### Stewards - Not Owners

### I. The Bible tells us that God owns everything.

A. (Psalm 24:1) "The earth is the LORD'S, and the fullness thereof; the world,

and they that dwell therein."

B. (Psalm 50:10-12) "For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle

upon a thousand hills. ... for the world is mine, and the fullness thereof."

C. (Haggai 2:8) "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts."

### II. God's stewards know that God owns everything.

(King David said this as he gave to build the temple)

A. (1 Chronicles 29:14) "...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."

### III. God's stewards don't give to God, they redistribute for God.

### IV. It is now time for God's stewards to redistribute the wealth of the King of Glory

through the local church.

### **Stewards Are Rewarded**

#### I. Biblical stewards have the right to eat of the fruit of the increase of their stewardship.

A. (Luke 10:7) "Jesus said ... the labourer is worthy of his hire..."

B. (1 Corinthians 9:7-10) "...who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not...thereof? ...For it is written...Thou shalt not muzzle the ox ...he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope."

### II. Good stewards are promoted by God.

(Luke 12:42-44) "...who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give *them their* portion of meat in due season? Blessed *is* that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath."

### III. It is now time for the restoration of God's end-time stewards.

(Acts 13:21) "...the times of restitution of all things..."

This offering is an opportunity of increase for God's end-time stewards.

### **God Wants You To Prosper**

#### A. God wants you to prosper.

(Psalm 35:27) "...Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant"

### B. The Apostle John prayed that you would prosper.

(3 John 2) "...1 wish [pray] above all things that thou mayest prosper..."

("Wish" - Better translated "pray".)

#### C. God promises to prosper you when you give.

(Luke 6:38) "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

#### D. The Church is prospered and you are prospered when you give.

(Malachi 3:10) "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, 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.*"

### **Stewards Must Be Faithful**

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2)

A. Moreover - This means above everything else.

The Living Bible says "Now the most important thing..."

The Amplified Bible says" ... It is essentially required..."

B. Required - This means that it is not optional. Many things might be agreed to be optional,

however with stewards there is no option about faithfulness.

C. Stewards - This means a redistributor, agent, or treasurer.

D. Found Faithful - This speaks of a time when the faithfulness of the steward is examined to see what the quality of it is.

E. (Matthew 24:45-47) "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. "

Your generous giving in this offering marks you as a faithful end-time steward of God.

### God Wants You To Prosper Pt. 2

God wants you to prosper, abundantly!

### A. He gives you His prosperous Kingdom.

(Luke 12:32) "...it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

### B. He gives you the good things the wicked want.

(Matthew 6:33) "...seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these

things shall be added unto you."

"Things" - According to Matthew 6:32, the things God wants to add to us are the same things the wicked seek after.

### C. He gives you everything you need.

(The best of spiritual and natural)

(1 Peter 1:3) "...his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life [natural] and godliness [spiritual]..."

### D. We should imitate God and give our best!

(Ephesians 5:1) "...be imitators of God [copy Him and follow His example], as well-beloved children [imitate their father]." (Amplified Bible)

### God Wants You To Prosper Pt. 3

### A. God gives your hands power to get wealth.

(Deuteronomy 8:18) "...thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for *it is* he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as *it is* this day." [Verse 17 establishes context as power in hands]

#### B. God gives you ways to prosper (witty inventions).

(Proverbs 8:12) "I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions."

### C. God teaches you how to make a profit.

(Isaiah 48:17) "...I *am* the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way *that* thou should go."

### D. Giving is the first step in godly prosperity.

(Luke 6:38) "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

### More Than Enough Pt. 2

### A. God gives till it runs over.

(Luke 6:38) "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken

together, and running over..."

### B. God gives more than we expect.

(Ephesians 3:20) "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we

ask or think..."

### C. God makes us more than conquerors.

(Romans 8:37) "...we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

### D. God fills us to overflowing.

(John 7:38-39) "...out of his [our] belly shall flow rivers of living water."

### E. When every member of this church tithes, abundant offerings, our church will

overflow.

### **More Than Enough**

### A. Jesus came to give more than enough life.

(John 10:10) "...I am come that they might have life, ...more abundantly."

### B. God gives more than our cup can hold.

(Psalm 23:5) "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou

anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over."

### C. Jesus gave Simon Peter more than enough fish.

(Luke 5:6-7) "...they enclosed a greaty multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto *their* partners...that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink."

### D. Jesus gave the 5,000 more than enough food.

(John 6:5-13) Twelve baskets left over.

E. If you will allow God's nature to work through you today's offering will be more than enough.

### **God Rewards Obedience Pt. 2**

#### I. God rewards obedience.

#### A. The widow's food was multiplied because of her obedience.

(1 Kings 17:15-16) "And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah."

### B. Peter obeyed and received a multitude of fish.

(Luke 5:4,7) "...Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake."

### C. The windows of heaven open when we tithe and give offerings.

(Malachi 3:10) "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, 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."

#### D. Giving in this offering will bring blessings.

### **God Rewards Obedience**

God rewards obedient saints.

### A. Willing and obedient.

(Isaiah 1:19) "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:"

### B. Observe to do all.

(Joshua 1:8) "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

### C. Hearken diligently...to do.

(Deuteronomy 28:1-2) "...if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe *and* to do all his commandments...the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee..."

### D. God is obedient to His promises.

(Luke 6:38) "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom..."

### E. Obedience is important to God.

Now it's time to be obedient. Let's be obedient in giving so God can reward us.

### **Poverty Or Prosperity Pt. 2**

#### "God Prospers Obedient Givers"

#### A. God promises to meet the needs of consistent givers.

After faithfully giving to Paul's ministry, God promised: (Philippians 4:19) "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

### B. God promises proper givers more than enough.

(2 Corinthians 9:8, TLB) "God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything you need and more, so that there will not only be enough for your own needs, but plenty left over to give joyfully to others."

### C. God promises the good life to His obedient children.

(Isaiah 1:19) "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:"

#### D. God promises the good life to His patient children.

(2 Corinthians 9:10, TLB) "For God, who gives seed to the farmer to plant, and later on, good crops to harvest and eat, will give you more and more seed to plant and will make it grow so that you can give away more and more fruit from your harvest"

#### E. Constant, proper, obedient, patient, givers receive an abundant harvest from their giving.

### **God Rewards Obedience Pt. 3**

#### A. Repentance brings salvation.

(2 Corinthians 7:10) "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation..."

### B. Service brings reward.

(2 Timothy 4:7,8) "I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness...and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

### C. Honesty in finances brings deliverance.

(Psalm 50:14,15) "Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me."

### D. Faithful giving brings financial harvest.

(Luke 6:38) "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

### **Poverty Or Prosperity Pt. 3**

#### A. Prosperity came from God in the creation.

(Genesis 2:8,10,11) "And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And a river went out of Eden...where *there* is gold;"

### B. Poverty came from Satan in the fall.

(Genesis 3:17-19) "And unto Adam he said, Because thou...hast eaten of the tree...cursed *is* the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground..."

#### C. Prosperity is restored with God's deliverance.

(Exodus 12:35-36 TLB) "...Israel did as Moses said and asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry, and for clothing. And the LORD gave the Israelis favor with the Egyptians, so that they gave them whatever they wanted. And the Egyptians were...stripped of everything they owned!"

#### D. Jesus restores prosperity with salvation.

(2 Corinthians 8:9) "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich,

yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

### E. Prosperity is available to you through sowing and reaping.

### **God's End-Time Wealth Transfer**

### A. All wealth belongs to God.

(Psalm 24:1) "The earth *is* the LORD'S, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."

(Psalm 50:10-11) "For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills."

(Haggai 2:8) "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts."

### B. The wealth of the wicked is being stacked up for the end-time wealth transfer.

(James 5:1-3) "Go to now, *ye* rich men...Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you...Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days."

### C. The wicked will turn their wealth over to the children of God.

(Job 27:13,16-17) "This *is* the portion of a wicked man with God...Though he heap up silver as the dust, and prepare raiment as the clay; He may prepare *it*, but the just shall put *it* on, and the innocent shall divide the silver."

Faithfulness in tithes and offerings will turn the flow of wealth from the wicked to you.

### **God's Laws of Prosperity**

"God's Law of Sowing"

### A. You must be a liberal giver to reap an abundant harvest.

(2 Corinthians 9:6) "...He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."

### B. You must not be controlled by circumstances.

(Ecclesiastes 11:4) "He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap."

### C. You must know that some of the money you have was given to you for sowing.

(2 Corinthians 9:10, TLB) "For God, who gives seed to the farmer to plant, and later on, good crops to harvest and eat, will give you more and more seed to plant and will make it grow so that you can give away more and more fruit from your harvest."

### D. You must now sow your seed.

### God's End-Time Wealth Transfer Pt. 2

### A. God promises the wealth of the wicked to His children.

(Proverbs 13:22) "...the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just."

(Ecclesiastes 2:26) "...to the sinner he [God] giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to *him that* is good before God."

### B. The wealth of the wicked is added to those who put God's Kingdom first.

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

Note: The things Jesus adds are the things the wicked seek. (See Matthew 6:32)

### C. Warning! The wealth of the righteous goes to the wicked when the righteous do not use it

properly.

(Ezekiel 7:20-21, TLB) "I gave you gold to use in decorating the Temple, and you used it instead to make idols...I will give [your wealth] to...wicked men as booty."

D. Remember: Proper giving adds wealth — improper giving subtracts wealth.

### God's Laws of Prosperity Pt. 3

"God's Rules For Reaping"

### A. God expects you to work.

God says if you are able bodied and don't work, you shouldn't eat.

(2 Thessalonians 3:10) "...if any would not work, neither should he eat."

### B. God expects you to be diligent (have energetic effort).

1. Lazy people will have little, if any, harvest. (Proverbs 24:30,31) "I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; And, 10, it was all grown over with thorns, *and* nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down."

### 2. If you can work without supervision, you will have more than enough.

(Proverbs 6:6-8) "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, *and* gathereth her food in the harvest."

### C. Diligent, hard-working people will reap.

(Galatians 6:9) "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

### God's Laws of Prosperity Pt. 2

### "God's Law of Patience"

### A. God is not playing a trick on you when He promises a harvest.

(Galatians 6:7) "Be not deceived...whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

### B. Patience is needed for your crops to grow into a harvest.

(Galatians 6:9) "...let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

(Hebrews 10:36) "For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."

#### C. Whatever you sow is what you will eventually reap.

(Luke 6:38) "Give, and it shall be given unto you... "

- 1. If you sow love, you reap love.
- 2. If you sow mercy, you reap mercy.
- 3. If you sow strife, you reap strife.
- 4. If you sow finances, you reap finances.

18

### God the Greatest Giver Pt. 2

Jesus is a Giver

### A. Jesus gives abundant life.

(John 10:10) "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly."

### B. Jesus gives healing and health.

(1 Peter 2:24) "...by whose stripes ye were healed."

### C. Jesus gives peace.

(John 14:27) "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world

giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

### D. Jesus gives prosperity.

(2 Corinthians 8:9) "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

One of the best ways to be like Jesus is to also be a good giver.

### God the Greatest Giver

God is a Giver

### A. God gives the gift of salvation.

(Ephesians 2:8) "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves:

it [your salvation] is the gift of God."

### B. God gives faith to every believer.

(Romans 12:3) "...God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

### C. God gives everything that is needed for life and godliness.

(2 Peter 1:3) "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness..."

### D. God's greatest gift is Jesus.

(John 3:16) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that

whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

One of the best ways to be like God is to also be a good giver.

### **Things You Should Know About Money**

### A. Your offering is important to Jesus.

(Mark 12:41-43) "And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury..."

### B. Money is not evil but the love of money is.

(1 Timothy 6:10) "For the love of money is the root of all evil..."

It's not wrong to have money, it's wrong for money to have you.

### C. Improper attitudes about money will draw you away from the Lord.

(Matthew 26:14-16) "...Judas Iscariot...said *unto them*. [priests] What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him [Jesus]."

### D. A proper understanding of money makes offering time a joyous event.

### God the Greatest Giver Pt. 3

### The Holy Spirit is a Giver.

### A. The Holy Spirit gives power.

(Acts 1:8) "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you..."

### B. The Holy Spirit gives help when we don't know how to pray.

(Romans 8:26) "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

### C. The Holy Spirit gives us insight into things to come.

(John 16:13) "...he (the Holy Spirit) will guide you into all truth...and he will shew you things to come."

### D. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts.

(1 Corinthians 12:4-10) "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit."

One of the best ways to be like the Holy Spirit is to also be a good giver.

### **Four Mistakes About Money**

#### A. Mistake #1 - That God doesn't want you to prosper.

(Psalm 35:27) "...Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant. "

### B. Mistake #2 - That you don't have the ability to prosper.

(Deuteronomy 8:18) "But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for *it is* he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant... "

### C. Mistake #3 - That the best things in life are free.

(1 Peter 1:18-19) "...ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold...But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot"Salvation and the Word of God have cost God more than anyone can calculate.

### D. Mistake #4 - That the offering is the time God gets money from His children.

(Luke 6:38) "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

#### E. Offering time is step one for getting money to God's children.

### **Things You Should Know About Money Pt. 2**

### A. Blessed money brings happiness.

(Proverbs 10:22) "The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it."

### B. Money is necessary for spreading the gospel.

(Romans 10:14-15) "...how shall they preach, except they be sent?.."

"sent" - means enabled or funded

#### C. God enjoys it when you prosper.

(Psalm 35:27) "...Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant"

### D. The Apostle John prayed for your prosperity.

(3 John 2) "Beloved, I wish [pray] above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health,

even as thy soul prospereth."

#### E. A proper understanding of money makes offering time a joyous event.

### **God's Debt Free Guarantee Pt. 2**

Four things that let you know that God will help you get out of debt.

### A. God is a debt canceling God.

- 1. 2 Kings 4:1-7 [Each one of these
- 2. 2 Kings 6:5-7 verses speaks of miracle
- 3. Matthew 17:24-27 debt cancellation.]

### B. God is no respecter of persons.

(Acts 10:34) "...Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons."

If He did it for others, He will do it for you.

### C. God wants you to be a lender not a borrower.

(Deuteronomy 28:12) "...thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow."

### D. Debt cancellation is for today.

(Hebrews 13:8) "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever."

If He did it before, He will do it again.

### E. God is willing to bless you with miracle debt cancellations if you give Him your best.

### **God's Debt Free Guarantee**

God is a debt-canceling god.

#### A. God canceled a widow's debt

(2 Kings 4:1-7) "...Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest."

### B. God redeemed a borrowed ax head.

(2 Kings 6:5-7) "...Alas, master! for it [the ax head] was borrowed. And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he shewed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast *it* in thither; and the iron did swim. Therefore said he, Take *it* up to thee. And he put out his hand, and took it."

### C. God miraculously paid Jesus' tax bill.

(Matthew 17:24-27) "...Doth not your master pay tribute? He [Peter] saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying... go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee."

God cancels the debts of those who are committed to sowing and reaping. It's now time to sow!

### We Have a Rich Heritage in Christ

### A. Father Abraham was rich.

(Genesis 13:2) "And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold."

### B. Father Isaac was rich.

(Genesis 26:12,14) "Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an

hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him.

For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, ...and the Philistines envied him."

### C. Father Jacob was rich.

(Genesis 30:43) "And the man [Jacob] increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses."

### D. Everyone of these spiritual relatives tithed and gave generous offerings. It is now time for us to

continue in the blessings that they enjoyed, it's our inheritance.

(Galatians 3:29) "And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

### God's Debt Free Guarantee Pt. 3

Three steps to the debt free life style.

### A. You must keep heaven open. You must be a tither.

(Malachi 3:10) "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, 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..."

#### B. You must speak the right things.

(Mark 11:23) "For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith." Speak to your mountain of bills.

### C. You must create an out of debt flow in your life.

(Ephesians 6:8) "Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free."

Generous giving keeps/gets this church out of debt. If you do it for God's house, He will do it for you.

### We Have a Rich Heritage in Christ Pt. 3

#### A. King David was rich.

(Psalm 30:6) "And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved."

### B. The Apostle Paul had money.

(Acts 24:25-26) "...he (Paul) reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come,

Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I

will call for thee. He hoped also that money should have been given him of Paul..."

[Note] A Roman proctor would not be interested in a few pennies. The public records Felix had

access to no doubt recorded that Paul's family had money.

### C. Jesus had money.

1. He had enough money for a three-year missionary journey with at least twelve

employees.

2. Even with a crooked treasurer (Judas), there was enough money to conduct His ministry.

3. Jesus owned a house. (John 1:38-39)

### D. God doesn't mind you having things, however you must put His Kingdom first.

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

### We Have a Rich Heritage in Christ Pt. 2

### A. Joseph was rich.

(Genesis 41:41-42) "And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.

And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck"

### B. James and John had ample finances.

(Mark 1:19-20) "...James the *son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets.

And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants..."

#### C. Luke was no doubt well off.

(Colossians 4:14) "Luke, the beloved physician..." Have you ever met a poor doctor?

### D. Joseph of Arimathaea was a rich disciple.

(Matthew 27:57) "...there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple."

# E. God is ready to bless you. Establish your rich heritage in God by activating your receiving by giving.

(Luke 6:38) "Give, and it shall be given unto you..."

### Faith Promises Pt. 2

The faithful have made faith promises.

### A. Hannah made a faith promise.

(1 Samuel 1:11) "And she [Hannah] vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt...give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life..."

### B. Jephthah made a faith promise.

(Judges 11:30-31) "And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, If thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands, Then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me...shall surely be the LORD'S, and I will offer it..."

### C. You could make a faith promise today.

<u>\$10 per week</u>

would add \$520 a year to your giving.

\$20 per week

would add \$1,040 a year to your giving.

\$30 per week

would add \$1,560 a year to your giving.

\$50 per week

would add \$2,600 a year to your giving.

### **Faith Promises**

### A. God made the first faith promise.

(Genesis 3:15) "... I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel"

The promise was that Jesus would overthrow Satan and save humanity.

#### B. Jesus made faith promises.

(John 14:2-3) "In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so. I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

(Luke 23:43) "...Jesus said unto him (the thief on the cross)... Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."

#### C. God is faithful to keep His faith promises.

(Isaiah 7:14) "...Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel"

(Matthew 1:22-23) "...all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel.."

As you give today, think about the faith promises God has made and how faithful He is to fulfill them.

### Faith Promises Pt. 3

We must be sincere when we make promises.

### A. God says fools don't pay their promises.

(Ecclesiastes 5:4) "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for *he hath* no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed."

#### B. Paul said unfulfilled promises cause shame.

(2 Corinthians 9:4-5, NKJV) "...if some... come with me and find you unprepared (to keep

your promise), we (not to mention you!) should be ashamed...Therefore I thought it

necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift

before hand, which you had previously promised..."

### C. Fulfilled promises bring God's promise of deliverance.

(Psalm 50:14-15) "...pay thy vows unto the most High: And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee..."

### D. Making a faith promise is good for you, and it's good for your church.