

# BURUBURU COMMUNITY CENTRE CHURCH OF GOD NAIROBI

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## THE TRUE WAY OF GIVING PART 3

SERMON PREACHED ON 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2017

Last Sunday we learned that there are wrong and right reasons of giving to God.

### The wrong reasons are as follows:

- i) So that we might receive the praise of men.
- ii) So that we might get more for ourselves.

### The right reasons are as follows:

- i) We should give to show our appreciation to God.
- ii) We should give because of a desire to help advance God's work.
- iii) We should give to God in order that He may bless us and enable us to grow spiritually.

Today, I want us to explore further the topic of giving in two areas:

1. Hindrances to giving
2. The results of giving

#### 1. Hindrances to giving:

Every pastor, church worker (s) and finance committee in our church know that many Christians don't give as the word of God teaches. Therefore it is important to examine some of the hindrances to Christian giving and see if we can overcome them.

- a) **Undedicated hearts:** Perhaps the greatest hindrance to Christian giving is that many Christians are not fully dedicated to God and His church. Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you"* Jesus was repeating what He had been taught in the Old Testament namely that the FIRST of everything belongs to God; the first of our labour, the first of our time, the first of all that we receive belongs to God. God must come first, other things should follow.
- b) **Forced giving:** The second greatest hindrance to giving is forcing people to give to God. If I say to my fellow Christians in the church, "Every man in the church must bring Ksh. 5,000, every woman must bring Ksh. 3,000 and all young persons must bring Ksh. 1,000 each to God; and parents must bring Ksh. Three hundred for their children". This is rejecting the true biblical way of giving to God.

When a person is forced to give, he does not give with joy, going back to what Paul says in 2 Cor. 9:7. He teaches that it is wrong to compel people to give to the Lord. Forced giving appears as taxation in the eyes of the giver, this is not Christian giving.

- c) **Wrong methods of handling church money:** One of the reasons why the church has not progressed, as it should financially has been because of wrong methods of handling and keeping money. Let us examine some of these wrong methods:

- i) **The misuse of church money:** One of the greatest faults in handling church money is the misuse of the money/ tithes and offerings by those who are put in charge of it. This causes poor financial management, poor accountability and lack of transparency in the church. When the church money is used to loan members, stolen by the treasurers, used for feasting, members will refuse to give to the church. Special offering or special giving should be used for the purpose for which it was given without interfering with regular church offering and tithe. The finance committee of the church is responsible for church's money. If the church is to grow financially, the committee members must be very careful with all the money in the treasury. The committee is to be governed by the "Bylaws of the church Finance Committee" and the members should be men and women full of the Holy Spirit and in good regular standing.
- ii) **Inadequate record keeping:** Another hindrance to Christian giving is failure to give regular financial reports to the church members at least once per month, and failure to submit annual audited accounts.
- iii) **Mechanical hindrances to Christian giving:** The following hindrances to Christian giving are also found in our churches today because Christians have failed and are reluctant to reproof, correct for instructions in righteousness to those who are responsible for church offerings so that they may be perfect, thoroughly furnished to good work in their churches; (2 Tim. 3:16). We should know that knowing what is right to do and then not do is sin, (James 4:17)
  - The treasure keeps or banks church money together with his money either in the bank or in the house.
  - Clanism and tribalism within running of the church kills the spirit of Christian giving.
  - Disorganized finance committee in the church.
  - Incompetent treasurer and secretary create problems that affect the Christian giving.

## 2. The Results of Giving:

When we give according to the word of God and according to God's plan, God opens the windows of heaven and pours us out blessings so great that we are not able to receive them all. We are happy because we have helped people who were sinners to be saved, we are happy because we have helped advance the kingdom work. The following are three results of giving.

- a) **The blessings of God:** In Malachi 3:10, we read, *"Bring the full tithes into the store house, so that there may be food in my house; and thereby put me to test, says the Lord of hosts, and see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessings."* In Luke 12:31, Jesus says that He will always give you all you need from day to day if you will make the kingdom of God your primary concern, in Luke 6:38, Jesus says, *"For if you give, you will get! Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over"*

- b) **Happiness:** In John 13:17, Jesus said, *“If you know these things, happy are you if you do them.”* That is to say that you already know these things, now do them. True happiness comes through giving to God.
- c) **The growth of the kingdom of God:** When we bring our tithes and offerings to God, we help establish and increase his kingdom starting from where we are to the uttermost parts of the earth.
- i) We start new churches in un-evangelized communities.
  - ii) We build new churches as places of worship.
  - iii) We train new pastors and evangelists to increase the servants of God.
  - iv) We buy church equipment and property.
  - v) We send missionaries to other countries.
  - vi) People are saved and healed.

### **Conclusion**

Now you know these things! Happy are you if you do them...Amen.

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