

LESSONS FROM FINANCIAL PROSPERITY – BREAKING THE BACK OF POVERTY

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Previously:

- 1) What is prosperity: True Financial Prosperity is when God – with or without money – provides for all your immediate needs and assignment, and you are content and grateful with that.
- 2) Avoiding shipwreck: Be content, be a blessing, remember that money is the least thing.
- 3) Love is the Foundation; pursue it
- 4) Giving brings not only material blessings, but also the priceless.

Today's Topic: TITHING (Pages 64 – 73)

1. What is a tithe (and tithing)?

Tithe = a tenth

Tithing = giving a tenth of one's increase to God as an offering.

2. Should Christians tithe as they did in the Old Testament?

Yes.

Genesis 14:18-20

Hebrews 7:1-8; 5:5-6

Christians are under the Melchizedek priesthood to which Abraham tithed way before the Law.

. . . Rick Joyner once asked the Lord whether tithing was still applicable under the New Covenant; the Lord answered him and asked "What Priesthood are you a part of?" Then led him to the following Scripture: Hebrews 7:1-6, 17. . .

Tithing dream: Pages 70 – 71

3. What are tithes for?

Primarily for the welfare of gospel ministers so they can do God's work.

Other things tithes can be used for are secondary.

Numbers 18:21 = 1 Corinthians 9:13-14. In fact, they should work expecting the tithes! 1 Corinthians 9:3-14

4. What are the benefits of tithing?

1. The Gospel is preached, because preachers are provided for.
Romans 10:13-15; 1 Corinthians 9:7a

A. W. Rasmussen's vision:

I was standing before a great unnamed cathedral . . . and I thought of the vast amount of money which must have been necessary to build such an edifice. What a masterpiece of workmanship it was!

But as I gazed at this great cathedral, a voice spoke: "My son," the Voice began, "people say, 'What a beautiful church!' But I say unto you, this is not My church!" I jumped ahead of Him, and thought I knew what He was going to say next. But then the vision changed.

I saw myself standing on a street in a great city overseas . . . The streets were made of cobblestone . . . The streets were in very bad condition. Many of the stones were out of place, others almost totally covered with mud. In some places there were great mud holes . . . As I walked along that street, noticing these miserable cobblestones, I was amazed to hear voices speaking out of those stones! "Come! Oh, come!" they cried. "Come and build us into the temple of the Lord!" They called pitifully, as though in great distress.

Then my vision was drawn to a far horizon. There, in the distance, I saw men of God coming to answer the cry of those poor cobblestones. Many of them were coming intent on plucking these old stones out of the mire and building them into God's temple. They were running with all their might to answer the call of the cobblestones. But then I saw that something was hindering them. There seemed to be an invisible wall and they could come just so far, and no further. They tried and tried to get past that wall. They pushed against it; they tried to knock it over; they tried to climb over it. But none succeeded. "How strange!" I thought. "They want to come but they can't. I wonder what is hindering them?"

Then the Lord began to speak to me distinctly and clearly. "I will explain the last part of the vision to you first," He said. "The cobblestones in the mire represent the millions who have not yet heard the word of salvation. Year after year, they live in their sins with none to help them. If someone would only take the message of salvation to them, they would become 'living stones' in the Church I am building." (1

Peter 2:5) "I am now pouring out of My Spirit upon many of my servants," the Lord continued. "My Church is being clothed with gifts and power, and shall be restored to beauty and glory. But even though many are anointed with power and many are hearing the call of the cobblestones, yet they are hindered from answering the call.

Before My Church can be restored to her full glory, she must learn the mystery of the invisible wall." "Please tell me," I begged, "that I may tell Your people what it is that hinders." "Here is understanding," He said. "My anointed servants are hindered by lack of funds. The tithe belongs to them. I have appointed it to them for their use. But My people have used the tithes for building great temples and cathedrals, and paying architects. They say, 'What beautiful churches we have built for God!' They rob My anointed servants of the tithes, and use them instead to pay off mortgages and interest. And My Church goes unbuilt for lack of funds."

2. To one who tithes: Malachi 3:10-12

... PROPHECY ... Hebrews 6:11-15