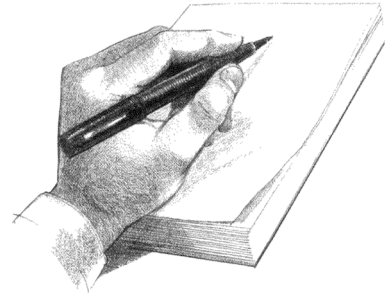


Living Connections Bible Study

The Habit of Generous Giving



Prayer

Icebreaker: *The Rest of the Story* by Paul Aurandt

There are 4 indispensable habits we need to develop for spiritual prosperity and success

- Getting into God's Word every day
- Developing a consistent prayer life
- Having regular weekly fellowship with other believers
- Systematic, proportionate giving

In this study we are going to discover what the Bible has to say about giving.

1. Who is owner of the resources in my hand, God or me? Psalm 50:10-12 & Haggai 2:8

2. To whom do we owe our next breath? Acts 17:27-28

3. To whom do we owe our wealth? Deuteronomy 8:18

4. When God created man, what responsibility did He give him?
Genesis 1:26-30; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; Matthew 25:14-15

5. What one thing did God reserve for Himself of all that He put at Adam and Eve's disposal to demonstrate His Lordship and authority over man, and by which man could demonstrate his love and obedience to God? Genesis 2:16-17

Tithing was practiced long before Moses and the Law as a principle of acknowledging the sovereign authority of the Creator over mankind.

6. How did Melchizedek refer to God when he blessed Abraham in Genesis 14:18-22?

7. How then did Abraham acknowledge that the Most High God was his sovereign Lord? Genesis 14:20

The writer of Hebrews commends and endorses tithing in the New Testament by using Abraham's example to encourage Hebrew believers to recognize that the priesthood of Jesus our mediator, is better than the Levitical priesthood under the Law. These Jews were accustomed to paying their tithes to support the Levitical system at the temple in Jerusalem. But Hebrews 7:1-10 was to teach them how Abraham paid tithes to a better priest, and since the Levites are descendants of Abraham they paid tithes to Melchizedek through him. Thus in symbol, the Levites demonstrated that the Priesthood of Christ is greater than the priesthood established under Aaron and the other descendants of Levi.

8. Who was Melchizedek? Hebrews 7:1-10, especially verses 2-3 & 8.

9. According to Hebrews 7:8, is Jesus still receiving the tithes of His people in Heaven today?

10. What lesson can we learn from John 8:39 coupled with Galatians 3:6-7, 9, 29 with regard to tithing?

11. What promise did Jacob make to God when he was running from his brother Esau?
Genesis 28:20-22

12. What did Jesus say about tithing when speaking to the Pharisees in Matthew 23:23?

13. What indictment does God make against His people in Malachi 3:8?

14. What is the difference between tithes and offerings?

15. What lesson does tithing teach us? Deuteronomy 14:22-23

16. What happened because Israel robbed God of tithes and offerings? Malachi 3:9

17. From Haggai 1:4-11 make a list of the negative consequences of putting our own interests before God.

18. Where did God instruct Israel to bring their tithes and offerings? Malachi 3:10

19. When it comes to Christian giving, do you think it is important to make your local church a priority? Why or why not? 1 Corinthians 9:9-11; 16:1-2

16. What promise does God make to those who bring their tithes and offerings to Him? Malachi 3:10-12; Haggai 2:15-19; & Proverbs 3:9-10

Think about this week:

Nearly two-thirds of Jesus' parables deal with the use of money. God equates the use of wealth with our commitment to Him.

What did Jesus teach us in Matthew 6:19-33 about our attitude toward money and possessions?

- \$ Jesus wants me to store up treasure in Heaven, Verses 19-20
- \$ Where my treasure is there is where my heart will be also. Verse 21
Is my heart fixed on things on earth or things in Heaven?
- \$ I must be careful of what I fix our eyes on (covetousness). Verses 22-23
- \$ Who is my master, money or God? Verse 24
- \$ Is my motivation in life to make ends meet and make a living or putting God first? Verses 25-32
- \$ I must put God first in my life, do what is right, and He will meet all my needs. Verse 33