

Giving and Prayer

Matthew 5:20 ²⁰ “For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

The righteousness produced in us by the Holy Spirit has only God as its object and seeks only to please Him.

When our deeds done in righteousness become oriented around people and their praise, it degrades into a state that is UNREWARDABLE by God and useless to men.

Matthew 5:13 ¹³ “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty *again*? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

This is the true purpose of our saltiness- to flavor the earth TO GOD’S TASTE!

Matthew 6:1-8 “Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. ² “So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. ³ But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

First, we season the earth for God with our giving. Giving is the cure for stinginess, which is idolatry, and it converts regular money into blessings on earth and reward in heaven.

If every Christian tithed 10%, faith organizations would have an extra \$139-165 billion each year**

When we give, it should be anonymous if possible. If not possible, then our eyes have to be fixed on God as we do it.

What is the left hand that our gift is hidden from? It’s your friend, your neighbor, your spouse, etc. Let it be between you and God only.

Giving also affects our prayer lives. We ask God to meet our needs generously, but have we been generous ourselves?

Power of Prayer p. 209

⁵ “When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. ⁶ But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

We season the earth with our prayers. Prayer is the cure for self-reliance; it connects us RELATIONALLY with God, with whom all things are possible.

When we pray as individuals, we should pray in a private place if possible. It allows us to focus on God and to find Him.

Your Father is in secret! This is the precious secret of the Secret Place. Your Father is there, He sees everything done privately and in faith, and rewards these things OPENLY.

Do you have your secret place? Have you invited God to fill that place with His presence? Do you pray to Him there?

⁷ “And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

If this is so, why does God have us ask Him? Remember, self-reliance keeps us from the Father. God is seeking a vibrant relationship with us.

“Prayer is taking hold of God’s willingness, not overcoming His reluctance.” -Master Secrets of Prayer

MSoP p. 26

“Of Course You Will”

****There would be an additional \$165 billion for churches to use and distribute. The global impact would be phenomenal.**

Here are just a few things the Church could do with the kind of money.

- **\$25 billion could relieve global hunger, starvation and deaths from preventable diseases in five years.**
- **\$12 billion could eliminate illiteracy in five years.**
- **\$15 billion could solve the world’s water and sanitation issues, specifically at places in the world where 1 billion people live on less than \$1 per day.**
- **\$1 billion could fully fund all overseas mission work.**
- **\$100 – \$110 billion would still be left over for additional ministry expansion.**

Christians are giving at a 2.5% per capita or tithe. During the Great Depression, they gave at a 3.3% rate. Today, 33-50% of church members, those who claim they have bought in at a deep level to your ministry, give nothing.

If we were able to have our people increase their giving from 2.5% to 10% of their annual income, an additional \$165 billion would flow into the Kingdom.