

## Session Five:

### Give Extravagantly

#### I) Introduction

1. Right now in the body of Christ, the Holy Spirit is touching people in mass to give and finance the Gospel in extravagant ways. As the Holy Spirit gives wealth to the Church, it's important that we understand wealth's purpose as it relates to the Kingdom of God.
2. Today in week five of our Forerunner 101 series I'm going to cover the value of "Giving Extravagantly."

#### II) The Divine Challenge

1. There is only one place in all of the Bible where God calls us to test Him and it's in the area of finances.
  - a) **Malachi 3:10** *"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse (the local Church), that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this", says the Lord of hosts, if I will not pour out for you such a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it."*
2. Today the Holy Spirit is answering the longing of the Father's heart that His house, the local and universal Church would be a *"...house of prayer for all nations (Matt. 21:12-17)."* But building the house of prayer is going to cost billions as God establishes a cooperate voice across the earth singing, praying, preaching and prophesying His heart to the nations.
3. The divine challenge is for us to start by giving God a tenth of our income (**Mal 3:10**).
4. We are often waiting for God to move in our finances, but He's usually waiting on us. In **Exodus 15** the Children of Israel are stuck in-between the Red sea and the Egyptian army coming after them from the wilderness. It's here that God instructs Moses to lift up the rod that's already in his hand (**Ex. 15:11-18**).
5. Giving God our tithe (which is already in our hand) is basic, or entry level Christianity. In truth we have far greater buying power with 90% of our income when we make God first with 10%.
  - a) **Romans 11:16** *"For if the first fruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy so also are the branches."* In giving 10% we sanctify or set apart the 90%.
6. In answering the divine challenge of tithing we are actually giving to Someone, not some man! Sowing our finances is about intimacy as God's eyes are upon our movement of faith towards Him.
  - a) **Matthew 6:3-4** *"But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly."* Giving money is about the Genesis one God watching you and interacting with you. It's about intimacy.

## "Seven Values Of A Forerunner"

### III) Developing A Personal History In God

1. **Matthew 25:8-9** *"And the foolish said to the wise, give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out. But the wise answered, saying, NO, lest there should not be enough for us and you, but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourself."*
2. I can't give you my history with God and you can't give me yours. Our history is personal.
3. It's critical that each of us develop a personal history in God in the area of money, both in giving and receiving. As we give to Him what we have, and we see that He's watching us, it increases our trust in His perfect leadership over our lives (**Rev. 11:17**).
4. Our personal history in God that we are developing isn't merely about money. It's that God is watching us, overseeing us and dynamically involved in our lives. Without a personal history in God, in times of lack we accuse Him of not watching, seeing and being involved with us.

### IV) The Call To Live Simply

1. Living a simple life in this hour is great wisdom. Living simply right now helps us connect our lives with the age to come more than this present evil age. Paul challenge's Timothy to be content with food and clothing (**1<sup>st</sup> Tim. 6:8**).
2. It's about rejecting both a spirit of poverty and a spirit of prosperity. What we want is a spirit of contentment.
  - a) **Philippians 4:11-12** *"Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content; I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need."*
  - b) John Piper said *"The devil loves Pastors to be under paid and underappreciated and he also loves Pastor's to be overpaid and over appreciated."*
3. Kingdom simplicity is about giving not lacking. We live on less so that we can give more. Forerunners don't despise wealth, they use it for the Kingdom of God.
  - a) **Deuteronomy 8:18** *"And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He might establish His covenant that He swore to your fathers..."*
4. It seems that most Christians long for income to increase their own wealth and prosperity, but not to extend the Kingdom and establish God's covenant in the earth.
5. September 2008 was a gift from God to America and possibly the nations of the earth. In tenderness, God shook our financial system to awaken us. For Jennifer and I it didn't feel like a tender shaking, but a violent awakening.
  - a) **Luke 21:3-4** *"So He said, truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood she had."* Giving is never about an amount but a percentage.