

Stewardship Moments-

Rev. David W. Little

When I first got married, Kim and I decided to tithe regularly, as was my custom of doing. However, it was not till later that I discovered that she had not been taught the importance of tithing growing up. One day, the money was running out and the bills were running up, so she said, "We don't have enough for our tithe. What do you want me to do?" "Well then," I said, "give twelve percent. I always heard you cannot out-give God." Very uncomfortable with my answer, she did it anyway, God provided and we have been giving over and above ever since. She became a believer in the discipline of tithing. Now she has passed it on to our children, whom I pray will one day pass it on to theirs.

Prayer: *Oh Lord, may our faith be not in the things we hold in our hands, but in the God who holds our hands through difficult times.*

I recall the story of a church member who told me how he started tithing. Prior to my becoming his pastor, he shared how on tithing commitment Sunday, he was asked by the former pastor to share a tithing testimony. Not brought up in a Christian home, he was not a tither, just a giver of left over pocket change, but was too embarrassed to admit that to his pastor. So to prepare for his tithing testimony, he wrote out a tithe check, put it in the offering plate that morning, and then stood before the congregation and explained that before that day he was not committed to tithing, but from that day on he would be. Later I had the privilege of watching that fellow become an ordained minister who today pastors a church. God always blesses faithfulness.

Prayer: *Father, teach us the value of being obedient to your Word, even when we do not see the value of doing so before we do it.*

My wife has a unique way of teaching our children how to handle their finances. From the time they were little she had four cups set up on each of their bookcases in their bedrooms. On one cup was written the word – tithe; on the next – save; on the next – share; and on the last – spend. Each week their allowance was divided among the four cups so that they knew what to do with their money. Now, to this day, that lesson is ingrained in their hearts and getting them to tithe, to share, and to save a portion of their earnings is as natural a part of their lives as is their desire to spend.

Prayer: *Oh Lord, may our children learn from their parents the joy, the privilege, and the blessings of being faithful stewards with our finances.*

Some people have a hard time tithing. We must realize that we should give not out of our want to receive a hundred fold from God, but because we have already received a hundred fold from God. We give gladly because we have already received gladly the finances from God from which to give. Think you are giving way too much to God? Just remember, you would not be able to give that amount unless God first gave to you. Let your tithe be your way of saying “thanks” to God that you have something to give. Better to give much because you have much from which to give than to give little because you have little from which to give.

Prayer: *God, let me learn well the Biblical lesson that it is more blessed to give than to receive and that God, you love cheerful givers. Help me to be a cheerful giver.*

My tax accountant once looked at our finances and year end giving amounts and expressed that we would have more finances to live on if we gave less to the church. To which my wife quickly reminded him that our position is that if we gave less to God, then we might just have less to live on. It’s the spiritual law of the tithe which is as real as the physical law of gravity. “To him who is faithful with little, God will give much. But to him who is unfaithful, God will take away even the little he has.”

Prayer: *Thank you Father, for giving us so many blessings in life, so many more than we deserve. Make us a blessing to others as well.*

Rev. David W. Little, DOM, Abbeville Association, Greenwood, SC
