

THE EQUIPPING PLACE & THE EQUIPPING ACADEMY

P R E S E N T

MEMBERSHIP GUIDE TO

TITHES & OFFERINGS



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INTRODUCTION

It is our desire to see every believer walk in God’s best, financially.

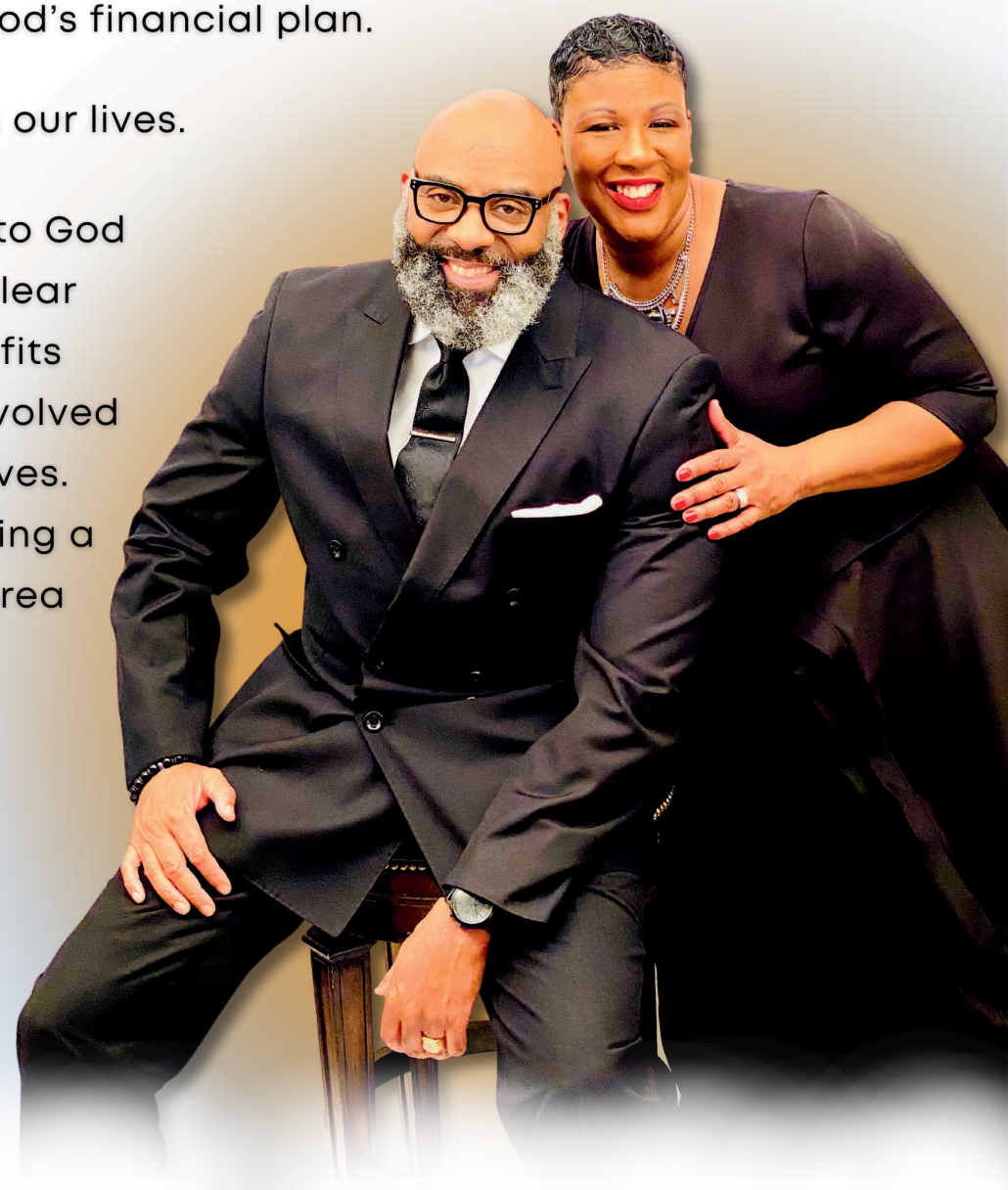
Many times people come to The Equipping Place from all walks of life but have not been taught God’s financial plan.

Giving is God’s plan to bless our lives.

Many people are not giving to God because they don’t have a clear understanding of what benefits they can enjoy if they get involved in God’s plan to bless their lives. This guide will assist in bringing a clear understanding in the area of giving.

Before reading, please pray that God would first remove any erroneous thinking and open up your Spirit to receive insight in this area.

Yours Sincerely,



*Pastor Shevis C. Brown
Lady Shameka Brown*

Together Each One Accomplishes More

Since giving is God's plan to finance the work of God in the earth and the method to trigger the blessings of increase upon the people of God, the subject of giving and receiving is worthy of intensive study.

Jesus spent a great deal of time teaching the principle of giving and receiving throughout His earthly ministry.

In Mark 12:41-44, Jesus taught the personal responsibility of giving as He sat and watched what people gave at the temple. The Scripture says that after a period of watching many people give, a widow came and threw in two mites. These two mites were all she had and she was a widow woman without any other support. Jesus asked the disciples who they thought had given the most and they responded one person and another but Jesus shocked them with the answer to the question. He expressed to them that the widow had given more because she had given out of her desperate need and invested all that she had.

Another shocking lesson from the story is that Jesus allowed her to give out of her need because He knew that following this principle was the only way that would ensure her needs being met. Often, people criticize the church for accepting gifts from the poor but this is the plan of God to reverse destitute situations.

In our ministry, we have testimony after testimony of those who came to our church with great financial needs and began to practice the principle of giving and receiving. After holding their course and standing in faith, they are now enjoying the promises of God in the area of their finances.

When God makes a promise, He must keep His promise. With every type of giving for a specific purpose, there is always a promise attached to it. God never talks about giving without talking about receiving in the same context. Our receiving hinges on our knowledge of how to stand in faith for our returns. Galatians 3:14 teaches the universal principle that the promises of God are received by faith.

GIVING FOR JESUS' SAKE & THE SPREADING OF THE GOSPEL

Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

Mark 10:28-30

This is a promise to those who give for Jesus' sake and the gospel's sake. This Scripture promises the maximum return (hundredfold) on every seed sown.

Money or finances that you give for the furtherance of the gospel are like seeds. When you give offerings for the expansion and spreading of the gospel, you are sowing seeds so that others can be blessed by the good news of the gospel. This kind of giving causes you to realize a hundredfold (maximum) return now; not something you will get when you get to Heaven, but this is a maximum return you will receive now in this time. This maximum return is exactly what you need in your situation.

God will cause you to receive a maximum return on whatever you give up for the Kingdom of God. If you give up time with your family to do things for the expansion of the Kingdom of God, He says He will cause you to reap the maximum benefit of the time you are giving up. Now, you know He is not promising you one hundred wives or one hundred children; that would not be a blessing. So again, the hundredfold could include one hundred times as much but it is not limited to one hundred times as much. It is God's promise to cause your Kingdom investment for the spreading of the gospel to reap for you the harvest you need.

This is such an awesome promise! God promises that you will receive the maximum return on whatever you give up for Jesus' sake and for the gospel's sake. This promise has been proven in our own lives.

Whatever I give up for the Kingdom of God, I can expect God to give me a maximum return on my seed. I don't know how we could be loved anymore by our families and others; we know it is a result of sacrifices we made for Jesus' sake and the gospel's sake. When I do what is necessary to get the gospel to others, God promises me a return. God will not allow you to make an investment in the Kingdom of God for which He will not give you the maximum return. So, you cannot lose doing anything for God.

When do we have an opportunity to give for Jesus' sake and the gospel's sake?

Most of the giving to support the work of God in the earth will come under this banner and qualify for the hundredfold return. This promise overlaps in many areas of giving, even though it may not be labeled "for Jesus' sake" or "for the gospel's sake" giving.



Being in debt is not a sin; however, if debts get out of control, it can cause tremendous problems for the believers. Our society thrives on unrestrained debt because of the income from high interest paid to lending institutions on debt. This is an area where the believer must get control and divine assistance so that debt is properly managed in order that stewardship over resources can be maximized. This does not mean that you should not use debt properly; for instance, to purchase a house, a car or other necessary things that appreciate in value, debt should be properly managed so that we are not living from paycheck to paycheck!

Recently, I have been led to encourage our membership to rise above living in unnecessary debt. Here is some insight into the following passage of Scripture as a means to release our faith for God to help each individual to get out of debt.

And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute? He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers? Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free. Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

Matthew 17:24-27

Here Jesus instructs Peter to go fishing and the first fish that comes forth will have a piece of money in its mouth. Peter was to take that money and pay the master's debt as well as his own personal debt.

The principle here is clear. Because Peter was concerned about Jesus' debt, God supernaturally provided for the payment of Peter's debt. Throughout the pages of the Bible, we can see God working creatively to deliver His people from debt.

As the Spirit of God leads or when we have a designated time of giving in this area, I encourage the membership to sow a seed of any amount that is designated to reduce our church's debt and believe for divine intervention to help you have relief from debt. As this is done, I encourage you to release your faith for three things to happen in your lives as you sow a debt free offering:

1. **Expect supernatural debt cancellation.** Supernatural debt cancellation is not taking the bill and tearing it up, but it is having favor with a creditor you owe and agreement is made that the debt you owed has been cancelled or severely reduced.
2. We **release our faith for increase** in our finances for the purpose of paying off our debt. As we give our debt free offering, we believe for God to increase us financially so that we can pay our debts off ahead of the scheduled contractual time.
3. We **release our faith for God to give us wisdom and discipline** in our finances. We believe for wisdom so that we don't buy everything we see, but that we have the wisdom of God and discipline in our purchases.

How can you participate in the debt free offering?

There is a box on the envelope labeled "other" and you can fill out "debt free offering" as distribute your offering accordingly. As you sow your seed, the ministry releases its faith with your faith for the three areas listed above.