

BIBLE STUDY SERIES:

TRUSTING THE FATHER

MONEY, TITHE, & GIVING

Chris Badenhorst

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INTENTION:

If you felt guilty reading that title, then this is what you need to hear.

Many of us have been abused by guilt from the “church” or our upbringing.

So, let’s be free from that obligation, abuse, and guilt!

I. TOPIC:

We want to look at Money, Tithe, and Giving.

Money is simply a tool. It doesn't matter how much or how little money you make or have—it is how you use it, and what your heart-condition is about money. And if the Lord personally wants you to give or to tithe or to save, then just do. This is not about some magic formula or doctrine, but about your personal relationship with the Lord.

Money is not evil; but it can be used for good and for bad. This is why the Lord asks us to be responsible in both His Kingdom affairs and the worldly affairs we deal in. He understands that money is a reality of this world and uses it for us and for others. If having a lot of money was a sin, then Solomon would be the greatest money-sinner ever.

Even Jesus Himself (and therefore His family) was well-off financially—they were gifted much wealth after His birth ([Matthew 2:11](#)). Not only that, Jesus wore fine clothes ([John 19:23](#)), had a house ([Mark 2:1](#)), could afford to arrange a place for a large gathering and meal ([Matthew 26:18](#)), and also ate and drank well (that drink being wine) ([Luke 7:34](#)). Jesus never gave all His money away, but utilized it for His family, friends, disciples, travels, and ministry. It was a tool for Him to do what He needed, while also being able to enjoy some of those pleasures money can bring.

And for His disciples, Jesus never asked any (specifically Matthew / Levi the Tax Collector) to give away or purge himself of the money he earned doing his job. Some disciples did drop (leave) everything and follow Jesus, but it was their choice, not a Jesus-mandate.

When our focus becomes on the money we have (wealth) or do not have (poverty), then we are making it a god (putting it first) above the Lord. We cannot serve two masters (the Lord and money). Thus, we must always let Him provide and be our Financial Advisor; allowing Him to use us as vessels to contain or distribute as He desires. When we put money first, we limit God. When we put God first (seeking His Kingdom first), He provides for ALL our needs.

He wants to provide for us that we become a blessing and provider to others as Abraham was ([Genesis 12:2b](#)). Everywhere Abraham went, he left the place better off than it was when he got there; gaining more as he went.

Let us do the same by leaving things in a better condition than when we got there. And allow the Lord's blessings to flow through you as He provides for both the person giving and the person receiving. He instructs us to ask Him for whatever; so, ask. He will give in connection with His Kingdom responsibility. You just need to be responsible for what He gives you. When you learn to take care of little, then don't be surprised when He has you take care of much.

And when you are giving, a sign that you are not giving out of works and obligation, is when you are giving from the heart. We may have heart-filters or heart-hardness that we need to handle as we give, but the Lord can set you free from any of the financial / money strongholds you may be dealing with. It's always a heart-matter that should be free of guilt, obligation, Law, pressure, comparison, rule, policy, requirement, or doctrine.

II. READING: [Luke 16:1-15](#) (NLT)

Jesus told this story to his disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a manager handling his affairs. One day a report came that the manager was wasting his employer's money. 2 So the employer called him in and said, 'What's this I hear about you? Get your report in order, because you are going to be fired.'

3 "The manager thought to himself, 'Now what? My boss has fired me. I don't have the strength to dig ditches, and I'm too proud to beg. 4 Ah, I know how to ensure that I'll have plenty of friends who will give me a home when I am fired.'

5 "So he invited each person who owed money to his employer to come and discuss the situation. He asked the first one, 'How much do you owe him?' 6 The man replied, 'I owe him 800 gallons of olive oil.' So the manager told him, 'Take the bill and quickly change it to 400 gallons.'

7 "'And how much do you owe my employer?' he asked the next man. 'I owe him 1,000 bushels of wheat,' was the reply. 'Here,' the manager said, 'take the bill and change it to 800 bushels.'

8 “The rich man had to admire the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd. And it is true that the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light. 9 Here’s the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.

10 “If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities. 11 And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? 12 And if you are not faithful with other people’s things, why should you be trusted with things of your own?

13 “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.”

14 The Pharisees, who dearly loved their money, heard all this and scoffed at him. 15 Then he said to them, “You like to appear righteous in public, but God knows your hearts. What this world honours is detestable in the sight of God.

III. RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:

- A. Offerings and sacrifices are something that have instinctively been done throughout the course of the Bible. It is also something we see in many cultures and other religions in a worship or appeasement of a god. Before it became a requirement of the Law for the Israelites to do (only Israelites), it was done voluntarily by Cain and Abel, as well as Job. What got Cain in trouble was his heart condition behind his offering—not because it was grain versus meat. Both grain and meat offerings are a pleasant aroma to the Lord ([Leviticus 2 & 3](#)). But even though Cain’s gift wasn’t accepted, the Lord did not remove His Grace and Love from Cain, protecting him with a mark, and blessing his son Enoch. Job, who lived shortly after the Flood, offered for his children instinctively (without instruction from the Lord to do so)—that it is innately in every human to want to give for the Lord.

[Genesis 4:1-5](#) (NLT)

Now Adam had sexual relations with his wife, Eve, and she became pregnant. When she gave birth to Cain, she said, “With the Lord’s help, I have produced a man!” 2 Later she gave birth to his brother and named him Abel.

When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. 3 When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord. 4 Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his gift, 5 but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.

[Hebrews 11:4-5](#) (NLT)

It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel’s offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man, and God showed his approval of his gifts. Although Abel is long dead, he still speaks to us by his example of faith.

5 It was by faith that Enoch was taken up to heaven without dying—“he disappeared, because God took him.” For before he was taken up, he was known as a person who pleased God.

[Job 1:4-5](#) (NLT)

Job’s sons would take turns preparing feasts in their homes, and they would also invite their three sisters to celebrate with them. 5 When these celebrations ended—sometimes after several days—Job would purify his children. He would get up early in the morning and offer a burnt offering for each of them. For Job said to himself, “Perhaps my children have sinned and have cursed God in their hearts.” This was Job’s regular practice.

[Job 42:7-9](#) (NLT)

After the Lord had finished speaking to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite: “I am angry with you and your two friends, for you have not spoken accurately about me, as my servant Job has. 8 So take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and offer a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer on your behalf. I will not treat you as you deserve, for you have not spoken accurately about me, as my servant Job has.” 9 So Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite did as the Lord commanded them, and the Lord accepted Job’s prayer.

Question: Why do you think these people made offerings to the Lord before the Law mandated it?

Response:

- B. Abraham also gave without mandate to the priest, Melchizedek. This giving of 10% of the spoils of war is defined as a tithe: meaning ten percent of something ([H4643](#)). Abraham gave, not because it was a tithe, but because he gave from his heart to the man of God. There was no requirement to give 10% (he could have given 4% or 40%), but he chose from his own heart that it be 10% (thus, literally a tithe). We too also recognise that this was only done once, not again and again out of repetition, command, or tradition. It was a one-and-done matter. Thus, when we look at Abraham as tithing, it is not necessary for us to do the same. Likewise for Jacob’s tithe. The Law no longer exists to be a requirement to tithe; nor do we have to tithe based on what Abraham or Jacob did.

[Genesis 14:17-20](#) (NLT)

After Abram returned from his victory over Kedorlaomer and all his allies, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King’s Valley).

18 And Melchizedek, the king of Salem and a priest of God Most High, brought Abram some bread and wine. 19 Melchizedek blessed Abram with this blessing:

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.

20 And blessed be God Most High who has defeated your enemies for you.”

Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the goods he had recovered.

[Genesis 28:16-22](#) (NLT)

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I wasn’t even aware of it!” 17 But he was also afraid and said, “What an awesome place this is! It is none other than the house of God, the very gateway to heaven!”

18 The next morning Jacob got up very early. He took the stone he had rested his head against, and he set it upright as a memorial pillar. Then he poured olive oil over it. 19 He named that place Bethel (which means “house of God”), although it was previously called Luz.

20 Then Jacob made this vow: “If God will indeed be with me and protect me on this journey, and if he will provide me with food and clothing, 21 and if I return safely to my father’s home, then the Lord will certainly be my God. 22 And this memorial pillar I have set up will become a place for worshiping God, and I will present to God a tenth of everything he gives me.”

Question: Why do you think Abraham and Jacob gave 10% of what they had?

Response:

- C. The Laws of Moses commanded a tithe. But we must remember that the Law was not given to all the peoples of the earth, but to a selected group of people: the Israelites. Everyone else (the “Uncircumcised” / Gentiles) have never been under the Law. Furthermore, the entire world now lives post-Cross. Christ fulfilled the Law, making it and its curses null and void for the Israelites (or anyone). Jesus was the tithe, offering, and sacrifice for all humanity.

[Leviticus 27:30-33](#) (NLT)

“One-tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord and must be set apart to him as holy. 31 If you want to buy back the Lord’s tenth of the grain or fruit, you must pay its value, plus 20 percent. 32 Count off every tenth animal from your herds and flocks and set them apart for the Lord as holy. 33 You may not pick and choose between good and bad animals, and you may not substitute one for another. But if you do exchange one animal for another, then both the original animal and its substitute will be considered holy and cannot be bought back.”

[Galatians 3:10-14](#) (NLT)

But those who depend on the law to make them right with God are under his curse, for the Scriptures say, “Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the commands that are written in God’s Book of the Law.” 11 So it is clear that no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law. For the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.” 12 This way of faith is very different from the way of law, which says, “It is through obeying the law that a person has life.”

13 But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” 14 Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham, so that we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith.

[Ephesians 2:11-19](#) (NLT)

Don’t forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called “uncircumcised heathens” by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. 12 In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. 13 But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.

14 For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. 15 He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. 16 Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

17 He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. 18 Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

19 So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family.

Question: Does being free of obligation (the Law) change how you view money, possessions, giving, or church?

Response:

- D. Jesus criticized the Pharisees for their tithing. The Pharisees never gave out of heart or want, but of ritual. They saw it as an accomplishment to brag about in their plenty when so many others were struggling to just provide an offering. Jesus even saw how the money exchangers took advantage of the poor and chased them out of the Temple twice ([John 2:13-16](#) and [Matthew 21:12-13](#))!

[Matthew 23:23](#) (NLT)

"What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.

[Mark 12:41-11](#) (NLT)

Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. 42 Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins.

43 Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. 44 For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on."

[Luke 18:9-14](#) (NLT)

Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: 10 "Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! 12 I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.'

13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.' 14 I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Question: Was there any love in the hearts of the Pharisees tithing? Do you find it hard to give when it involves relying on the Lord for what you are giving away?

Response:

- E. Giving because we can and want to. This is why Abel, Abraham, Jacob, Job, and so many others outside the Law chose to give (whether a 10% tithe or any other amount or offering). We see this willingness to give from the heart through Paul's message and through the early church group in Acts. Those people in the early church of Acts didn't give out of obligation, nor even a tithe, but truly felt in their hearts that all that they had belonged to the Lord, not themselves. Thus, it was easy for them to share and give any or all they had for others. They demonstrated a freedom from the stronghold of riches and poverty; not relying on how much they had or didn't have, but relying on the Lord as their provider. A person that solely relies on riches or poverty will have much difficulty experiencing the Righteousness, Peace, and Joy that is the Kingdom of God ([Romans 14:17](#)).

[Mark 10:23-25](#) (NLT)

23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!" 24 This amazed them. But Jesus said again, "Dear children, it is very hard to enter the Kingdom of God. 25 In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!"

[Acts 4:32-37](#) (NLT)

All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. 33 The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all. 34 There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them 35 and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.

36 For instance, there was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means "Son of Encouragement"). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus. 37 He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles.

[2 Corinthians 9:7-15](#) (NLT)

You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." 8 And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. 9 As the Scriptures say,

"They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever."

10 For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

11 Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. 12 So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.

13 As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. 14 And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. 15 Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!

Question: Do you feel pressured to give or to tithe; instead of being allowed to give from your heart?

Response:

- F. The Lord is always looking out and providing for our needs. It can be easy to stray from that trust into a reliance on “getting” to try and bring comfort and peace to one’s life. We must always look at money as a tool that can be used by the Lord, not as something to trust in over the Lord. So whether you have a great deal of money, or are lacking in it, our obligation is to still trust the Lord over the money. It’s not a sin to be wealthy or poor. So, let’s be content regardless of how much we have or do not have—holding onto a trust that no matter our situation (temporary in a season or over a lifetime), the Lord will take care of me.

[Matthew 6:24-34](#) (NLT)

“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

25 “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are? 27 Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

28 “And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, 29 yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. 30 And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

31 “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ 32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. 33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

34 “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”

[Philippians 4:10-13](#) (NLT)

How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn’t have the chance to help me. 11 Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. 12 I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. 13 For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

[1 Timothy 6:6-10](#) (NLT)

Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. 7 After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can’t take anything with us when we leave it. 8 So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.

9 But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

[Hebrews 13:5-6](#) (NLT)

Don’t love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said,

“I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.”

6 So we can say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?”

Question: Do you find it hard to trust the Lord when it comes to finances? Can He break financial strongholds?

Response:

- G. Let's not apply person-specific heart-conditions as a doctrine for all people when we read about specific scenarios Jesus handled with someone (like the 'rich young ruler'). Just because someone has perhaps made their finances a "god", doesn't mean all people do. Some may have to face the heart-condition of giving up their riches, but it should never be that every person must. Nor must we see riches as "proof" a person is blessed by God (has the right relationship with God)—this is often how the Pharisees portrayed themselves as proof they were living a "right life" with God. For this 'rich young ruler', Jesus addressed both the heart-condition of the person, as well as it being that "just because you have riches, does not mean you are right with God; nor can you 'buy your way into heaven'". Thus, it truly is a very personal matter between a person's heart, their riches / poverty, and their relationship with the Lord. So, let the Lord work it out with that person (or you).

[Mark 10:17-31](#) (NLT)

As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked. "Only God is truly good. 19 But to answer your question, you know the commandments: 'You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. You must not cheat anyone. Honor your father and mother.'"

20 "Teacher," the man replied, "I've obeyed all these commandments since I was young."

21 Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. "There is still one thing you haven't done," he told him. "Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

22 At this the man's face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!" 24 This amazed them. But Jesus said again, "Dear children, it is very hard to enter the Kingdom of God. 25 In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!"

26 The disciples were astounded. "Then who in the world can be saved?" they asked.

27 Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God."

28 Then Peter began to speak up. "We've given up everything to follow you," he said.

29 "Yes," Jesus replied, "and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, 30 will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—along with persecution. And in the world to come that person will have eternal life. 31 But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then."

Question: Do you expect as a "Christian" that you always have to be poor (give what you have away)? Or that you can't be rich and enter heaven?

Response:

IV. FURTHER THOUGHT:

A. [Malachi 3:8-9](#) (NLT)

“Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! “But you ask, ‘What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?’ “You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. 9 You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me.”

[Acts 5:1-4](#) (NLT)

But there was a certain man named Ananias who, with his wife, Sapphira, sold some property. 2 He brought part of the money to the apostles, claiming it was the full amount. With his wife’s consent, he kept the rest.

3 Then Peter said, “Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. 4 The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren’t lying to us but to God!”.

Thoughts: Don’t let people tell you that you are stealing from God by not tithing, or that if you don’t give “as you’re supposed to” you are cursed, or that if you “lie to God”, that He has the right to kill you. Remember, you are not under the Law nor under a curse if you don’t give or tithe—Christ fulfilled the Law and took away all those curses.

When we read about Ananias and Sapphira (*as was discussed in Bible Lesson 004*), God didn’t strike them down; their own guilt-laden hearts killed them. They literally “gave up their own spirits” ([Acts 5:5,10 AKJV](#)). If they had a clear conscience, their heart wouldn’t have failed them even though they omitted the truth of their giving in their selfishness.

For me, one of the growth moments in my relationship with the Lord was Him helping me let go of the control money and things had on my life. At a point in my life, I was proud of finishing University, getting a nice job, a new car, and a lovely flat to live and furnish. But through all that, I did not manage my finances that well. I was sloppy with my spending and lacking in my saving. Regardless of how much I earned, I always seemed to live above my means. I needed to start trusting God the Father for my life and His ability to get me out of debt.

One way He did this was actually to get me to tithe. Yes, tithing is not a requirement, but that doesn’t mean He can’t use it as a lesson for someone. The lesson for me was letting go of money I never felt I had enough of to go towards ministry’s that I felt fed from—including helping support missionaries.

Somehow, even though I was down to my last dollars, I was never without. He took care of me even though I gave 10% of my income. I learned that if He says give, to give—even if it’s 100% or 10%. And this in turn helped my heart align with receiving what others came to give me through their giving or tithing (as the Lord led them).

One such time that we gave 100% was when we left the United States to go to South Africa for our mission and ministry work. Not fully knowing what we were going to be doing, nor how we were going to support ourselves, we put all our trust in the Lord.

The Lord placed on our heart to give everything away that we owned (except for the clothes and few things that would fit in our luggage). We gave clothes, furniture, kitchenware, and more to people we knew or charities. We

