



WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED IN 40 YEARS OF GIVING TO GOD'S WORK, (missionaries and pastors and churches!)

**HOW TO MAKE
YOUR GIVING TO GOD MORE
FRUITFUL.**

God bless you.

As I write this message, we are very near Easter time here on the earth in the Year of our Lord (A.D) 2024

This month we have already written our first two ever exclusive WCFs about Missions, that is WCF 143 and 145. ('Three Mission Teams testimonies' and 'What do Missionaries and True Pastors do?') Today, we are finishing up on this trilogy about missions covering the topic of Giving to Missions.!

This valuable edition of the WCF, is about two or three things, which should greatly encourage you and yet perhaps sadden you in some aspects.

I wish to share with you some personal experience and lessons, in the context of these two topics:

(i) giving to God's Work, which means giving to pastors, missionaries, and churches and individual men and women of God.

(ii) and also as a missionary of quite a few years, about receiving gifts and donations from God's

generous people. The personal mistakes I have made about handling these gifts; there is so much to learn here and I pray this will be helpful.

First, and before we begin we should remember we are all sinners, and that includes me and all other pastors and missionaries. The only thing that could make 'us' any more responsible, is that we were specifically called of God to serve Him in this way. However, as the great Apostle once said,

1 Timothy 1:15

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

**SO LET'S BEGIN WITHOUT
FURTHER ADO!**



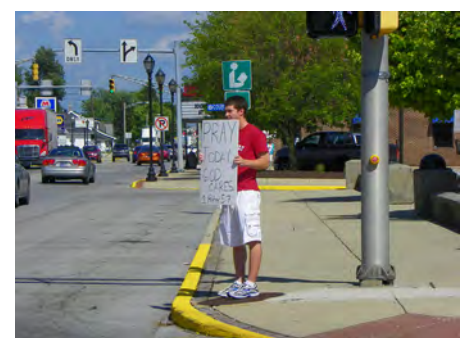
(i) giving to God's Work, which means giving to pastors, missionaries, and churches and individual men and women of God.

Most of God's people want to give into His Work and

Kingdom. Some even tithe and give offerings which is the way to go to achieve God's greatest blessings in your own lives. I have touched upon this subject in WCF # (REFERENCE), but the main point I wish to make today is this unique point, which you may not hear anywhere else. Which is:

If you are deciding to give into God's Work, then you should think deeply about this quotation from a great man of God, and as a pastor and missionary in difficult lands, he knew what he was talking about! He said:

'We must not only win souls (to Jesus Christ), but we must also make disciples of those souls!'



This quotation is completely scriptural and I will share a few of many verses about this in a minute. But let's think about this quotation for a minute: there are two things commanded us in the Word of God as regards our service, - we have to win souls to Jesus, and then we have to turn those souls into disciples of Jesus themselves! **And this is the foundation principle of giving to God's Kingdom!** Are the people, church, pastor, missionary, you are considering investing your funds and prayers and time into; are they winning souls to Jesus Christ? (and can you see that, or can they prove that or report about that?)

Are they then taking time to establish those people (converts) into positive and stable disciples of Jesus also, and in time they will also bear fruit and win others to Jesus Christ? If your potential investment is doing these two things, or starting down that road at the very least, then you should give your income into their missions, or their work for God.

This applies whether they are an individual man or woman or young person 'going out as missionaries', a church, or some kind of group, etc. otherwise you will most likely have heartache and regret later concerning your spiritual and financial investment.

You must follow this major principle if you are going to bear fruit with your money and prayers. There is no point giving our hard earned funds to situations which are not

accomplishing these two things above.

You are wasting your money and time and you should NOT give to them if they are not fulfilling these two points.

Impulse Giving! Or feeling pressured to give.

You should remember this point very carefully, because there are some hindrances to you. Let's say you agree with this point and feel determined to follow this advice, you will eventually come across Christian people or websites or others who have such a charismatic attitude and psychologically 'know' how to raise money for missions, that they make you feel very obligated to give to them for many reasons. This is quite similar to what is called 'impulse shopping'.



This is a common occurrence, you go shopping look at something beautiful clothes, electronic equipment, perfumes, clothes, shoes, (don't forget shoes!) and so on, and you just buy it right there and then!

You may often then have what is called 'buyer's remorse' or a regret that you bought that or gave money to missions who were not actually obeying the commandments of Jesus Christ. What a shame and a bad feeling, as I have also

experienced. Sand in the mouth! I pray you don't have to go through that.

So beware of impulse, or being coerced into giving to missions based on the excitement of your emotions, unless you know the Lord enough to discern whether these people are actually winning souls and making disciples of those souls! Amen? Great, if you do that you will feel much happier, and stay out of a lot of trouble. Praise the Lord.

The reactions you get from Christians you give money to. Over a period of time, that is even few months or less, it should become plain to you what the reaction of the people you are giving your money to is.

I have found there is a big difference in the attitude of people who receive money from God's people. The vast majority of them have a very good a spiritual and godly attitude to receiving your gifts. You will usually be able to tell a truly thankful attitude, and a warm spirit and words of genuine appreciation, and they often may add some special word of blessing for you or some scripture or add an extra testimony of what the Lord is doing with them! This is exactly how it should be! There are however some churches, missionaries and people, who have come to accept gifts as an entitlement and a right, and are quite blasé about the whole thing. I have even known some people who suggested that we were not giving enough to them, or why did it take me so long to send that gift, when they needed it

so badly!? It may be true they really need it, but all of God's workers usually need money. I have always been shocked when coming into contact with such people, but I thank the Lord it is few and far between. (But it does happen!) So the lesson there is to look carefully at their attitude and see if it reflects the standard of God's word of love, and appreciation.

(ii) receiving gifts and donations from God's generous people. The personal mistakes I have personally made about handling these gifts; there is so much to learn here and I pray this will be helpful.

Let us look also briefly when the shoe is on the other foot. If you are serving the Lord you need funds. Especially if you or your church or team etc are full time or even going for some months to a mission field, you need funds. There are a lot of books and advice out there concerning this. Here I just want to share a few lessons.



Because the most important thing to remember about money when you are serving the Lord is that you are stewards of it. The money is not yours, it belongs to God

and HE is also looking at how you are using these funds for his glory and his Work. Your givers also will be wondering and deciding if they want to keep investing in you and in these days of challenging financial times, it would be easy for some to 'give up' on you. Most of God's people usually want some information about their financial and spiritual investments, which is only right. Praise the Lord.

So you should handle your income with a fear of the Lord and be faithful in that which is least, so you will be able to be faithful in God's eyes in that which is much. Luke 16:10-11

Remember it is all too easy to waste funds, spend God's money that you think is vital at the time. Be influenced by others as to what the money should be spent for etc. I like the way a few churches I have seen do when they collect everyone's tithes or gifts, after the offering the pastor or some elder will lay hands on the money and ask God to increase it, multiply it and use it for His glory. This acknowledgement before both God and the church/group is a very good thing. As long as they follow through with it. God bless them.

May the Lord help us both to give generously to the people God really wants us to give to, and if we are servants doing God's work full time may we have a great deal more fear of the Lord and Wisdom how to use those funds to 'win souls and make disciples of those souls!' amen?

I pray this little edition is a blessing in some way as we approach Easter.

I leave you with some words from a missionary in Brazil and some supporting scriptures. Until Next week, God willing, Jerry for the WCF TEAM

'These newsletter of yours, together with your friends that give and support to these mission works reminded me of that testimony about a washerwoman:



The story is told of Sophie, a Christian washerwoman in San Francisco who was always praising the Lord, even though she worked very hard. One day on the streetcar (tram) she met a lady who knew her, and Sophie said to her: "Do you know where I've been recently? I've been to China, India, and the South Sea Islands." The lady looked at her a little oddly, knowing that she never even left town. In fact, she was so poor that she could hardly even afford to ride the streetcar!

The lady replied, "What do you mean, Sophie? You haven't even been out of San Francisco!" And Sophie said, "The money I earn from washing clothes is my blood, sweat, tears, and toil. It's a part of me, and I gave of it to the

missionaries, and it has gone out all over the world preaching the gospel!" (sent in by Melinda Orlet in the Amazon, Brazil)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES about 'winning souls and making disciples of those souls! .

2 Timothy 2: 2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, **that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain:** that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Matthew 28: 18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in

the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Acts 20: 27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

Acts 20: 37 And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him,

38 Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. And they accompanied him unto the ship. (Paul, the missionary,

with some of his 'souls' who became 'disciples!')

If anyone reading this, wishes to give to our missions or to the development of these articles globally, they can do so using these options below. Please give in either of these ways. Many Thanks Happy Easter!

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GO YE THEREFORE,
AND TEACH ALL
NATIONS, BAPTIZING
THEM IN THE NAME OF
THE FATHER, AND OF
THE SON, AND OF THE
HOLY GHOST

MATHEW 28:19



► **Elijah and the Widow at Zarephath**

7 Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. 8 Then the word of the Lord came to him: 9 “Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.” 10 So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, “Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?” 11 As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.”

12 “As surely as the Lord your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.”

13 Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. 14 For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land.’”

15 She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. 16 For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah.

1 King 17:7-24

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