



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

Why God Doesn't Need Our Money

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The topic seems to contradict what we know about the commandments of God on giving (Mal 3:10; Lk 6:38). We fail to understand His ultimate plan for us. We still have the attitude of focusing first on ourselves and on God second. Sometimes, we dare to make deals with God to give after He answers our personal prayers first. While we try to rationalize our misguided understanding in giving, we are reminded that God doesn't really need our money.

- 1. God is the owner; we are just trustees and stewards.** Rom. 11:35-36 says that all things come through God and we cannot out-give his generosity; he owns both heaven and earth (Dt. 10:14 ; Ps. 50:9-12).
- 2. God needs our hearts.** Giving is the way for us to deepen our love and devotion to the Lord. Jesus says, "do not store up treasures in earth but in heaven, and where your treasure is, there is your heart" (Mt. 6:19, 21).
- 3. God calls us to trust Him in all things.** We should have enough confidence in God that in giving, we will never be empty; we must never be anxious for our future (Mt 6:25, Mt 8:26).
- 4. God measures our love by our obedience.** In John 14:15 Jesus says, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." If we diligently obey all, blessings will overwhelm us (Dt 28:1-2).
- 5. God needs our faithfulness.** God never asks us to do something without providing the source for it.
- 6. God is our source.** In the wedding of Cana, Mother Mary informed Jesus on the shortage of wine. Jesus filled 6 stone jars of 30 gallons each (John 2). He is our source of all things.
- 7. God wants to test our faith.** God tested Philip in giving food (John 6:6), though Jesus already knew what to do. We sometimes under-

estimate God, though He only needs our faithfulness. He will bless and multiply beyond our expectations (Heb 11:6).

- 8. God values our sacrifice.** Let us present our bodies to the Lord as a sacrifice (Rom. 12:1). God does not see the value of the money we give, but what we give up for that offering.
- 9. God wants to bless us.** Jesus Christ himself declares great blessings to those who give (Acts 20:35; Luke 6:38).
- 10. God wants us to be the channel of his blessings.** God wants everyone to experience his abundant blessings through our giving. We will be enriched in every way, so we can be generous on every occasion (2Cor 9:8).
- 11. God wants us to prioritize him.** Malachi 3 reminds us that we should not rob God by not giving our tithes and offerings.
- 12. Giving to God is a form of worship.** Giving to God is a good spiritual habit - by giving, we acknowledge God for the blessings we receive, and for our dependence on Him for our future.
- 13. God wants our gratitude.** We give because we are thankful for His blessings. We give out of our love and thankfulness.
- 14. God wants us to be His mission partner.** To give is our answer to God's call to the mission of spreading the Gospel (Mt. 28:19-20).

Conclusion: Let us remove the hardness in our hearts, and be generous with our money and our time. Let us share our joy and encouragement with others. When we give as God commanded, we will experience his abundant blessings. Let us trust in His providence and submit to his plans for us.

Reflection:

1. How do you respond to God's call in giving?
2. How do you prioritize God in your finances?
3. What is your plan to fulfill God's mission?

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