

Summary: SDA Fundamental 21: Stewardship

Read Before:

Aim: Everything belongs to God but He only asks us to return a small portion to Him, but if we do this He will bless us.

If God wanted a million dollars, could He get it? Would it be easy for Him? If God wanted anything, could He get it? (yes)

Read Philippians 4:19 – God created everything, so in a way, everything really belongs to God; and He promises that He will provide what we need. The Bible also says that God is like a Father and likes to give good gifts to His children. (Matthew 7:11) In fact the Bible says that every good thing is from God (James 1:17)

But you might say "Mum and Dad bought our new trampoline, not God!" But God gave Dad the strength to go to work to earn the money to buy the trampoline. Or God gave our government the wisdom to setup the dole so that those who don't have work can still have money to live. (Did you know they used to have something similar to the dole back in Israel?)

One way or another everything good comes from God. So, does God really need our money? (No)

But the Bible is very clear that God wants us to use some of our money to help support His church.

Read Leviticus 27:30 - This is called tithe, tithe means 1 out of every 10, our tithe pays ministers so they can spend all their time working for the Church.

Read out 2 Corinthians 8:11c-14 – "Give in proportion to what you have. ¹² Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have. ¹³ Of course, I don't mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some equality. ¹⁴ Right now you have plenty and can help those who are in need. Later, they will have plenty and can share with you when you need it. In this way, things will be equal."

Paul is talking about offerings. Offerings pay for the running of the church (give specifics), they are also used to help missionaries, build churches, buy Bibles, do charity work etc.

What are we doing if we don't pay tithe and offering? Read Malachi 3:8 (We are stealing)

Sometimes people think that they don't have enough money to pay tithe, they need to use all the money to pay their bills.

Story: My (Delwyn's) Mum said they had been paying Mum's wage into the house mortgage and living off Dad's wage but after a while they started running a bit short and had to use some of Mum's wage to pay bills as well. Then one day they realised that even though they were earning more money they hadn't been giving any extra offering, so they next week they increased the amount of offering and once they did that they didn't run short of money again.

In Malachi 3:10-11 God says if we pay tithe, He will "open the windows of heaven" and pour out a blessing so big we won't have room for it.

So, next time you are given \$10 for your birthday what should you do first? (Pay tithe)

To finish off read Luke 12:16-21 (Parable of the bigger barns)

Matthew 6:19-21 - ¹⁹ "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.