

Let's Review The Plan (Part 7)

Sunday, March 2, 2025

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

As we have been reviewing God's plan we have seen that we...

Must be BORN AGAIN, through believing in Jesus and by confessing and repenting of our sins.

Have been CALLED to FOLLOW JESUS by CHOOSING Him over everything else, allowing Him to CHANGE us inside and out, and COMMITTING to pick up our cross daily and follow Him.

Should TRUST GOD'S PLAN, PROVISION, TIMING, POWER, and COMPASSION

Have been given a command LOVE ONE ANOTHER

That we are personally responsible for carrying Jesus' mandate to FULFILL THE GREAT COMMISSION

And that His plan is for us to GROW

As we continue to REVIEW that PLAN that God has for our lives; I want us to explore an area of God's plan that I think often gets neglected or treated as an afterthought or something that man has attached to our spiritual journeys rather than something that God not only initiated but that remains an essential part of His plan for our lives.

GIVING

Malachi 3:10

10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

Proverbs 3:9-10

9 Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; 10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Matthew 23:23

23 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—

justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

The Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments are filled with instructions given by God that teach us that His plan is that we be GIVERS and that our GIVING includes both Tithes and Offerings.

Now much has been discussed over the years regarding the terminology of giving. Primarily the discussion revolves around the issue of THE TITHE (which simply means 10%) and whether or not the concept of tithing is carried into the NEW TESTAMENT. I would simply say that The Scripture is our guide and that the example of scripture (one which Jesus upheld with his comments to the Pharisees in Matthew 23) is that our giving should include a Tithe (10%) and that offerings above and beyond our tithes are appropriate as the Lord leads us.

What cannot be denied is the scriptural command to be GIVERS. God uses this as His plan to teach us...

...That EVERYTHING that we have comes from His hand and that we should be thankful for that provision.

...That we are dependent on Him and to demonstrate our faith in His provision by giving back of that which He has given us.

...To trust Him in all things, believing that what we have left over will go further than if we kept it all, because we are obedient to His plan to give

...That He uses our giving to support His work in this world (the Local church and those who minister in it, spreading the gospel throughout the world - Missions, taking care of those who are in need)

GIVE OBEDIENTLY

Leviticus 27:30, 32

30 "A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.

32 Every tithe of the herd and flock—every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd's rod—will be holy to the Lord.

Today, most Christians don't tithe. Consider these statistics. According to [Non-Profit Source](#), tithers make up only 10–25 percent of a "normal" congregation. Only [5 percent](#) of the United States population participates in tithing. On average, [Christians give 2.5 percent](#) of their income, which is down from the 3.3 percent given during the Great Depression.

- From <<https://get.tithe.ly/blog/106-bible-scriptures-about-giving>>

Deuteronomy 14:22

22 Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year.

Exodus 23:19

19 "Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the Lord your God.

GIVE WILLINGLY

Exodus 35:21-22, 29

21 and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved them came and brought an offering to the Lord for the work on the tent of meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. 22 All who were willing, men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the Lord.

29 All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the Lord freewill offerings for all the work the Lord through Moses had

**Hezekiah's Reforms after his father, Ahaz led Judah astray and shut up the temple and brought in idols of all kinds and even sacrificed his children in the fire.*

2 Chronicles 31:2-12

2 Hezekiah assigned the priests and Levites to divisions—each of them according to their duties as priests or Levites—to offer burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, to minister, to give thanks and to sing praises at the gates of the Lord's dwelling. 3 The king contributed from his own possessions for the morning and evening burnt offerings and for the burnt offerings on the Sabbaths, at the New Moons and at the appointed festivals as written in the Law of the Lord. 4 He ordered the people living in Jerusalem to give the portion due the priests and Levites so they could devote themselves to the Law of the Lord. 5 As soon as the order went out, the Israelites generously gave the firstfruits of their grain, new wine, olive oil and honey and all that the fields produced. They brought a great amount, a tithe of everything. 6 The people of Israel and Judah who lived in the towns of Judah also brought a tithe of their herds and flocks

and a tithe of the holy things dedicated to the Lord their God, and they piled them in heaps. 7 They began doing this in the third month and finished in the seventh month. 8 When Hezekiah and his officials came and saw the heaps, they praised the Lord and blessed his people Israel.

9 Hezekiah asked the priests and Levites about the heaps; 10 and Azariah the chief priest, from the family of Zadok, answered, "Since the people began to bring their contributions to the temple of the Lord, we have had enough to eat and plenty to spare, because the Lord has blessed his people, and this great amount is left over."

11 Hezekiah gave orders to prepare storerooms in the temple of the Lord, and this was done. 12 Then they faithfully brought in the contributions, tithes and dedicated gifts. Konaniah, a Levite, was the overseer in charge of these things, and his brother Shimei was next in rank.

2 Corinthians 8:12

12 For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.

GIVE CHEERFULLY

Paul takes the principle of giving willingly a step further by reminding us that God loves a CHEERFUL giver

2 Corinthians 9:7

7 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.

GIVE HUMBLY

Matthew 6:1-4

6 "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

2 "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

GIVE GENEROUSLY

The passage in 2 Chronicles 31 shows us another principle of God's plan for giving.

5 As soon as the order went out, the Israelites generously

2 Corinthians 9:6

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

Proverbs 11:25

25 A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

GIVE EXPECTANTLY

...by faith

...That God will reward that faith with blessing

Luke 6:38

38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Malachi 3:10

10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

Proverbs 3:9-10

9 Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; 10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

2 Corinthians 9:10-11

10 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. 11 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.

Give SACRIFICIALLY

Mark 12:41-44

41 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. 42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. 44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

How is God calling you to enter into this plan of GIVING for your life?

- Beginning, Renewed or Continued Obedience
- An attitude that reflects willingness, Cheerfulness and Humility
- Greater faith in His provision as well as an expectation His abundant blessings
- A new level of sacrifice for a special season or project