

Household of Faith fidelity



"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." - Galatians 6:10

Week of Sunday, 30th August 2026

Q&A 2/5

What is the duty of the church?

The duty of the church is to speak the truth in love.

The more I read the word of God, the more I am led to see that my task as a minister, and of leaders, as well as each and every member of the church, is to speak the truth of God's word in love as commanded in the Bible in Ephesians 4:15.

It is so important for the church to proclaim the truth as preserved and inspired by the Holy Spirit through the ages. We need to stay close to the Bible, telling it like it is without adding or subtracting from its divine revelations. The core of this truth is the gospel of Christ. This must not only be told, but obeyed and lived in the lives of all who embrace it.

Just as important, this truth must be spoken in love as our passage clearly instructs. Indeed, Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 13:2, that it does not matter the extent to which we go in our effort to practice the word of God; if we do not do it out of love, for then there is no profit at all.

It is vital that we handle the word of God with love. Just as true giving must be done cheerfully, proper preaching must be done lovingly. Every Christian must present the gospel in the way our Lord Jesus have done, with loving

compassion, patient tender care so that no soul will miss heaven.

We all agree that what the world needs is the gospel of Christ. The way to proclaim the gospel is more than putting Bibles in hotel rooms or stuffing gospel tracts in mail boxes. I believe that every person in this world needs the opportunity to hear the gospel proclaimed in love, so that they can make a proper and heartfelt response to it.

An example of this is in Acts 17 where Paul shared the gospel to the Greeks. Since God has created us as free moral agents, we observe the various responses to the word of God. Given the opportunity to hear the gospel, they respond in accordance to their comprehension and motives, and will have to answer for their decision in the final day.

In the same way, the church needs to speak the truth in love as we lead the church and confront sin. We have to answer for each soul that has gone astray, and deal with sin in the lives of members. Patiently and lovingly, we must minister so that none miss heaven.

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BACK PAGE NEWS



Clockwise: Henry exhorting the congregation; Eric leading communion; Michael and Jonathan assisting; Church enjoying the lunch fellowship. Thanks to Phai for porridge, Iris and Elaine for vegetable dishes, June for spam dish, Iris for red bean dessert, and Kang Hwei for longans.



Giving from God's Gifts

The Heart Behind the Tithe



30th August 2026

Sermon Verse

Everything comes from you,
and we have given you only
what comes from your hand.

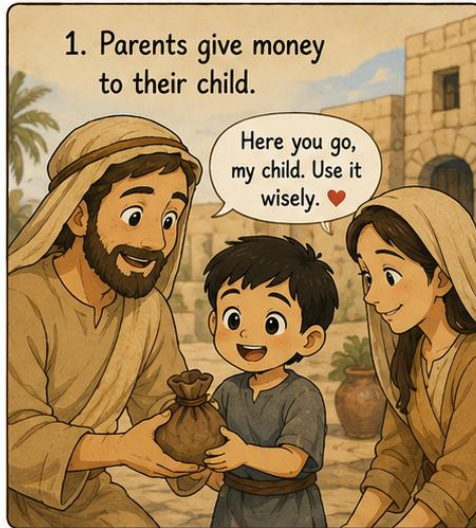
1 Chronicles 29:14



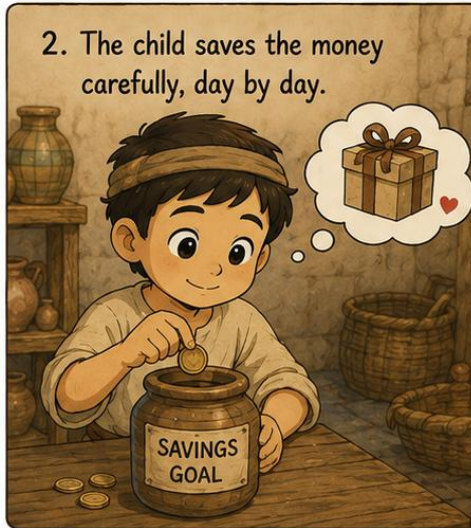
Story

The Heart Behind the Tithe

1. Parents give money to their child.



2. The child saves the money carefully, day by day.



3. He reaches his goal and picks the perfect gift.



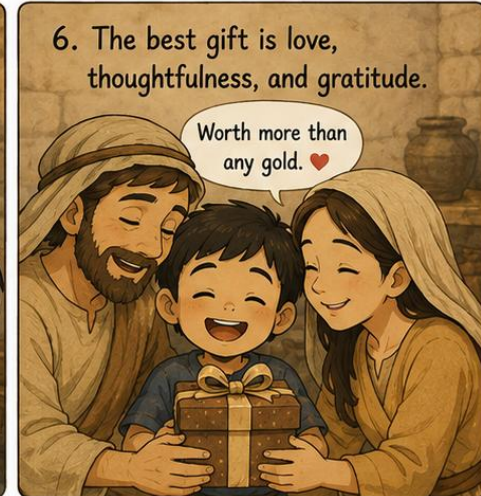
4. It's the parent's birthday!



5. The child gives the gift from the heart.



6. The best gift is love, thoughtfulness, and gratitude.





Oswald Chambers:

“We have the idea that we can dedicate our gifts to God. However, you cannot dedicate what is not yours. There is actually only one thing you can dedicate to God, and that is your right to yourself.”

“Dedication”

Yours,
Lord.

SERMON OUTLINE

#1 Tithing in the Old Testament

#2 Giving in the OT vs NT

#3 Giving in the New Testament

#4 Application

#4 Sermon Prayer

Tithing Definition

Tithing is the practice of giving **one-tenth (10%)** of one's produce to God as an act of worship, gratitude, and acknowledgment that everything ultimately belongs to Him.

The word "**tithe**" comes from the Old English word **teogotha**, meaning "**tenth**." In the Bible, the Hebrew word **ma'aser** means "a tenth."

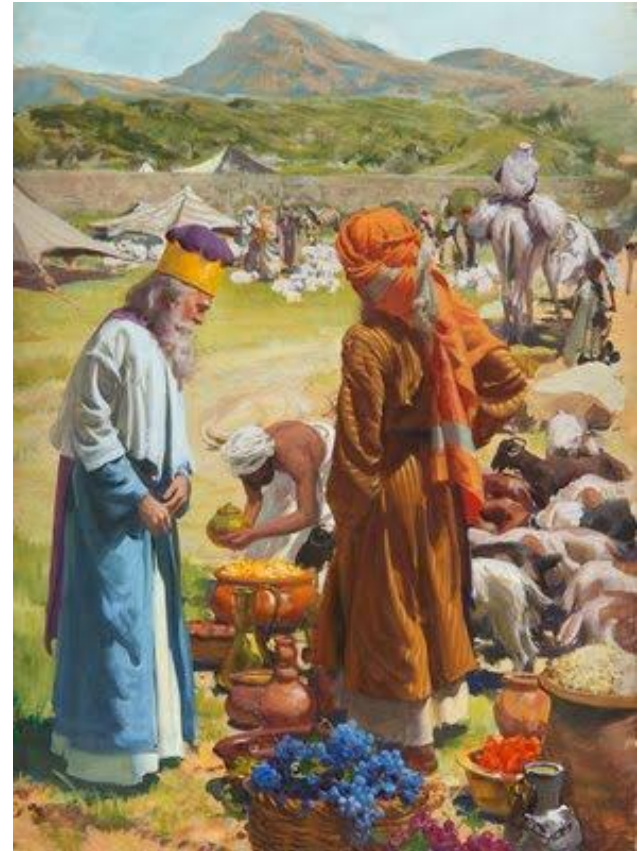


#1 Tithing in the Old Testament



Tithing began before the Mosaic Law

- Tithing has always been a response of gratitude to God's provision.
- Voluntary, worshipful response to God's blessings.
- Key examples: Abraham and Jacob



Tithing began before the Mosaic Law

- Abraham gave a tenth to Melchizedek after God gave him victory, Abraham returned from rescuing Lot.
- Genesis 14:18-20

¹⁸ Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, ¹⁹ and he blessed Abram, saying, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.

²⁰ And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.”

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.



Tithing began before the Mosaic Law

- Jacob vowed to give God a tenth if God provided for him.

- Genesis 28:20–22

²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear

²¹ so that I return safely to my father’s household, then the LORD will be my God

²² and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God’s house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.”



Tithing during the Mosaic Law

- Covenantal law during the 10 Commandments period.
- The tithe was given to the Levites specifically, since they received no land inheritance among the tribes and instead served at the tabernacle. (Numbers 18)
- Under the Mosaic law, **23% per year** to be given cumulatively:
 - > Levitical tithe (10%)
 - > Festival tithe (10%)
 - > Poor tithe (3.33%)



#2 Giving in the OT Vs NT

	OT- Pre Mosaic Law	OT- Mosaic Law	New Testament
Amount	Patriarch's gratitude	23% per year	Grace-motivated, Grounded in Christ's self-giving
Type	voluntary, worshipful response to God's blessing	Legislated, Quantified obligation	Voluntary, Spirit- prompted
Basis	Abraham, Jacob	Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy	2 Corinthians 8–9

#3 Giving in the New Testament



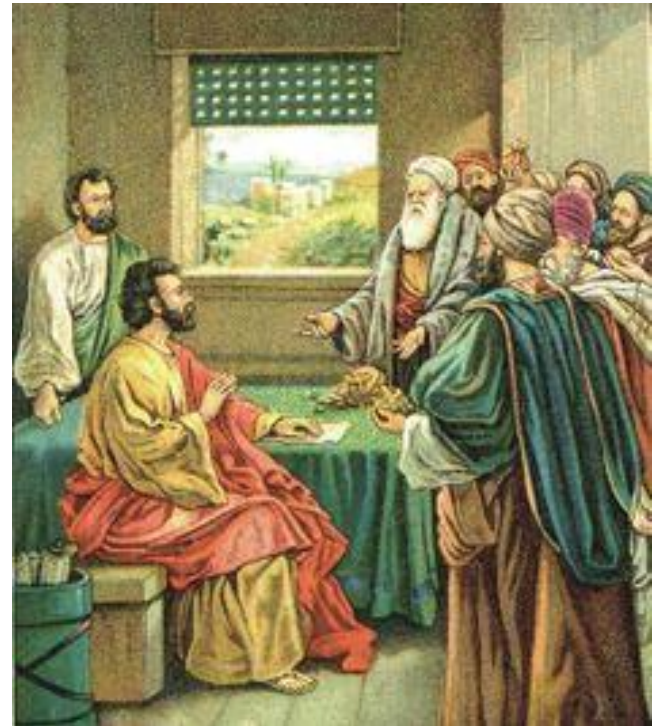
Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 8–9

Context: Paul is raising a relief offering from the Gentile churches in Macedonia and Achaia for the poor, famine-stricken believers in Jerusalem.

The Corinthians had pledged a year earlier to participate but hadn't followed through, so Paul writes two chapters to both motivate and instruct them — making this the **longest sustained NT teaching on giving**.

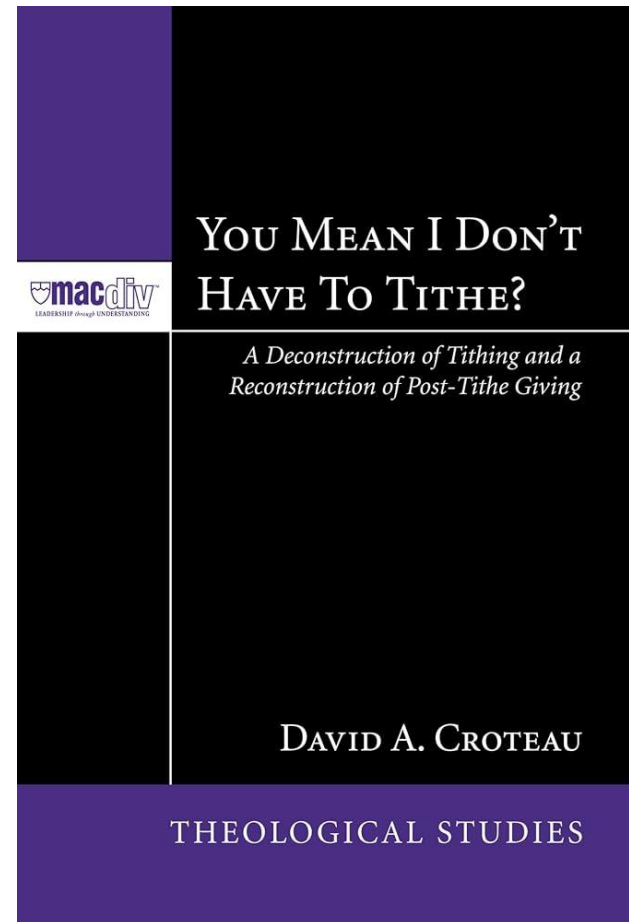
(a) Giving flows from grace, not obligation

- 2 Corinthians 8:1–5 – The Macedonian churches gave **"beyond their ability" out of joy in the midst of affliction**, showing giving as a response to grace received, not a rule imposed.
- 2 Corinthians 9:7 – "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, **not reluctantly or under compulsion**, for God loves a cheerful giver."



(a) Giving flows from grace, not obligation

- Author wrote: We should be giving more to God than the Law prescribed because **Grace was given to us first.**
- Our Christian faith is a gift. **Grace is from God.**
- Ephesians 2:8: *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.*



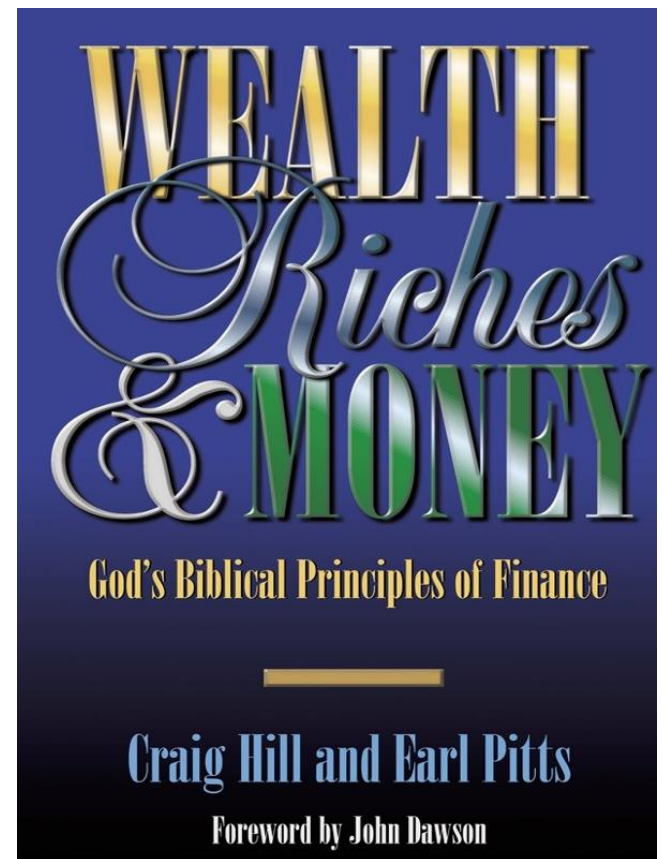
(b) Giving is an act of worship & trust in God's provision

- Philippians 4:15–19: Paul frames the Philippians' financial gift as "***a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God,***" and promises God will "*supply every need of yours*".
- Proverbs 3:9–10: "*Honor the Lord with your wealth... then your barns will be filled.*"



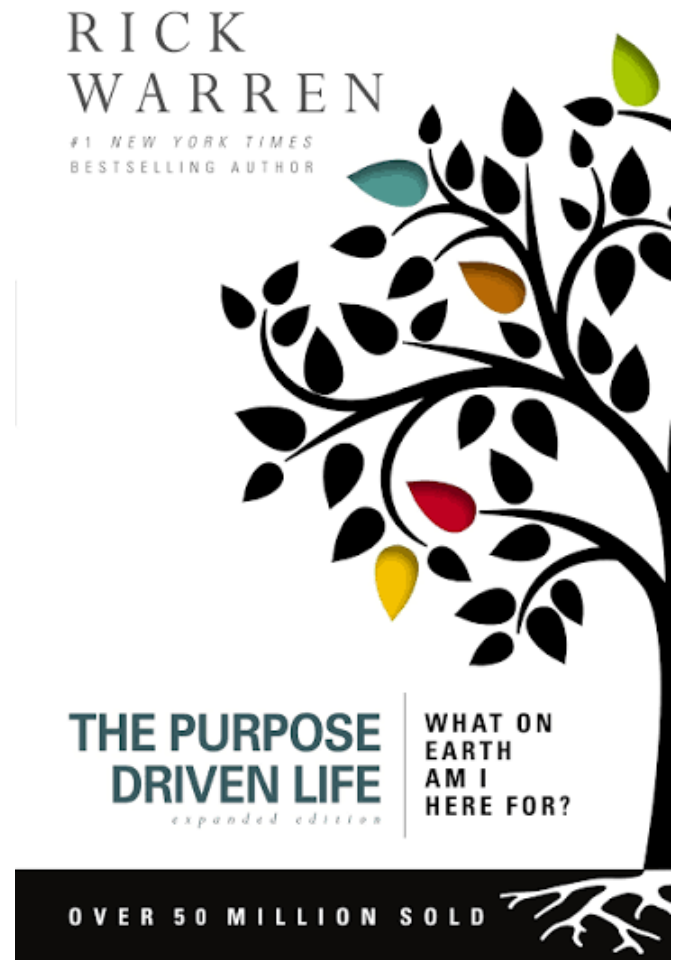
(b) Giving is an act of worship & trust in God's provision

- Book Researchers: Many people feel they can't afford to tithe based on their income and expenses.
- But after tithing consistently (with the right heart) for a few months, **they report having more left over from 90% of their income** than they used to have from 100%.
- **They can't explain it, they aren't earning more or spending less.**
- Conclusion: tithing aligns them with God's ways and releases His supernatural provision over their finances.



(c) Giving reflects the heart and reveals what we treasure

- Matthew 6:19–21 – Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- Luke 12:33–34 – ties giving to storing up treasure in heaven.
- Rick Warren: *It has always amazed me that many people are willing to trust God for their eternal salvation **but won't trust Him enough to give.***



(d) The measure of giving is sacrifice, not amount.

- Mark 12:41–44 and Luke 21:1–4 on the widow's coins.
- A poor widow puts in two lepta — the smallest denomination of Greek coin in circulation, the smallest Roman coin. This is a fraction of a day's wage.
 - >A denarius (one day's unskilled labor) ≈ USD \$60
 - >Two lepta (1/64 of that) ≈ USD \$1
- Jesus commends the widow's radical, sacrificial faith. She trusts God with her very survival, and this exposes the emptiness of giving from surplus.



(d) The measure of giving is sacrifice, not amount.

Coins of the Gospels

SILVER DENARIUS

The denarius was considered a fair day's pay for a common laborer in the first century. Jesus asked to see this coin when asked if it were lawful to pay taxes to Caesar (Matt 22:18).

What one coin could buy:
15 lbs. of wheat
(in a basket).



SILVER HALF SHEKEL

The temple tax was one half-shekel per year.

Worth: 2 denarii

What one coin could buy:
A wooden bucket, 15 lbs. of wheat, and a clay oil lamp.

SILVER SHEKEL

Minted in Tyre, the shekel and half-shekel were the only coins accepted for the temple tax in Jesus' time because of the high purity of their silver.

Worth: 4 denarii

What one coin could buy:
A tunic, a liter of olive oil, two 1lb. loaves of bread, and a half-liter of cheap wine.



JUDAS' SILVER

The 30 pieces of silver that Judas took in exchange for betraying Jesus were silver shekels, the equivalent of 120 denarii.



BRONZE PRUTAH

The bronze prutah was a common coin, worth only 1/64th of a denarius.

What one coin could buy:
1/3 lb. of bread.



BRONZE LEPTON

The widow in Mark 12 gave two lepta coins to the temple, each worth only half a prutah.

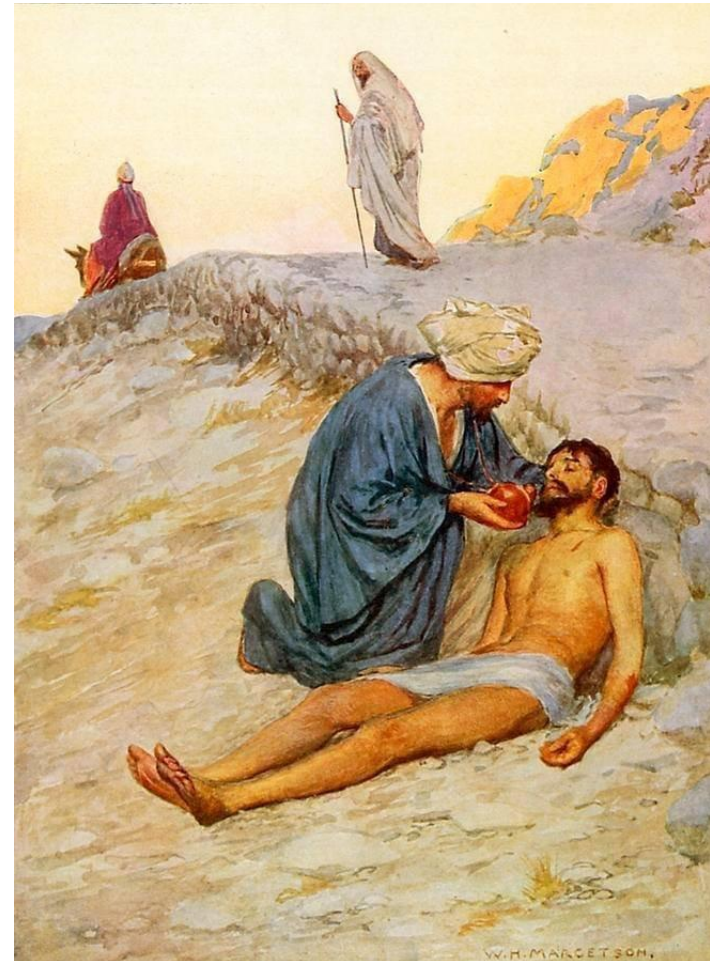
What one coin could buy:
A bath at the public bathhouse.

Size comparison



(e) Giving to those in need is inseparable from genuine faith

- 1 John 3:17–18 *If anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?*
- Good Samaritan story in Luke 10:25-37
- James 2:15–16 Faith without corresponding action (including giving) is dead.



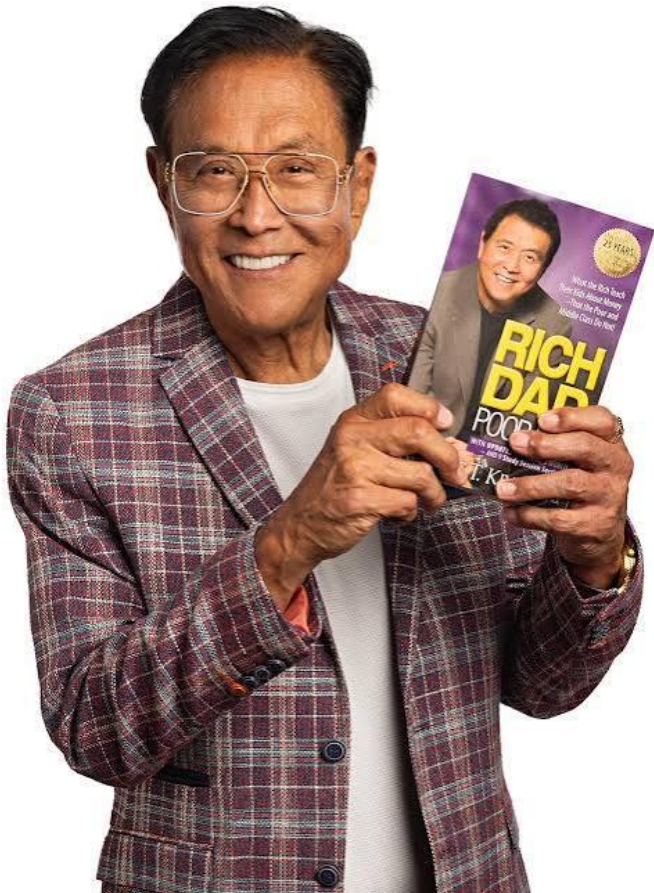
(f) God gives us talents for His use, not just our own

- Matthew 25:14–30 (Parable of the Talents)
- Romans 12:6–8 Paul lists differing gifts (*prophecy, service, teaching, exhortation, giving, leadership, mercy*) and says **"let us use them" according to the grace given**, reinforcing that spiritual and practical abilities alike are meant for active use, not passive possession.
- 1 Peter 4:10–11 ***As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.***



Parable of the Talents

Application Story



- Views God as his ultimate business partner.
- He explains that giving back to God is his way of paying his partner.
- Maintaining the Partnership. If you stop paying your partners, they stop working with you.

^Robert Kiyosaki, American author of Rich Dad & Poor Dad, Christian

Sermon Applications

#1 Let giving be decided in the heart, not under pressure.

#2 Give even when it costs something real.

#3 Let giving return to God as worship.

#4 Trust God's sufficiency to keep giving.

#5 Extend giving beyond money. Give your talents.

#6 Check your motives: Give in secret, for God's eyes, not for recognition.