GIVING AND FINANCIAL PROSPERITY

(Part 2)

…TRANSCRIPT OF A TEACHING ON KINGDOM EXPLORERS BY REV. TEMILOLU ALIU

I appreciate the set man of this house and all the team members labouring with him. It's a pleasure to be a part of this great work

Shall we pray? Father, we thank you for this evening. We bless you for the banquet that you have prepared for us. We come with our hearts open, Lord. Teach us, train us, open our eyes, bless us, and impart on us. Through this teaching, enlarge our hearts to give and train our hands for prosperity. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

On Thursday, we started with part 1 of this series and we established some pivotal truths on giving and prosperity. I wouldn't go through the things we discussed again, for the sake of time. Please make sure to get that teaching and read through it. But we stopped at the point where I mentioned:

- Your storehouse
- Your work
- The Land God has given you

As pivotal factors to prosperity after you have given. We saw that in Deuteronomy 28:8

The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

These are the three places where divine prosperity and supernatural wealth find expression. So, it doesn't matter how much you give, if you have no savings or you have no work, or if you are not in the land where God has given you, you may not access the blessings of God.

I am praying for somebody here tonight, your barns will be filled with plenty!

You will gather plenty in life in the name of Jesus.

Say,

I am a reaper

I am a gatherer

You will reap

You will gather...

In the name of Jesus!

I'll kick off tonight's teaching with a discourse on the appropriate way to give.

Let's start with 2 Corinthians 8:11-12

2 Corinthians 8:11-12
Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have.

For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.

2 Corinthians 8:11-12 (BBE)
Then make the doing of it complete; so that as you had a ready mind, you may give effect to it as you are able.

For if there is a ready mind, ***a man will have God's approval in the measure of what he has, and not of what he has not.***

I want you to see the last part of that verse. It says, "A man will have God's approval in the measure of what he has, and not of what he has not.

One of the principles of giving is to **give from what you have**. In other words, give at your level. That verse says it all starts from a willing mind. But the equation is not complete until there is a performance.

Some people keep paying lip service to giving, talking about their willing minds and what they would do for the kingdom or for their pastor when they become rich. But the real question is, what are they doing now, according to what they have? Now that you don't yet have money to build a Cathedral for your church, are you buying broom for the small building your church has rented? Have you bought flowers for the altar?

There's the story of a young man who wrote a love letter to a girl he was interested in. He mentioned how he could cross mountains and oceans for her. He told her how much she means, assuring her he could even run through troops if that's what it would take to prove his love for her. The young man said he'll gladly walk through fire to show how much he loves the girl.

The love letter was about 2 pages of long exercise book! As he signed off the letter, he wrote there "See you tonight if it doesn't rain". A man that wouldn't walk under the rain, how would he pass through fire? That's the way some people do when it comes it giving! They only express desires and promises

Think, what can you do at your level? Start doing it

My Spiritual Father once told the story of how someone came to meet him for prayers many years ago. The man had a simple prayer request. He wanted God to bless him stupendously. He said he has one desire, "I want to be buying first class tickets for all your trips Sir". "But I don't have the money, so please pray that God will bless me so that I can fulfil the desires of my heart".

Papa said he told this man that he's a big joker. "I know you don't have money to buy first class ticket for me, but if you aren't paying my bus fare or fuelling my car today, you won't buy me first class tickets tomorrow." The principle there is clear. If you are not giving according to what you have today, even when you start having surplus, you won't give!

Beloved, don't think you don't have much to give, or that what you have is insignificant. Give from what you have. This also means you should not give another person's money. If someone keeps money with you, please don't sow it as a seed o. It's not your money! Give from what you have

Now, let's see another principle from 2 Samuel 24:24

And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: ***neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing.*** *So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.*

You see the highlighted portion there? That's the balance to the first point. **Give that which cost you something. Give sacrificially.** When we say give from what you have, it doesn't mean that you should give God peanuts. Let your honor be properly communicated through your giving.

Don't give your chicken change to God. Don't give the extra leftover after you have done “everything you need to do”. You took 1,000 to buka and balanced with 685 naira food, even on the day of fasting o. They gave you 315 naira change, you clean your mouth and went to Church for prayer meeting. Then offering time came, and you squeezed the 5 naira on top of your change for offering. Haba!

And you're there saying, it's Rev. that taught you to be giving from what you have. Assuredly I say to you, "Rev. knows you not, depart from me!" See, whenever you are giving, give that which costs you something. Let your giving be sacrificial.

I believe someone is being helped by this teaching

I'll show you another principle from 2 Corinthians 9:7

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: ***for God loveth a cheerful giver.***

Basic English version puts it this way, "God takes pleasure in a ready giver". In other words, whatever you are giving to God, make sure it comes from your heart. Remember, last week, we established that the heart of honor is the hub from which giving should flow if it's going to be productive.

Don't give grumbling or give with grudge.

Don't give because you feel pressured.

Never come under duress to give.

Don't come under negative pressure to give.

Yes, it may cost you something and you may feel the impact sometimes, especially when there are needs to take care of... but it's better not to do anything than to do it grumbling, complaining, or out of grudge! When you do that, you have lost your reward.

It's like if you truly honor your father, you prostrate when you see him. And you'll do it cheerfully. Whatever makes you complain about having to prostrate or greet him is an act of dishonor in the heart even if you prostrate. The thing is your earthly father may not know about your grumbling and grudges. He'll happily receive your greeting. But God? HE sees and knows all things

He sees all the grumbling

He hears all the complaints

He knows all about your grudge

Again, God loves a cheerful giver!

Make sure you give, but also make sure to do it cheerfully

Now, let's see Malachi 3:3

And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord ***an offering in righteousness.***

Did you see that? **Offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness**

Don't embezzle money in your place of work and come to pay tithe and give prophet's offering from it. You will incur a curse on yourself. Please, don't bring a strange sacrifice before God, it's dangerous. I even feel like using the word, hazardous. It's a spiritual hazard to pay tithe from yahoo yahoo!

Make sure to offer to God in righteousness. Give only from your legitimate source of income. There are only legitimate sources of income:

1. Earnings (from goods and services)

2. Gifts

3. Inheritance

A fourth legitimate source of money is **LOANS.**

Anything you get, that's not from any of these 4 sources is illegitimate. It doesn't matter how you want to sugar-coat it. If it's not from any of the 4 sources above, or even if it's from any of them but obtained under false pretence, don't attempt to give to God from it.

If you drop such in the offering bowl or give it to your Pastor, it may be collected but it won't be accepted. Collections are done by men. Acceptance is from God. If you come to give me N5m from fraud money, I will reject it if I know or if it looks suspicious. But if I don't know or I don't suspect anything, I'll collect it from you

The money will be useful for the work of ministry... BUT God will still not accept it. In fact, He will judge you for bringing an offering in unrighteousness

Hope you are following, please?

So, to do a recap -

1. Give from what you have. Give at your present level.

2. Give sacrificially. Give that which costs you something.

3. Give cheerfully, with a ready heart. Not out of compulsion or grudge.

4. Offer unto the Lord an offering of righteousness.

If you give this way, prosperity cannot elude you. But again, make sure you follow the pattern we see in Deuteronomy 28:8

The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Storehouse - Make sure you're saving. Never spend all

Let me teach you a model that will ensure wealth - I call it the Joseph Savings Model. During the bountiful harvests, spanning 7 years, Joseph helped save 20 percent of all the harvest in Egypt ahead of the famine years. Go and open a Joseph Savings Account where you will store 20% of everything that comes into your hands for the next 7 years.

Don't touch it or spend from it. Just keep it there. If you like, you can invest it. But no profit from it must be spent. It must all go back into savings. Do that for 7 years and tell me if you will still be poor. When I say everything that comes to your hands, I mean anything from earnings, gifts, inheritance, or loan.

The second thing on the Deuteronomy 28:8 list is WORK. Please find something worthwhile doing. If nobody is giving you a job, do whatever thing you can do LEGITIMATELY.

Forget about shirt and tie if you must

Forget about files and folders if you must

Make sure you are doing something legitimate at every point in your life to make money. Don't say you are waiting to get a job. Yes, you're waiting and you will surely get a good one in Jesus' Name. But while waiting, don't sit down doing nothing

Finally, the verse talks about the land God has given you. Find out where God wants you to be placed and stay there. That's where your prosperity lies. It may be a physical location or a field of endeavor. Stay there and prosper there.

God bless you and enrich you in Jesus' Name. Amen

As we round off tonight, let's pray a simple prayer. Father, teach my heart to give and teach my hands to make wealth in the name of Jesus.

God bless you, Kingdom Explorers.

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