

Day 21 - Give careful thought to your financial practices and never neglect God's house and servants.

THINK ABOUT, DISCUSS OR PRAY ABOUT THE VERSE THAT RELATES MOST TO YOUR LIFE:

Hag 1:4-12 "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?" Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it." This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored," says the LORD. "You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?" declares the LORD Almighty. "Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house. Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the oil and whatever the ground produces, on men and cattle, and on the labor of your hands."

Neh 10:39 (The leaders and the people repented and said) "We will not neglect the house of our God."

Ex 22:29 (God says) "You must be prompt in giving Me the tithe."

Deut 12:19 Be careful not to neglect the Levites (ministers) as long as you live in your land.

Generosity is to materialism what kryptonite was to Superman.

If everyone in your church followed your pattern of giving, would your church receive a token, a tip or a tithe?



The Amazing Story of A Millionaire Giver

A few years ago, I heard a man named Steve from California speak at a Christian conference. He told the story about how he and his wife became millionaire givers!

Steve owned a small business and made about \$50,000 a year. He went to a Campus Crusade for Christ conference and heard Dr. Bill Bright challenge the audience to give a \$1,000,000 to the Lord's work. After the message, he went up to Dr. Bright and asked, "Obviously, you didn't really mean that my wife and I should be included in the people that give a million dollars to the Lord's work?" Dr. Bright asked, "How much did you make last year?" Steve said, "\$50,000." Dr. Bright asked, "How much did you give to the Lord last year? Steve said "\$15,000". Steve thought Dr. Bright would be impressed that they gave more than 25% of their income to the Lord's work. Dr. Bright said, "Well, next year, trust God to allow you to give \$50,000." But Steve said, "That's my entire salary!" Dr. Bright said, "Trust God and if he provides you with the funds, give \$50,000!"

Steve went home and amazingly his little business did well and he and his young family lived on their \$50,000 salary and they gave \$50,000 to the Lord's work! The next year, by faith they pledged to themselves and the Lord that they would continue to live on \$50,000 but to seek to give \$100,000 to the Lord's work if God provided it. Amazingly, through some unbelievable circumstances and a great test of faith, they were able to give \$100,000 that year.

Each year, they continued to live on their basic salary and give their extra income to the Lord's work. And believe it or not, within 5 years, they had given over a million dollars to the Lord!

Sometimes God gives us more income not to increase our standard of living, but to increase our standard of giving.