

Power of Prosperity x 12

July 2010

The Dynamic Laws of Prosperity

Chapter 10

“Systematic giving opens the way to systematic receiving.”

Catherine Ponder

This month we read about tithing. This seems to be a hot button for many of us, no matter what side you fall on. Eric Butterworth approaches tithing from the standpoint of the Law of Giving and Receiving. What most people fail to notice is the order of that law. It is giving and then receiving.

There is always controversy over what is a true tithe. Does it have to be a full 10% to be a tithe? That is a line which will not be drawn here. The more important point is that you must give to receive. And whether it is 10% or some other amount, the intention is more important. A tithe should be for the support of God's work.

Catherine tells us, “Giving must be done in a certain way: through the consistent sharing of your tithes with God's work and workers at the point or points that you are receiving spiritual help and inspiration.” Whether that is the church of your choice, a minister, licensed teacher, spiritual counselor or practitioner, giving in this manner allows for the uplifting of humankind.

There are many get-rich-quick schemes out there but they usually fail because they are based solely on getting—not on giving. They have no spiritual foundation, thus do not acknowledge God as the Source of all good in our lives. The ancient cultures intuitively knew that giving, sharing, and putting God first financially was the first step to permanent, enduring, growing prosperity. Because when you put God first financially, you open your mind, body, and affairs to the goodness of the universe; to its infinite life, love, wisdom, power, and substance.

Prosperity is more than money. Catherine always tells us, “You are prosperous to the degree you are experiencing peace, health and plenty in your world.” So how prosperous are you?

It is also important to remember that giving is more than just money. Stretton Smith's 4T program says it is sharing of your time, talents, and treasures. Time, nowadays, is a valuable commodity, especially to your church. So find somewhere to volunteer. Sharing your God-given talents like music, children's ministry, or even marketing are so important in your spiritual home. And before donating an item to the church make sure it would be a treasure to them. For example, an outdated organ is not a real treasure, if the church has to find a place to recycle it.

The Bible says:

"We obligate ourselves to bring the first fruits of our soil and the first fruits of all fruit of every tree, year by year, to the house of the Lord; also to bring to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God, the firstborn of our sons and of our livestock, as it is written in the law, and the firstlings of our herds and of our flocks; and to bring the first of our dough, and our contributions, the fruit of every tree, the wine and the oil, to the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God..." Neh 10:35-37

"Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake." Deut 15:10

"And he said to them, 'Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you.'" Mar 4:24

"...give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." Luk 6:38

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor 9:7

Unity says:

"In your spiritual quest, you are seeking to establish yourself in an unitative relationship with the divine flow. You can never really achieve this level of consciousness until giving becomes the main thrust of your life." Eric Butterworth, *Spiritual Economics*

"When you realize that you can give a tithe to God, you are rich though the tithe be a very small one." Lowell Fillmore, *New Ways to Solve Old Problems*

"By the act of tithing, men make God their partner in their financial transactions and thus keep the channel open from the source in the ideal manifestation in the realm of things." Charles Fillmore, *Keeping a True Lent*

"Tithing can be a way of getting into a giving consciousness, but it is not a substitute for a giving attitude." Eric Butterworth, *Spiritual Economics*

Practices

- Consider this quote from Catherine: "Giving must be done in a certain way: through the consistent sharing of your tithes with God's work and workers at the point or points that you are receiving spiritual help and inspiration." Do you agree? How important is it to you to give in a certain way, i.e., to God's work? Why do you think Catherine speaks so definitely about this? Does it change how you see and practice tithing?
- Make a commitment to start a tithing practice. If you just can't begin with a full 10%, start somewhere. Try 2% for a period of 2 months. Lay out a plan for yourself of how you can incrementally increase your tithing with a goal of 10%.

Notice when, and in what ways, prosperity shows up. As you give, do you feel you have given up anything? At what point? What have you gained, and at what point? How do you feel about tithing under Catherine's definition, vs. giving to any other worthy charity (i.e., the Humane Society)?

- Consider the passages quoted above. Select one, perhaps one with which you are less familiar, and meditate on it. How does it challenge your thinking? If not, what resonates with you? Take the most powerful phrase and repeat it throughout your day. Journal about any difference this makes in your day, and how you can carry this forward.
- With your prayer partners, bless together all of your tithes as they go out. Share with each other how this process has worked.