

Financial Contentment Money: Tool or Drug?

I. Introduction

- A. I Timothy 6:9 (NAS) *But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.*
- B. “Am I using money as a tool for the Owner, God? Or, am I using money as a drug for me?”
 - 1. “To give a tenth of something”

II. God’s Way of Generosity

A. Tithing

- 1. Numbers 18:21 (NLT) *As for the tribe of Levi, your relatives, I will compensate them for their service in the Tabernacle. Instead of an allotment of land, I will give them the tithes from the entire land of Israel.*
- 2. Deuteronomy 14:22-23a (NLT) ²²*“You must set aside a tithe of your crops—one-tenth of all the crops you harvest each year. ²³Bring this tithe to the designated place of worship—the place the LORD your God chooses for his name to be honored—and eat it there in his presence.”*
- 3. Deuteronomy 14:26 (NLT) *“When you arrive, you may use the money to buy any kind of food you want—cattle, sheep, goats, wine, or other alcoholic drink. Then feast there in the presence of the LORD your God and celebrate with your household.”*
- 4. God wants people to connect giving and generosity with celebration and joy!
- 5. II Corinthians 9:7 (NAS) *Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*
- 6. “My giving to God helps make all of this happen.”
- 7. Deuteronomy 14:28-29 (NLT) ²⁸*“At the end of every third year, bring the entire tithe of that year’s harvest and store it in the nearest town. ²⁹Give it to the Levites, who will receive no allotment of land among you, as well as to the foreigners living among you, the orphans, and the widows in your towns, so they can eat and be satisfied. Then the LORD your God will bless you in all your work.”*
- 8. Tithing is kind of a baseline.

B. First Fruits Giving

- 1. Exodus 34:26 (NAS) *“You shall bring the very first of the first fruits of your soil into the house of the LORD your God.”*
- 2. Deuteronomy 26:5, 8-10 (NLT) ⁵*“You must then say in the presence of the LORD your God, ‘My ancestor Jacob was a wandering Aramean who went to live as a foreigner in Egypt. His family arrived few in number, but in Egypt they became a large and mighty nation. ⁸So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and powerful arm, with overwhelming terror, and with miraculous signs and wonders. ⁹He brought us to this place and gave us this land flowing with milk and honey! ¹⁰And now, O LORD, I have brought you the first portion of the harvest you have given me from the ground.’ Then place the produce before the LORD your God, and bow to the ground in worship before him.”*
- 3. I Corinthians 15:20 (NAS) *But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.*
- 4. “We’re not going to give God our leftovers. We’re going to give God our first fruits.”

C. Harvesting Generosity

- 1. Leviticus 23:22 (NLT) *“When you harvest the crops of your land, do not harvest the grain along the edges of your fields, and do not pick up what the harvesters drop. Leave it for the poor and the foreigners living among you. I am the LORD your God.”*

D. Offerings

- 1. Leviticus 7:37 (NLT) *“These are the instructions for the burnt offering, the grain offering, the sin offering, and the guilt offering, as well as the ordination offering and the peace offering.”*
- 2. “Offerings” are things you give to God that are above your tithing.

E. Sabbath Generosity

1. The Year of Jubilee
2. Luke 4:18-19 (NAS) ¹⁸*“THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED,* ¹⁹*TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.”*

III. Conclusion