

From the Pastor's Desk

I thank you for taking the time to read this monthly publication. It is designed with you at heart. In this life we have purpose! I believe every Christian has an assignment that cannot be measured by human intellect. Like many other ministers, God has directed me to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through printed letters, as one of the many possible ways. The goal is not to reach the world but to reach you. Prompted by my heart, I see myself sending you twelve letters during this year. I believe there is a sequence of information that God wants us to have, so I encourage you to read January's Newsletter, if you have not done so already. I am aware that these letters are not for everyone, but only for those that God seeks to quicken. Read them carefully for within in each page life-giving-guidelines are embedded. Such nuggets of truth seek to provide to you tools for spiritual development, but it is up to you to consider God's Word by growing into the person God has in mind for you to become.

I am so privileged to have the opportunity to write these monthly letters; for during the process of writing them I gain valuable spiritual information. Sometimes when I begin to write God gives me just a word or a small glimpse of the topic. It is awesome to see how the letter unfolds little by little into the message that God desires for you to read, and I earnestly look forward to the final print. I believe this newsletter will encourage you to trust the Lord and strengthen your relationship with God.



"My doctor told me to avoid any unnecessary stress, so I didn't open his bill."

Before continuing any further I would like to offer you a good word to caution you when reading any of my publications. Please do your best to remove any bias that can be generated by the fact that you perhaps know me in any way. In other words, concentrate on the printed message instead of finding fault in the messenger. It is evident, but it is worth mentioning. I am just a man who has discovered God's grace by openly accepting the free gift of salvation that is available to all. The truth is that the

messenger can be imperfect in many ways, but the Word of God, the Bible, and the sacrifice of Jesus supersedes all of our shortcomings. Thank God for his provision! Jesus, our God, is the only one to receive praise and honor. It is Him, who provided for us the one and final sacrifice for our sins, which altered our nature from spiritual deadness into the possibility of becoming alive when we genuinely believe.

After writing January's newsletter I felt in my heart that God wanted me to write on a specific subject. I have come to know this topic for quite some time. It is a principle that I began to put into practice the moment I received Jesus as my Savior (born-again). My desire to write on this topic was tested for a moment, and all was well until I began thinking of how people would react to me when writing on such a subject. What are people going to say? What will their perception be? I was troubled by the fact that a few people may take it completely out of the intended context; thus missing the fact that it is a principle that comes directly from the Word of God. Even though it is a principle that I am so accustomed to, I also felt that it was the wrong timing. Many thoughts came to my mind as I sought to find a way to postpone writing about this subject; you can call it a battle of the mind. You can appreciate what I am saying if you have been in a similar situation. It is important to know that allowing one's self to dictate to God always puts us on the losing end. Here is where the Scripture came to my mind saying: *"Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant"* (Galatians 1:10 NLT).

During the time I conducted Bible studies at New Life Teaching Center I learned of two topics that can infuse unhappiness and possibly trigger anger in the hearts of adults. One has to do with children. The moment the minister speaks about someone's children it seems like the roof starts caving. Oh no! There is no way I can let

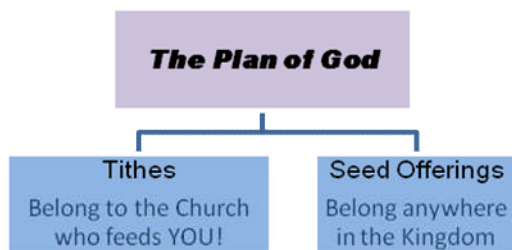
someone speak like this about my holy angel. Again, people are very sensitive in this area. Friend, I too, am that way for I love to protect my family, but I also know my boundaries and welcome the truth. I believe you are also that way. The way we believe and react matters a lot. Living lives based on godly truths keeps us in the realm of freedom.

The other subject, and the one God wants me to write about has a link to money. Although the principle is not just about money most people's perception halts at the topic of money. If it were possible, I could hear some of your thoughts drifting away. "I knew it; all of this writing is because the preacher wants my money..." Friend, the subject I am planning to share with you has to do with more than money. I am going to share with you Biblical Principles of Sowing, and how a lifestyle of giving can impact the life of the believer. Even people who do not serve God can benefit from the Concept of Giving through faith. If you dare to read the entire letter you will soon discover that this ministry is not seeking to possess your money. The contrary is true; we are seeking to enhance your knowledge in every area of your life including the acquisition of money. The Bible in III John 1:2 says as follows: "*Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in every way and [that your body] may keep well, even as [I know] your soul keeps well and prospers*" (AMP). "*Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth*" (KJV). Friend, what you do with your time, abilities, and money is between God and you.

Let me lay down some ground rules that must become evident in your heart. First, God created you in his image. What kind? The Bible says that God created you as a spiritual being. You also have a soul that resides in the body. It is with the body that you can contact this natural world, but only with your spirit can you contact the world of God through faith. We know that this world has rules and laws to which some of us have, at times, taken for granted. In a similar way the spiritual world is also governed by laws and principles that are fixed and cannot be changed. Learning to abide in these laws can benefit us. The actions we take today bring the blessings of tomorrow when we choose to put God's laws into practice. Take for instance the law of gravity. It is this law that allows planes to fly in the skies. A much simpler way to see this law in action is during a golf tournament. The player hits the golf ball with force expecting it to eventually come down to the aimed spot right below the flag zone, but without the law of gravity that would have been impossible. Tiger Woods or any professional player should be treated like anyone else, for how can you grant glory to lucky shots when true performance can never be measured or achieved if constant gravity were nonexistent. You see, all natural laws are important, and it makes sense for us to follow them. Another point of view to consider is that natural laws are not affected by the way you perceive them. For the sake of learning, let's say you don't believe in gravity. The next time you are on top of the roof trying to jump off. Can unbelief change the force of gravity? Absolutely not! The Law of Gravity is real! All of these illustrations bring me to the point that God has spiritual laws governing the World of the Spirit. The moment we begin to operate in his laws is the moment we can begin experiencing the benefits that come to those that follow God's way. In which way do you want to guide your life?



You may be wondering about the whole concept. One thing for sure that you must grasp is that God is not a respecter of persons. In other words, the principles that I am sharing with you will work for everyone alike. They function by faith or trust in God. Believers and also those who are waiting to serve the Lord in the near future can presently receive the benefits and provisions of God through obeying his laws. The best part is that God said to test his way. The two ending sentences in the Book of Malachi 3:10 say it clear: "...*Try it! Put me to the test!*" In other words PROVE ME. I encourage you to take the challenge, and begin your journey towards knowing God in the area of giving.



In June 2007 I wrote about the Principle of Tithing, and I would like to include it with this newsletter for your review. This document includes comments from other successful ministries. It is my suggestion that you read your Bible and seek for yourself the importance of obeying God's Word. A simple way to understand the Financial Way of God's World is by practicing Tithing and Sowing; both are spiritual laws. The simplicity here is that before anyone can receive anything something must be sowed. If you are seeking a friend you must become a friend by acting in a friendly manner.

WHY DOES GOD WANT THE PEOPLE TO PROSPER?

*“And beware lest you say in your [mind and] heart, my power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth. But you shall [earnestly] remember the Lord your God, for it is **He who gives you power to get wealth, THAT HE MAY ESTABLISH HIS COVENANT** which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. And if you forget the Lord your God and walk after other gods and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish” (Deuteronomy 8:17-19 AMP).*

In a speech, a famous billionaire in real estate was sharing with the people how he got to earn his riches. He said that one of his strategies in business involved sharing a portion of his gains with charities. He put it into practice, and noticed that the times he failed to give, his business did not earn as much. He saw giving as an instrument of blessing rather than of duty. Consequently, the Law of Sowing operated in his business freely. I don't know if he was a Christian, but he vividly speaks of the giving principle as something important to him. The part I am bringing to your attention is the fact that laws that are put into action produce results. Please, do not misunderstand me. The believer that has given one's heart to God is the one who can benefit the most; for any labor outside God is in vain because it produces only natural results. Regardless of the quantity or quality, anything we acquire in this world will remain in this world, but those things we acquire in the center of our hearts are the ones becoming golden spiritual treasures. It is our beliefs in God that propels us into receiving a life that is everlasting. It is simple; sowing brings a season of fruit. A farmer who wants corn must plant corn seeds. If you are seeking a friend you must first become friendly. Perhaps, sharing a genuine smile or changing your tone of voice will initiate the relationship you are seeking.

A business man, whom I personally was able to meet years ago, wrote in his training books the importance of setting dollars aside with the sole purpose of giving. Robert T. Kiyosaki, author of Rich Dad Poor Dad, made his career teaching people principles of how to invest wisely. In his articles he refuses to give advice, instead he offers principles and guidelines on investing. Today he is a very successful investor. It is remarkable to know that in his publications he embraces the importance of giving. I am sharing this with you to show you that principles (natural or spiritual) come from God and are worthy of being followed. Let me share with you excerpts from his book on ages 166 and 183-184.

I offer you the following ten steps as a process to develop your God-given powers. Powers only you have control over.

10. **TEACH AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE:** The power of giving. Both of my dads were teachers. My rich dad taught me a lesson I have carried all my life, and that was the necessity of being charitable or giving. My educated dad gave a lot by the way of time and knowledge, but almost never gave away money. As I said, he usually said that he would give when he had some extra money. Of course, there was rarely any extra.

My rich dad gave money as well as education. He believed firmly in tithing. “If you want something, you first need to give,” he would always say. When he was short of money, he simply gave money to his church or to his favorite charity.

If I could leave one single idea with you, it is that idea. Whenever you feel “short” or in “need” of something, give what you want first and it will come back in buckets. That is true for money, a smile, love, friendship. I know it is often the last thing a person may want to do, but it has always worked for me. I just trust that the principle of reciprocity is true, and I give what I want. I want money, so I give money, and it comes back in multiples. I want sales, so I help someone else sale something, and sales come to me. I want contacts and I help someone else get contacts, and like magic, contacts come to me. I heard a saying years ago that went, “God does not need to receive, but humans need to give.”

People are blessed when they understand God's ways regarding obedience in giving. Including in church, everyone suffers when there is lack of knowledge and obedience in the area of giving. Everyone is affected when a ministry fails to teach God's Prosperity message making people's lives unfruitful. On the streets of Florida I often see people walking between cars collecting money while the traffic is stopped at a red light. I am always perplexed when I see a Christian coming by my window with a bucket asking for a handout. According to the Plan of God recorded in the Bible, if everyone who calls themselves members of the church were to tithe and give offerings faithfully the church will be in a position of freedom; a better term is being blessed beyond comparison and having "MORE THAN ENOUGH." Friends, the plan of God is perfect. The work of God will be completed as people of faith produce the revenue needed to complete any tasks God has in mind; obedience is better than sacrifice. Only then is when the church's cookie sale event becomes a gathering to promote fellowship rather than an event just aimed to raise money. Would you agree that events designed to raise capital alone are a disgrace to the provisions promised by God?

I trust God that you will become a person who delights in giving. The most precious asset you have is your time. Begin by listening to others, and giving the love people are searching for. You can be a special vessel God is using in this present hour. People of faith see great opportunities all around, even in a poor economy. The main reason is that God will take care of those that belong to the household of faith. In fact, God also tells us to be good toward our brethren.

"So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone especially to those in the family of faith" (Galatians 6:9-11NLT).

The gospel is about becoming part of the family of God. I encourage you to give your heart to JESUS, if you have not done so already. He is faithful, and will transform your life into something beautiful and wonderful. Trials and obstacles may come your way, but the Word of God assures us that we will overcome every one of them. I hope you are as excited as I am! Always remain faithful to God, and become a great asset in the church assembly God has directed you to be part of. Always remember: JESUS IS REAL! JESUS LOVES YOU! May the Lord bless you in abundance and may you earnestly seek to believe HIM!

In God's Love,

Rey Maldonado, Pastor
Innermost-Fire Ministries



So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says."

- MARK 11:22-23 NKJV