

Theme Jubilee – Year of Deliverance and Freedom Topic Achieving Financial Freedom (Part 2)

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# Wessage Summary

### Freedom from the World's Economy, Deliverance into God's Economy

We live in a fallen world, where, despite the abundance that God provides, we do not have to look far to see poverty around us, even amongst believers.

This sermon shows us that as we place God at the centre, live in accordance to the principles He has provided, and seek to sow generously, God will lead us away from the curses of disobedience and into the blessings that come from obedience to the Word of God.

## **Understanding Principles & Sowing Generously**

#### 1. The Principle of Tithes, Offerings and Alms

Even as we acknowledge God as the source of all provision and seek to honour the Lord with our wealth and firstfruits (Prov 3:9), we need to keep in mind that there are differences in the types of giving that we do, between Tithes, Offerings, and Alms.

Offerings and Alms are made over and above our tithes to God. Offerings are meant for the advancement of the work of God in general, while alms are for the poor and needy. Tithes are usually made to the local church where we are fed the Word, to the place God has chosen as a dwelling to His name (Deut 14:23).

We tithe a tenth of all we earn to God in acknowledgement of God as the source of all provision and in gratitude to God for all He has done for us. In turn, God promises to sanctify the remaining 90% of what we have and bless us abundantly (Malachi 3:11).

In the end, tithing is more about **how** we give (2 Cor 9:7) rather than **how much** we give. As we give joyously, tithing is a spiritual transaction manifested in our physical actions.

#### 2. Knowing the Difference Between Bread and Seed

Seed refers to our tithes, offerings and alms while bread is for our consumption. Our daily bread differs across individuals but as we seek to give with a joyful heart, be encouraged that God will increase and enlarge both our supply of seed and harvest of righteousness. (2 Cor 9:10)

We must sow with faith and obedience to please God, and we must believe that God rewards those that earnestly seek Him (Heb 11:6). As we sow to please the Spirit, then we can be encouraged that at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up (Gal 6:8-9).

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#### 3. Sowing Our Seed Generously

For so long as we remember our God as the source of all provision, that it is He that gives us the ability to produce wealth (Deut 8:18), that whatever we have received freely from God should also be freely given since Jesus himself reminds us that it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

We are reminded that we shall reap what we sow (Gal 6:7), that we should give as freely as we have received (Matt 10:8), and that our giving should be accompanied by prayer (Acts 10:2).

And so we give cheerfully and intentionally (2 Cor 9:7), not begrudgingly or as an afterthought, for we know that God teaches what is best for us (Isa 48:17) and that He delights in the well-being of us his servants (Psa 35:27).

We are reminded that giving should include the poor and unrighteous (Luke 6:28, 35-38) and that the outcome of our faith and obedience to God in this area results in a multiplication of what has been given, and the fruits of all that would come from it (2 Cor 9:10-11).

#### 4. God's Economy

As we faithfully obey the principles God has given us, we move from the world's economy to God's economy, from a fallen world of lack in the midst of abundance, to God's principles where we are assured that generosity will bring about riches (Prov 11:25) and giving will result in receiving from the Lord (Eph 6:8).



The bible reminds us that if we seek first the kingdom of God, all other things will be provided unto us. What are some of the ways in which God has provided for you when you obeyed his commands and sought His kingdom?

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What does the Word say about the principles of tithing and sowing?
Besides honouring God with our firstfruits, we are also called to sow seeds that further God's work on earth, love our enemies, and care for the poor and needy.
(i) Who are some of the people that you personally feel compassion for that might fall into these 3 categories?
(ii) What is one thing that you can do in the next month to be a vehicle of God's mercy and compassion to the people that you have thought about?

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