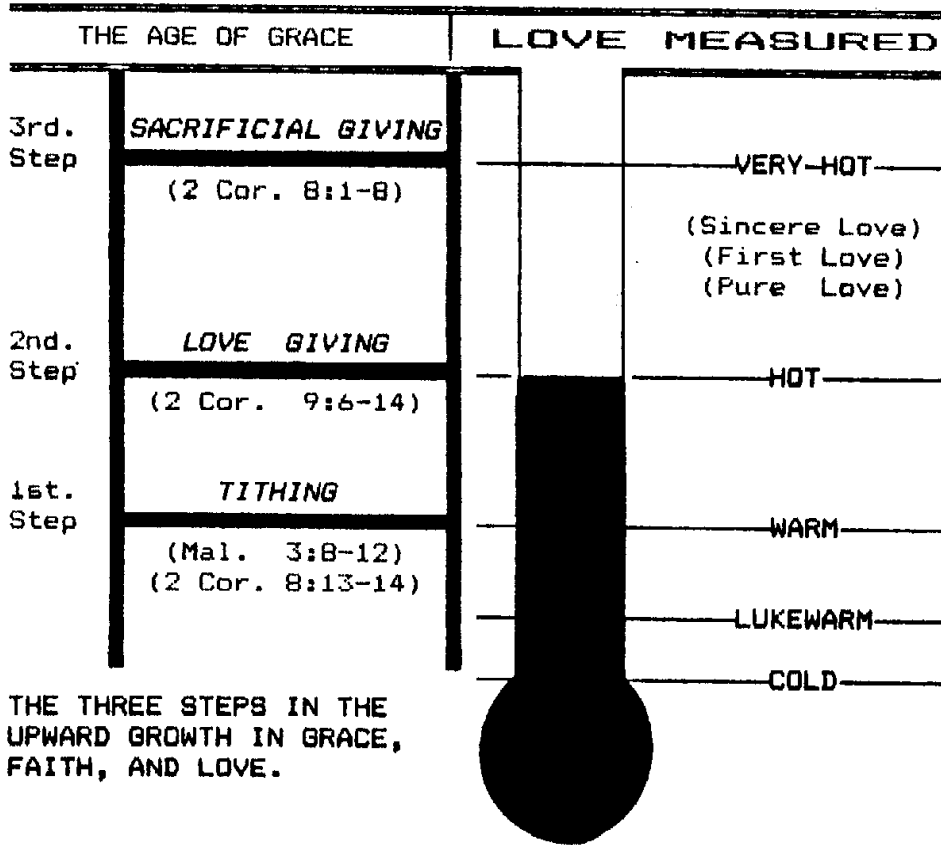


LOVE - THE GOVERNING PRINCIPLE IN GIVING



THE THREE STEPS IN THE UPWARD GROWTH IN GRACE, FAITH, AND LOVE.

THE THERMOMETER OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

WHERE ARE YOU TODAY???

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

God is rich but most of His children are poor.  
 God withholds financial prosperity from His children because they cannot be trusted, or they do not have enough faith to believe and obey God's Word.  
 The steps to financial prosperity are: #1 Get a job that honors God. #2 Work hard and be honest. #3 Make God your Partner. #4 Give God His tithe.

Today'S Lesson: GIVING BEYOND THE TITHE:

- Rung #1 Tithing
- Rung #2 Love offering
- Rung #3 Sacrificial love giving

**Remember this**, Christian, we cannot out-give God. God's shovel is larger than ours. God will be no man's debtor.

GIVING BEYOND THE TITHE

The 5th. STEP TO FINANCIAL PROSPERITY is to **GIVE BEYOND THE TITHE. Here is the reason why:**

We said in our last lesson that in an equal partnership, the profits usually are divided 50/50. However, God claims only 10% of the profits, or a tithe. The tithe is 10% of your gross income (before taxes). That is all the money that comes to you from any source. Whether earned or gifts from abroad or inheritance or goods received. Honesty is always important.

SHARING, THE PRINCIPLE OF TITHE-GIVING:

It is not hard to see the principle that governs tithe-giving, and that is **SHARING**. This is a generally accepted principle. When two parties are involved in any endeavor, both share in the fruit of their labours. Likewise, when a Christian and God labour together, whatever blessings may result from such joint-effort, must be shared by both God and the Christian. When the Christian, therefore, fails to give to God His due share, he is indeed robbing God. And God is justified in cursing with a curse those who rob Him.

**Malachi 3:8-9** "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. 9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation."

**Proverbs 3:9** "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits (give to God first) of all thine increase:" (also see Matt. 6:33)

THE CHRISTIAN'S ATTITUDE IN GIVING

The right Christian attitude in tithe-giving should be:

**1 Chronicles 29:9-14** "Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the Lord: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy. 10 Wherefore David blessed the Lord before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel our father, for ever and ever. 11 Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all. 12 Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. 13 Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. 14 But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so

willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee."

The result was great rejoicing with thanksgiving, praises and prayers to God.

### TITHING DURING THE AGE OF GRACE

In the Age of Grace, or the Church Age, Christians are taught **the three upward steps in giving**. I say, "upward" because there is growth in grace and faith in the process. We illustrate here with the use of a three-step ladder.

1. The Bottom Rung on the ladder is **TITHING or GIVING BY EQUALITY. 2 Corinthians 8:12-15**

Paul said that there must be first a willing mind, **verse 12**. They were to start giving (tithing) as soon as God gave them something. Paul emphasized that in the first step, everyone must take part; that there must be an equal sharing of the burden. He did not want some eased and others burdened (**vs. 13**). He desired that **EQUALITY** in giving be practised at the start.

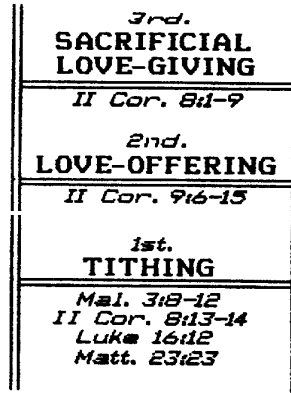
Giving by Equality for both rich and poor (proportionate giving) is just another term for tithe-giving with which the Jews were already well acquainted.

2. The Second Rung is **THE GIVING OF LOVE OFFERINGS. 2 Corinthians 9:6-15**

At this point Christians are now experiencing God's abundant blessings due to their tithe-giving. They see God's love in their daily lives, God is faithfully keeping His promises to them in Malachi 3:9-12. The love of God grows in their hearts. And out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh: "My Jesus I love you." Beautiful words! But is this all? Words only? Or, does the Lord Jesus expect more than just this expression of love? Of course, the Lord expects more; God does not want empty words. He expects our **LOVE OFFERING** to go along with our words. Love offering is showing our love. He would have said, "All right, you love me; but then, where is your love offering to prove it?"

**2 Corinthians 8:8** "I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love."

Since the tithe is His, we do not give Him anything until we give beyond the tithe, a love-offering. A Christian, who does not give his love-offering after saying, "I love you, Lord," deprives God of what is due Him. This offering must be taken from the 90% which is the Christian's share. Paul said:



**2 Corinthians 9:7** "Every man according as he purposeth (purpose or decide) in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

Here is the Lord's plain teaching, that, in the giving of the love-offering, each individual Christian must purpose or decide this in his own heart. In tithing, God has already decided what His portion is (10%). In the giving of the Love-Offering, the love of the individual Christian for the Lord is thus manifested (shown) - little or much. The abundance, is of course, measured in proportion to the portion kept at home for oneself. The moment the Christian drops his love offering in the offering plate, he silently declares, "Lord, this is how much I love you today."

3. The Top Rung is **THE SACRIFICIAL LOVE GIVING 2 Corinthians 8:1-8**


Christians are expected by the Lord to reach this third rung upward in giving to Him. This is also called Sacrificial Love-Offering.

This giving beyond one's power to give is sacrificial giving. This is also taken from the Christian's 90% share. Sacrificial giving can best be seen among the early Christians.

**Acts 2:44-45** "And all that believed were together, and had all things common; 45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need."

**Acts 4:34-35** "Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, 35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need."

The secret of this, Paul said, was their truly surrendered lives; "but first gave their own selves to the Lord." The Bible says "we are not our own..." (**1 Cor. 6:19-20**) when we give ourselves to God, we only give Him what is already His. It is the same with the tithe, it is already His. We are not really giving God a gift until we give above the tithe.



**READ GOD'S WORD  
DAILY.**  
God wants to tell us a lot  
of great things we need to  
know about.  
We obey His Word  
because we love Him.