Series: Power From On High.
Title: The Marks of a Spirit-filled Church, Part 4
Lesson: 21

Text: Acts 2:44-45
Date: Oct 16, 2022

1. SAVED Church

A. Teaching church
B. Loving church
C. Christ-centered church
D. Dependent church
E. Reverent church
F. Powerful church
G. Sharing church

44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.

Why does the Bible speak so often about money?

Money is the most pervasive element in our lives.

Money reveals what we value most.

Matthew 6:19–21 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

What is the pattern of biblical giving?

1 **Genesis**	2 **Mosaic Law**	3 **Church Age**
Required Freewill	Required Freewill	Required Freewill

_____ **giving in Genesis**

Cain & Able

Genesis 4:3–4 So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the Lord of the fruit of the ground. 4 Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering;

Noah

Genesis 8:20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

Abraham

Genesis 12:7 The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the Lord who had appeared to him.

Genesis 14:20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." He gave him **a tenth of all.**

Hebrews 7:2 to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all the spoils, was first of all, by the translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace.

4, Now observe how great this man was to whom Abraham, the patriarch, gave a tenth of the choicest spoils.

"spoils" [akrothinion] - top of the heap, the best out of all the spoils

Amplified New Testament

Hebrews 7:4 Now observe and consider how great [a personage] this was to whom even Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth [the topmost or the pick of the heap] of the spoils.

Jacob

Genesis 28:22 "This stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a **tenth** to You."

Jacob tried to bride God by promising to give a tithe.

_____ **giving in Genesis**

Joseph in Egypt

Genesis 41:34 "Let Pharaoh take action to appoint overseers in charge of the land, and let him exact a **fifth** of the produce of the land of Egypt in the seven years of abundance.

Genesis 47:24 At the harvest you shall give a **fifth to Pharaoh**, and four-fifths shall be your own for seed of the field and for your food and for those of your households and as food for your little ones."

_____ **giving in Israel**

Israel was commanded to give _____ tithes

1. The _____ tithe

Numbers 18:21 "To the sons of Levi, behold, I have given all the tithe in Israel for an inheritance, in return for their service which they perform, the service of the tent of meeting.

2. The _____ tithe

Deuteronomy 14:22–27 "You shall surely tithe all the produce from what you sow, which comes out of the field every year. 23 "You shall eat in the presence of the Lord your God, at the place where He chooses to establish His name, the tithe of your grain, your new wine, your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and your flock, so that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always.

3. The _____ tithe

Deuteronomy 14:28–29 "At the end of **every third year** you shall bring out all the **tithe** of your produce in that year, and shall deposit it in your town.

1. The Levite tithe ..... 10 %

2. The Festival tithe .... 10 %

3. The welfare tithe ..... 3.3 %

Total - _____ %

29 "The Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance among you, and the alien, the orphan and the widow who are in your town, shall come and eat and be satisfied, in order that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.

Flavius Josephus - "In addition to the two tithes which I have already directed you to pay each year, the one for the Levites and the other for the banquets, ye should devote a third every third year to the distribution of such things as are lacking to widowed women and orphan children."

Prophet sharing taxation

Leviticus 19:9 'Now when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest.

_____ **giving in Israel**

Numbers 18:12 "All the best of the fresh oil and all the best of the fresh wine and of the grain, the first fruits of those which they give to the Lord, I give them to you.

"give it to the Lord"

"if you will give Me the **first fruits**, right off the top before you even know how much you're going to have; if you'll give Me the first fruits, right off the top, and trust Me, I'll bring in your full harvest."

Proverbs 3:9–10 Honor the Lord from your wealth And from the first of all your produce; 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty And your vats will overflow with new wine.

Question to ponder - Would you rather be blessed materially or spiritually?

Discussion Guide

1. What has been your understanding regarding the tithe? Were you taught to tithe or have you adopted it through tradition?

2. Reread Matthew 6:19-21 and answer the following questions.

   a. What does it mean to "store up" treasures?
   b. What is the difference between "treasures on earth" and "treasures in heaven?"

3. Reread Matthew 6:24. What are the two masters and how do we know which one has control of our life?

4. Even though we have not yet covered N.T. giving, how might the two categories of giving apply to us living in the church age?

5. Did today's sermon impact you? If so, how?

ANSWERS: Freewill, Required, Required, three, Levitical, Festival, Welfare, 23.3, Freewill