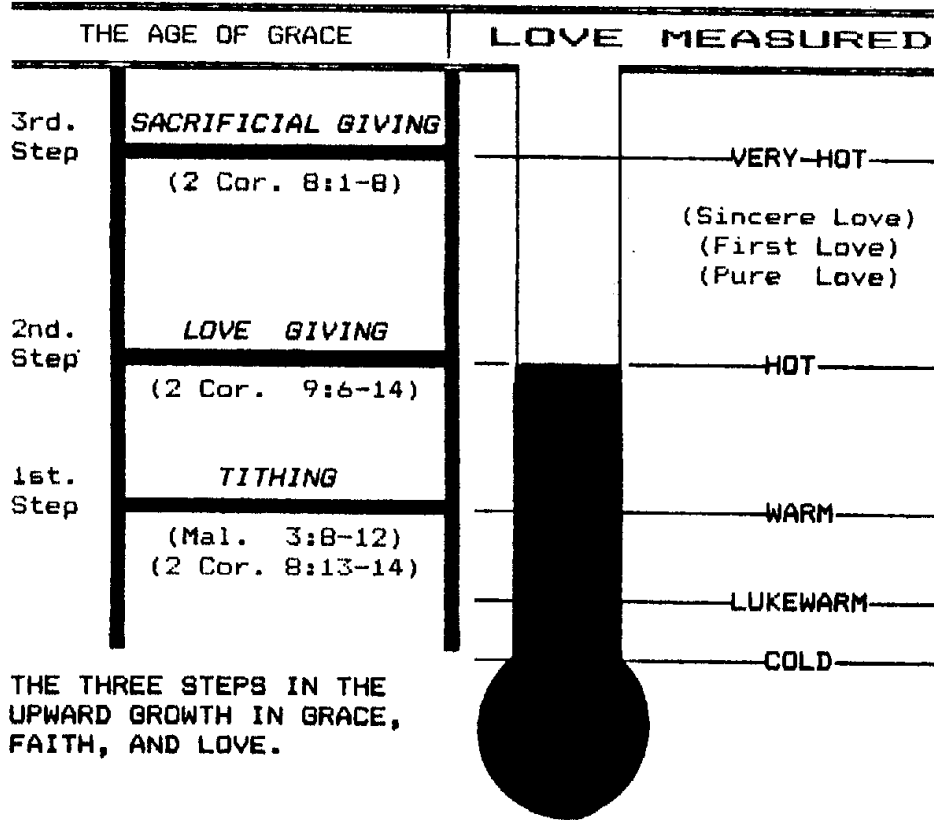


LOVE - THE GOVERNING PRINCIPLE IN GIVING



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

THE THERMOMETER OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

let them see you give it? Take it again, and put it into the box on the sly, when no one sees you." Then weeping, she said, "What, and am I not to be allowed to help in the work of God any more because I can't get out? Do they not want me to love God anymore?"
From the -Preacher Lantern-

→ **The Law of SOWING AND REAPING** ←

Galatians 6:7-8 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.
2 Corinthians 9:6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

SOME FACTS ABOUT SOWING:

1. A man expects to reap when he sows.
2. A man expects to reap the same kind of seed that he sows.
3. A man expects to reap more than he sows.

We always reap what we sow.

LOVE - THE GOVERNING PRINCIPLE IN GIVING, AND SOWING & REAPING

The principle of love governs all kinds of giving to the LORD. Whatever Christians do, in fact, they must be constrained (pressured) by love for the LORD alone. In giving, love is measured according to the abundance offered. And the abundance is measured on the amount left at home or kept in the bank or stored in the safe. Even in tithing, giving is done in obedience to the commandments of the Lord, constrained by love alone. See Chart No. 5 on page 4., on the back.

Christians, taking their **first upward step**, show their growth in the grace of giving by giving the tithe of all. This shows that their love for the Lord is **WARM**. This is the standard love manifested (shown) by obedience.

In **John 14:15** we read: "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

God's commandment about tithe-giving is **Malachi 3:10** "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse (were God's Word is preached and taught), that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Christians who do not give "the tithe of all" to the Lord reveal the fact that there is no love in their hearts for Him, hence they are **COLD**. Giving to the Lord, short of the tithe, is love in its **LUKEWARM** state. This love is neither cold nor hot. To this kind of Christian, God says **Revelation 3:16** "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."

Christians taking their **second step** upward show further growth in the grace of giving (giving their love-offering taken from their 90% share) and show that their love for the Lord is **HOT**. They give cheerfully; and God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7,10,12 "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

This giving increases the fruit of their righteousness.

Verse 10 "Now he (God) that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness."

Verse 12 "For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God."

This kind of giving causes many to love and glorify God. This **HOT** love is contagious, producing more love to God in other saints. This giving warms others; it is **HOTTER** than the first.

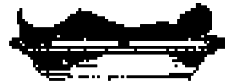
Christians taking their third step upward manifest perfect or mature growth in the grace of giving, by giving sacrificially. They show that their love for the Lord is **VERY HOT**. Their thermometer of love has risen to the fullness of maturity. Paul gives the example of the sacrificial giving of the churches in Macedonia in

2 Corinthians 8:1-8 "Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit (we want you to know) of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; 2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. 3 For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; 4 Praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5 And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God."

Paul challenges the Corinthian Christians in **Verse 7** "Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also."

What grace is he talking about? The grace of sacrificial giving mentioned in **Verse 3** "...beyond their power they were willing of themselves."

2 Corinthians 8:5 "And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God."



Paul further states in **Verse 8** "I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love."

Yes, sincere love is proven in sacrificial giving. The term, "sincere"

comes from the Greek word, "sincere", meaning, "without wax of mixture or adulteration". Love without mixture is sincere or pure. In the Lord's letter to the Ephesian Church as recorded in

Revelation 2:5 "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."

This kind of love is called "**first love**".

It is God's expectation that His children love Him sincerely. This is pure love. This kind of love is manifested in sacrificial giving. Only in a truly surrendered life can the grace of God work to its fullest. Then the Christian can give sacrificially of his substance to the Lord. When we give the Lord this due honor, He can do no less than reciprocate (return, to give back).

He said in **1 Samuel 2:30** "Wherefore the Lord God of Israel saith, them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed."

God further promises in **Proverbs 3:9-10** "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: 10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

A note on first fruits: We are to give God's tithes before we pay other bills and buy other things.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

A poor widow contributed to the Dorpathian Branch of the Russian Bible Society a ruble; and to the question whether that sum was not rather too much for one in her circumstances, she answered, "LOVE is not afraid of giving too much."

THE LOVE OF GIVING

A widow found pardon and peace in the Saviour in her sixty-ninth year. Naturally of a thankful and happy temperament, her gratitude and love now overflowed. She was often seen to drop a gift in the Church-door box, though her income was only 2s. 6d (only a small income) per week. A fall in her seventy-second year prevented her ever coming out again. When a little boy was seen to drop something into the box, he was asked what it was. He said, "It is Mrs. W's penny." He was asked to take it back to her and to say that her good intentions were highly prized, but that her friends could not let her reduce her small means by such a gift, especially as she could no longer come out to worship. When she heard this she replied, "Boy, why did you