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❖SERMON NOTES❖

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Sunday, March 25, 2007

**“HOW GOD USES MONEY”**

(2 Corinthians 8:7)

**1. GIVING MAKES ME MORE LIKE GOD.**

*“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously” (James 1:5, NIV).*

*“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand” (1 Chronicles 29:14, NIV).*

**2. GIVING DRAWS ME CLOSER TO GOD.**

**3. GIVING BREAKS THE GRIP OF MATERIALISM.**

*“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life” (1 Timothy 6:17-19).*

**4. GIVING STRENGTHENS MY FAITH.**

*“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” (2 Corinthians 9:13, NLT).*

**5. GIVING IS A TEST OF MY TESTIMONY.**

**6. GIVING IS AN INVESTMENT IN ETERNITY.**

**7. GIVING BLESSES ME IN RETURN.**

*“A generous man will himself be blessed” (Proverbs 22:9, NIV).*

## **8. GIVING MAKES ME HAPPY.**

- **My giving expresses my gratitude to God for the past.**

*“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV).*

*“... your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God” (2 Corinthians 9:11, NIV).*

- **My giving expresses my priorities in the present.**

*“... The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives” (Deuteronomy 14:23, LB).*

*“For wherever your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21, NIV).*

- **My giving expresses my faith in God for the future.**

*“Bring your whole tithe into my storehouse (Temple) ... Test me in this and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it” (Malachi 3:10, NIV).*

*“For wherever your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21, NIV).*