

DAY EIGHT

TODAY'S DATE: Thursday, Jan. 31st

Scripture Memorization
Proverbs 3:9 -10

Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

Spiritual Application- Stewardship Part C- Think on These Things

WHAT PRINCIPLES ARE WE TO FOLLOW IN GIVING?

- A. Give ourselves first to the Lord (II Cor. 8:5)
- B. According to ability (Acts 11:29, II Cor. 8:12)
- C. Regularly (I Cor. 16:1,2)
- D. To the Lord, not for approval (Matt. 6:2-4)
- E. Because it's biblical
- F. Put into effect laws of sowing and reaping
- G. To support the ministry of the church

How committed are you to what you believe? Are you willing to place your monies behind a cause that has eternal implications? If you recall a typical budget prior to our being born again, it might look like this...

Food - \$400	Movies - \$100
Dope - \$200	Football Season Tickets - \$1200
Booze - \$300	Hair Care - \$175
Clothes - \$100	Fitness Class - \$40
Golf/Tennis - \$450	Club/Night Entertainment - \$300

As you can see, our lives B.C. (Before Christ) were sensual (seeking to gratify the flesh through pleasure). When you consider all the money wasted on dope, booze and entertainment, how can you balk when God says give me a tenth plus an offering.

Exercise: How am I looking now?

How does your budget look now? Examine your last month of expenses and fill in amounts:

Food: \$ _____	Movies: \$ _____	Books: \$ _____
Clothes: \$ _____	Hair Care: \$ _____	Fitness: \$ _____
Hobbies: \$ _____	Vacation: \$ _____	Starbucks: \$ _____
Golf/Tennis: \$ _____		

Grand Total: \$ _____

Question: Has being a Christian and realigning your budget saved you money?

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**Spiritual Application - Stewardship Part D - Think on These Things
COMMON QUESTIONS AND MYTHS ABOUT GIVING**

A. Should I tithe on gross or net income?

You should tithe on gross as this is your total increase. The U.S. Government does not let you see it first, they take theirs. However, God is gracious enough to give you the freedom to give willingly.

*** "I can't afford to right now."

You can't afford not to give tithes and offerings. God said, "prove me now" (Mal. 3:10). Put God first just like any other bill - pay everyone after God.

***"My husband won't let me give"

First find out why - then explain this lesson to him and the blessing in giving. If he resists, then make sacrifices to give out of your own allowances.

***"Preachers just take money for their own gain"

God ordained that those whose lives are given for the Gospel should live from the Gospel. The priests in the Old Testament received their livelihood from the gifts of the people in sacrifice. Paul even said, "The laborer is worthy of his hire". If the minister wrongfully uses the money he will suffer at God's Hand! Don't lose your blessing because of him. God will bless your sincere giving.

B. When should I give?

You should give when you receive any type of increase. Some will put it off and give it the next time. However, this violates the whole principle of giving God the first fruits, not what is left over or coming later.

C. Where should I tithe?

You should bring the tithe into the storehouse. Israel was instructed to present these gifts and offerings to the priest. Wherever you are being fed and watched over, you should give your tithes and offerings. Do you ever leave a restaurant where you have eaten and pay the restaurant across the street?

EXERCISE: What are ways that I can expand or change as it relates to stewardship?

What action can I implement immediately to bring about a change?

DAY TEN

TODAY'S DATE: Saturday, Feb. 2nd

Scripture Memorization

I Peter 2:9

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Spiritual Application: I AM OF THE BELIEVER [AUTHOR UNKNOWN]

• Justified	Romans 5:1a
• Declared righteous	Romans3:25
• Sanctified (set apart):	Hebrews 10:10
• A child of God by spiritual birth	John 1:12,13
• A child of God by adoption	Romans 8:15
• A new creation	II Corinthians 5:17
• An heir of God	Romans 8:17a
• A joint heir with Christ	Romans 8:17b
• A member of Christ's body	I Corinthians 12:12,13
• The temple of God	I Corinthians 3:16,17
• A chosen generation	I Peter 2:9a
• A Royal priesthood	I Peter 2:9b
• A Holy nation/peculiar treasure	I Peter 2:9c, d
• Crucified with Christ	Romans 6:6
• Dead with Christ	Romans 6:8
• Buried with Christ	Romans 6:4a
• Raised with Him	Colossians 2:12,13
• Seated in the heavenlies	Ephesians 2:5,6
• Not of this world	John17:15,16
• In Christ's kingdom	Colossians 1:13
• Delivered from this present evil world	Galatians 1:3,4
• God's workmanship	Ephesians 2:10
• Like Christ	John 4:17b
• At peace with God	Romans 5:1b
• An ambassador	II Corinthians 5:20
• The salt of the earth	Matthew 5:13
• Victorious	I Corinthians 15:57
• Complete in Christ	Colossians 2:10
• Healed	I Peter 2:24
• Heaven bound	I John 3:1,2

Scripture Memorization

I Peter 2:9

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Spiritual Application

I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord. This is the day that the Lord hath made, I will rejoice and be glad in it! On your mark! Get set! Go! Make your way to the house of the Lord.

Title of Today's Sermon: _____

Key Scripture [s]: _____

Theme: ___ Faith ___ Encouragement ___ Admonishment ___ Other: _____

Key Points in Today's Message

Action Step: How can I apply this message to my life today?

Scripture Memorization**I Peter 2:9**

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Spiritual Application - The Path to Total Forgiveness - PART A

Definition of Forgive: *Aphiemi (verb in Greek) - to send forth or send away.*

If I am to participate in the forgiveness process knowing that only GOD can truly forgive sins - What then is my role?

Question: In forgiving your role is to send the offense forth or away- but to whom?

Answer: You send to God who can forgive.

This involves **TRUST**- For we do not forgive because we want control or power to repay them for the hurt. It takes **TRUST IN GOD** to send their sin to GOD to handle any way He wants. This means God may:

- Bless them
- Chastise them
- Do nothing

The ultimate control is the **POWER TO FORGIVE** - We hold the power to send their error to GOD to handle.

Biblical Examples

Notice the two classic examples in scripture of forgiveness:

- A. Jesus
Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.
- B. Stephen
Acts 7:60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

In each case you never see them say I forgive them - but they both ask God to do it!!

Question: What then is the highest expression of love?

Not giving one's life. (1 Cor. 13:3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.)

Answer: Forgiving Those Who Have Hurt You!

DAY THIRTEEN

TODAY'S DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 5th

Scripture Memorization

Ephesians 4:32

**And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted,
forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake
hath forgiven you.**

Spiritual Application - The Path to Total Forgiveness - PART B

Review Matthew 18:22-35, Jesus answers Peter's question concerning forgiveness with the parable of the unmerciful servant

Verse 24	How much did the servant owe the King?
Verse 25	What was his penalty?
Verse 26	What was the attitude of the servant?
Verse 27	What was the King's response?
Verse 28	How much did the fellow servant owe the servant?
Verse 29	What was the attitude of the servant?
Verse 30	What did the servant do?
Verse 32-33	What is the attitude of the wicked servant?
Verse 34	What was the outcome of the wicked servant?
Verse 35	Why do you think our forgiveness is conditional on forgiving others?

Question : How does it make you feel that a king forgave the debt of a servant that owed him 60 million of a day's wage; then that same servant would not forgive a fellow servant that only owed 100 of a day's wage?

Because God has forgiven you, He EXPECTS and REQUIRES that you forgive everyone who has offended you. Yes, EVERYONE! No matter what they have done. With unforgiveness, you will live a life of bondage, hate, bitterness, vengeance and overall unhappiness. There are many benefits to living a life of forgiveness.

Scripture Memorization
Ephesians 4:32
And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted,
forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake
hath forgiven you.

Spiritual Application - The Path to Total Forgiveness - PART C

Let's consider some points about forgiveness:

- To forgive doesn't mean you will forget!
- Forgiveness is a choice, will yourself to do it.
- By forgiving you uncuff them from you and cuff them to God.
- Forgive so that you can be free and right with God.
- Forgiveness is agreeing to live with the consequences of another person's sin.
- To forgive from the heart means to allow emotions to surface for God to heal.
- You gain freedom by forgiving.
- Forgiveness is Christ-likeness.

EXERCISE - Sit quietly before the Lord. Afterwards, make a list of people you need to forgive.

1.	5.
2.	6.
3.	7.
4.	8.

- Please note that you may experience a wide range of emotions from anger to sorrow; but, if you are struggling, stop, pray, wait and begin again. This exercise may take some time.

