

Notes & Quotes – January 10, 2010

Why I'm Really, Really Encouraged?

Matthew 6:19:21; 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Why I'm so encouraged about the spiritual health and growth of our church family?

- our devotion to prayer
- our generosity in giving

Three Pillars of a Growing Prayer Life...(review of last week)

- #1: God-centered...less problem-centered
- #2: Scripture-saturated...less cliché-saturated
- #3: Mission-focused...less me-focused

Three Pillars of a Growing Life of Stewardship...

- #1: increased consistency in tithing

tithe = 10% (first-fruits)

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 blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

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 house, 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."

Note how these examples of tithing are in place before the Old Testament law is established.

The law (Leviticus 27:30, Deuteronomy 12:6-7) simply formalized an existing practice.

- #2: atmosphere of generosity

1 Timothy 6:17-19

17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Gifts given above and beyond the tithe

- #3: deepening value on the eternal

Matthew 6:19-21

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:21 principle: *What we do with our money affects the quality and direction of our heart.*

2305 verses in the Bible that address money & possessions

"The act of giving is a vivid reminder that it's all about God, not about us. It's saying I am not the point, He is the point. He does not exist for me. I exist for Him. God's money has a higher purpose than my affluence. Giving is a joyful surrender to a greater person and a greater agenda. Giving affirms Christ's lordship. It dethrones me and exalts Him. It breaks the chains of mammon that would enslave me."

– Randy Alcorn