

Sacred Roots: Embracing Generosity (Week 4)
Unearthing Who We Are, Planting Who We Will Be
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"No one has ever become poor by giving." - Anne Frank

Question: Can generosity be seen as a form of investment, not only in the lives of others but also in our own personal growth, fulfillment, and sense of purpose?"

Principle

A **fundamental truth** or proposition that serves as the foundation for a system of **belief or behavior or a chain of reasoning**.

Universal- i.e "Do unto others" - Means that it can work whenever

Promise

a declaration or **assurance** that one will do a particular thing or that a particular thing will happen.

What is Faith?

Hebrews 11:1-

Now faith is the confidence (principle) in what we hope for and assurance (promise) about what we do not see.

- To **hope for** something is to not have it. But faith is so tangible that it becomes the placeholder for that which you are hoping for.
- Faith has the ability to be so potent, that the fact that you have faith can make me believe you already have, even though no one has seen it.

You have to get your faith to a point where you believe you have what you desire even though you can't see it.

- So many times we talk about having faith in God (with life's problems, etc.) but have you ever considered the possibility that **God FIRST had/practiced faith in us?** -- through unconditional love.

THINK ABOUT THAT: This means that **The God who made you chooses to forfeit what he knows about you to see what you will do with what he gave you...** That's heavy, right?

Can I tell you this... Your view on generosity will change when you change your view on money...

Ways We Can Show Generosity - Drop them in the chat

1. Acts of Kindness
2. Volunteering
3. Share Knowledge/ Mentorship
4. TITHING and Offerings

I want you to remember this - Money is important ~ but we need to put money in its place. If we don't put money in its place, then money will have us in places that we don't need to be.

Ultimately, What is money??? Money is a RESOURCE, God is THE SOURCE

“Most people who struggle with tithing/giving see it as obligation vs looking at it through the view of generosity.”

WE HAVE TO CHANGE THE WAY WE VIEW MONEY in the KINGDOM

1. They look at the black and white. (expound) but faith is not black and white
2. The money is theirs. The money you have, the job - IT'S NOT YOURS... It's God's!
Everything you have IT'S NOT YOURS! (on screen)

Psalm 24

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;

What do we gather from this?

1. YOU'RE NOT EVEN YOUR OWN

2. You Belong to God!

I'm not saying be reckless- but what I am saying is you don't always have to worry about fending for yourself. God will take care of you.

GOD HAS A WAY OF BALANCING THE BOOKS!

I know it looks like you have more month than money, I know it seems like your bills are stacking up -- but i'm telling you.... But if you will do your part, then God will do his.

But alot of us God can't do his part because we're not doing our part.

Some of us- We're playing God, and don't even know it. We're trying to take care of everything ourselves--- we're trying to rationalize why we don't tithe yet we're robbing ourselves of the overflow blessings of God because we won't release a portion of what he's trusted us with, back to him.

I want to invite you to, OPEN YOUR MIND!

REALIZE- As much as tithing is personal, it is a collective practice! With that in mind, that means that there is somebody dependent on you to be OBEDIENT!!! (Sit with that a moment)

Let's move through the scripture!

Read all Malachi 3

Malachi 3:8-9: The Principle

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

Wait? Can a Christian be cursed? Ehhh... You just won't be blessed.

Malachi 3:10: The Challenge

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts,

This is the CHALLENGE! PROVE ME NOW- That's God giving a challenge, IF YOU DO THIS, then I WILL DO THIS. **Between the principle and the promise, God will always give us the CHALLENGE to rise to!**

At this time, tithing was deemed as TAX (wasn't just money but was their resources) people brought it to the storehouse (the place where people could get help)

If you do this, it's going to help those who need it most in the community!

THE PROBLEM IS, IF YOU TITHE to the storehouse and there's no helping of the community.

(3:10 cont.) if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Malachi 3:11: The Promise

And **I will rebuke the devourer** for your sakes, and he shall **not destroy the fruits** of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.

And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts.

ANOTHER TAKE: You have the right to choose!

(Read all 2nd Corinthians 9)

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV) **says**, "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.**"

(v.10) God says I'll give seed to the sower

Here's your shout, here's where you worship, here's where you can lift him!!!

Law of Reciprocity

- It's impossible to run out with God

So this isn't just tithing anymore (but this is giving)

Tithing is the principle. 10%

Giving unlocks the promise of abundance. 100/60/30 fold (Matthew 13)

1. Seeds on the Path
2. Seeds on Rocky Ground
3. Seeds on Thorns
4. Seeds on Good Soil

In other words- giving is not aimless, there should be proper expectation based on place.

The parable emphasizes that the condition of the heart determines the outcome of the message. A heart that is receptive, fertile, and receptive to God's word will produce a fruitful response and bear much spiritual fruit. The different yields of 100, 60, and 30 fold highlight that while all fruitful, the level of growth and impact may vary among individuals based on their receptivity, understanding, and commitment to living out the message of the Kingdom.

Eley's Philosophy

1. Tithing is first fruits (Leviticus 23:10)
2. I sow where I grow
3. I sow to where I WANT TO GO!

TITHING CHALLENGE

1. If you're not tithing, START
2. If you're tithing- GIVE ABOVE YOUR TITHE.