (1 Timothy 5:4)
    - c) Temporal needs of the Saints (2 Corinthians 8:9)
    - d) Missionaries (Philippians 4)
    - e) Teaching Elders (Pastor/Teacher) (Galatians 6:6-8; 1 Timothy 5:17,18; 1 Corinthians 9:14)
    - f) Our neighbors (Luke 10:25-37; Gal. 6:10)
    - g) The development of other churches (1 Cor. 16:1-3).
  3. How much should I give?
    - a) Two Primary Principles:
      - The first fruits: Giving should be first in our budget and it should be from our gross.
      - A tithe/ten percent – This is ten percent of our gross income.
      - It should be generous and sacrificial – Free will: Note that the Administration of Moses was our "tutor". What have we learned? --(2 Corinthians 8:2; 9:11, 13; Romans 12:8).

4. What should my attitude be?

- a) It is to be done willingly/eagerly (2 Corinthians 8:4-12)
- b) It is to be marked by cheerfulness (2 Corinthians 9:7)

### CONCLUSION

Giving is an act of worship that gains God's attention (1 Chronicles 21:18-30; 2 Chronicles 7). It is a demonstration of respect for God who gave us dominion over everything (Genesis 1:28-31), and there is no way anyone can rob Him (Haggai 1:3-12; Malachi 3:8-12). We are His stewards, and God is the owner. When we respect Him, it leads to treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:19-20) that are stored up forever, and it produces righteousness (1 Corinthians 9:10-11) because the believer now lives by faith in God's Word not in material resources (Romans 10:17; Luke 12:13-33). Their faith in God being the owner and supplier is steadfast; like the woman with the mite, they give willingly and cheerfully (Mark 12:41-44).

*"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; you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God. Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all, while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! The biblical law of giving teaches those believers who sow bountifully will also reap bountifully." (2 Corinthians 9:10-15).*