



Week 3, Day 2:

Two things I ask of you, LORD; let me have them before I die: First, help me never to tell a lie. Second, give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs. For if I grow rich, I may deny you and say, "Who is the LORD?" And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God's holy name.

Proverbs 30:7-9

Give us today our daily bread.

Matthew 6:11

Many of us are familiar with the concept of tithing. To tithe is to give the first 10 percent of our income back to the Lord. It's not just about writing a check every month. It's a reflection of how much we trust God for provision and whether or not we're willing to be obedient to scripture.

Proverbs 30 gives us a correct perspective on tithing. Tithing is not about how much we're required to give, but how much we require to live. The church could begin to advance in a way that the world hasn't seen since Acts if we embraced the idea that there is such a thing as "too much" and gave all of the excess, not to our 401k, but to what God is doing through the church. Accepting this idea requires a redefinition of wealth and a decision about what our priorities will be.

We are forced to ask ourselves: Where is my heart? If we truly believe God gives us all things, we must expand our concept of giving to include every aspect of our lives. All of our time, talent and income are gifts from the Lord. We are called to give the first 10 percent of our income to the church, but that doesn't mean God isn't interested in how we steward the remaining 90 percent.

REFLECT:

1. Have you ever asked yourself, "In the area of finances, where is my heart?"
2. Do you see money as a stewardship area entrusted to you by God?
3. What does, "give me just enough to satisfy me needs," mean to you?