

The Word in Meditation

A TOPIC OF TITHING 5

Welcome friend, to the Word in Meditation! I am glad for an opportunity to minister to you and how God has opened this door. I pray God's best for each and everyone of you.

Lord, we pray for your Holy Spirit to minister to us in these few minutes the words which you have prepared so we will grow in strength, faith, and knowledge. In Jesus' Name, amen.

I told you, yesterday, we would talk about liberal giving, New Testament style. Look in 2 Corinthians 9:5-8. Let's read together. "therefore, I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, where of you had notice before, that the same might be ready and not as of extortion. But this I say, He which sows sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which sows bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Everyman according as he purposes in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, nor of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver. An God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that you, always having sufficiency, in all things, may abound to every good work."

It is good for us to give to the work of the church or another ministry, but not to isolate ourselves from giving to anything else. A man told me the other day that we so often get our eyes on the ten percent we forget the other 90 percent belongs to Him also. For the scripture says the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, which means the money angle, too. So, while we may be giving to the church where we attend, it is necessary for our hearts and minds to be open to the bum on the street or any other need that someone would might have.

Money should never be extorted from the church body. Never should anyone make someone feel ashamed because they cannot give.

I sat in a church feeling kind of smug because the church was doing a fund-raiser and I had given a goodly sum to the cause. The pastor was pleading and said, "Can't you give just 50 cents? Surely, you can give 50 cents!" We were raising our hands for the pledges too, and the pastor and I were remarking how little of these people to not even give 50 cents! The pastor, I will add, was riding heavily on two dear people who I knew were, for a fact, in dreadful financial straits themselves! From what was going on, others seemed to appear they were being pressed into a corner and raised their hands committing more money. The two people the pastor was working on gave a commitment, with red faces, and left right after the church meeting. I did not see those people in that church ever again.

My conscience pricked me so! I asked for and received forgiveness for my thoughtless words and actions. Never again will I be a part of extortion whether verbally or in my thoughts! Extortion does not glorify God in any way whatsoever!

Well, our time is gone for today. I trust to see you again tomorrow.

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.