

Brojid Books



*Before You Give a*  
**DIME IN  
CHURCH**

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**Before You Give a Dime in Church**  
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# **The Giving Dilemma**

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If you are a Christian or an intending one, you must have heard about giving and sowing of seeds.

If you read newspapers and are abreast with trends on social media, you would have come across critical comments about how pastors enrich themselves by milking their members.

You may have also seen people who give their all in church or sow seeds in church for different kinds of results.

I am sure you must have come across people who, although are Christians but hardly part with a dime of their money for their pastors or any preacher.

## Before You Give a Dime in Church

Some of the questions begging for answers are: what's the place of giving in church? Why should we give a 'rich' pastor? Does God really require our offering to bless us?

I am not a custodian of Bible theology; but I have heard, reflected and studied on this matter for a while and therefore want to share this short note on giving with you.

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## **Giving is a Principle**

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The first point I want to establish is that giving is a powerful principle which anyone who desires to achieve some material possession should give attention to, so as to gain mastery of it.

It's not the invention of man; it's God's design. As a matter of fact, the one who gives receives by law.

***“Give to others, and God will give to you. Indeed, you will receive a full measure, a generous helping, poured into your hands---all that you can hold. The measure you use for others is the one that god will use for you.”*** (Luke 6:38GNB)

This is not just about giving money and receiving money; I am talking about all kinds of giving.

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A case in point is that when I give my clients website (I am a web& graphic designer), they give me money and when I give to more people, I get more money.

This has nothing to do with whether you are a Christian or not. That's why when non-Christians give software; they get money in great measure.

In the same vein, when you give to the poor, you get goodwill from them and reduce hatred they may have towards you as a the rich among them.

The giver gets; that's the law of life!



## **Higher Kind of Giving**

No doubt, the principle of giving is eternal; however, the basis of our giving as Christians is not for what we will get.

Giving primarily for what you will get is living for the inferior purpose! There is a higher level of life that our faith in Christ Jesus calls us to – give for what the receiver will get!

You give because God has given you and made you a blessing to others. You give because you are like your Father (God) who gave, ***not for what He will get***, but for what the receiver will get.

Take a look at how God gives and His motivation for giving.

*For God loved the world so much that **He gave His** only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but **have eternal life.** (Joh 3:16GNB)*

Now that you have seen why God gives, here is the next course of action:

*Since you are God's dear children, you must try to be like Him. (Eph 5:1GNB)*

I have heard people say that God gave so that He may have the whole world. Fat Lie!

It's purely for your good and my good that He gave Jesus Christ to die for our sin. The world was on its path to destruction; until God gave His only begotten son for our salvation.

God doesn't need to have the whole world; He doesn't need their vote. He can do without them!

If He ever gets hungry, He won't call you. He has the earth and all there is in it. If He ever has ego problem, He won't need you. He will raise stones to praise Him.

Our giving should be motivated by the desire to be a blessing to others. It should be primarily for what the receiver will get; this is pleasing to God.





*Do not forget to do good and to help one another, because **these are the sacrifices that please God.** (Heb. 13:16 GNB).*

It's not always easy to give to people because we don't always have abundance of resources; however, if we can afford to sacrifice and to give to people, God will be pleased as a result!

Even if we get nothing for doing that, the fact that God considers us pleasing to Him is enough!

# Your True Reward

As much as we don't give so that we can get, I want you to know that there is a reward you get for giving.

That's the default setting of life.

God is not unfair. He will not forget the work you did or *the love you showed* for Him in the help you gave and are still giving to other Christians. (Heb. 6:10 GNB)

That's one reason you shouldn't get discouraged with giving as much as you can and you shouldn't look up to any human being for the reward of your kind gesture to them, provided it's a labour of love.

You shouldn't give to people so as to make them indebted to you. I personally hate to enslave people with giving or for someone to give me as a tool of manipulation.

That's why I make it a point of duty to insist that if I do good to people, they don't publicly announce it.

You can't pay for my kind gestures! If I try to pay for yours, I can only pay based on my estimation of what you gave, which is usually poor.

The best reward you can get from the man you give to is commendation and some material things based on his estimation of your gift.

If the man you are giving doesn't adjudge your gift good enough, no reward for you; but God sees your heart beyond the giving and has the capacity to give you the best reward possible.

God knows my heart and sees that although what I am giving for a 10million naira church project or pastor's appreciation day is just N1,000, it's out of true honour for him and love for the work of the Kingdom of God and not because I want recognition.

He sees that it's based on what I have and I haven't given grudgingly or out of compulsion.

He sees the fact that you stay up late at night working, editing

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church messages. You go the extra mile with your time and money to procure the best services and products for the church.

The church committee or board may not see your *labour of love*; but God does. He will get your blessing across to you in due season; no matter how unnoticed you are!

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## Qualifying for Reward

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God doesn't just reward the act of giving; He sees beyond the act to the motivation for giving before He gives His reward.

How do I know? Hear God:

*But I know your **deeds** and your **thoughts**, and **i will make sure you get what you deserve.** (Jer 17:10 CEV)*

God is not just looking at your cheque books, long hours in church or donation; He also sees why you are giving. He examines your thoughts and your deeds to qualify you for the blessing that is due to you.

*Nwanne*, if you are giving to that church project because you want to 'sow a seed' to expand your business, get a job or spouse, it's

**NOT** labour of love. **It's LABOUR OF SELFISHNESS!**

*Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast, but be humble toward one another, always considering others better than yourselves. **And look out for one another's interests, not just for your own.** (Phil 2:3-4 GNB)*

I believe in giving people material gifts when they are bereaved and when they are celebrating.

But what's your motivation? To secure their own gift for yours? Buy them over to become your crony? Pay them back for what they did for you?

I don't subscribe to these; not because they are all entirely bad; but because there is a more noble reason to give to people who bear the burden of wedding ceremony or burial.

*Help **carry one another's burdens**, and in **this way you will obey the law of Christ.** (Gal 6:2 GNB)*

My point is that we should NOT give out of selfishness; but out of love for the receiver.

Even when you get paid for your services or product, you give your customers, as God's law of commerce; you give for the love of the receiver by ensuring that he gets value for his money and not feel **genuinely** cheated.

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## **Give to Your Pastor?**

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Many times in churches, TV and Radio, we hear pastors call people out to give money. Often times, pastors get knocks from the press and public for asking for financial support for the work they do.

That's why I want to talk about this matter of whether we should give to pastors in the first place.

Please open your Bible with me to *Gal 6:6*. From the Good News Bible I read:

*“If you are being taught the Christian message, you should share **all the good things you have** with your teacher.”*

Notice that it didn't say you should just pray for Him that God should bless him and tell him how good his message or book is.

The instruction is clear: **share all good things** you have with your teacher simply *because he teaches you the word of God!*

It's not optional. It's your duty to them and you are not doing them a favour; you are doing your work!

If they say, "Thank you", it's simply courtesy; not as if you did anything greater than what they did by studying and teaching you the word of God!

Many people come up with the excuse of not having plenty to give. But that's not tenable!

You don't have plenty. Just give according to what you have. Period! I'll talk about this matter later.

But for now, please pay attention to the following passage to better understand this truth:

*We read in the Law of Moses, "Do not muzzle an ox when you are using it to thresh grain." Now, is God concerned about oxen? Didn't he really mean us when he said that? Of course that was written for us. Anyone who plows and anyone who reaps should do their work in the hope of getting a share of the crop. **We have sown spiritual seed among you. Is it too much if we reap material benefits from you?** If others have the right to expect this from you, don't we have an even greater right? But we*



haven't made use of this right. **Instead, we have endured everything in order not to put any obstacle in the way of the good news about Christ.** Surely you know that the men who work in the Temple get their food from the Temple and that those who offer the sacrifices on the altar get a share of the sacrifices. In the same way, the Lord has ordered that **those who preach the gospel should get their living from it.** (1Co 9:9-14GNB)

I believe you should give to your pastor and be dutiful at it. We are commanded to give them so much that they will be able to make a living from our giving; not depend on their spouses and side hustle to eat and take care of their families.

We are duty bound to give to them; even when they have. Our giving is not because they are poor; but because that's our Christian duty to them! It's an obligation we have!

They are not supposed to come begging for us to give them. They have planted spiritual seeds in us and therefore DESERVE our material gifts.

If they choose to give back to us; that's their prerogative not our entitlement.

Don't mind those who say you can't give to a man of God because he has private jets. Your giving is not because they have or don't; it's simply their entitlement. *Shikena!*

I give to my pastor and I don't need him to tell me about it or cajole me before I give. I equally don't need him to come lying on the pulpit, promising blessing that God didn't promise or manipulating me to get money out of my wallet (*abi mobile app*).

From my income , I give certain amount to him the same way I give to my family. I don't need to wait until he comes for Bible study looking frail or his children looking hungry before I give him.

I don't do it for recognition or to provoke anything from God. That will be very stupid of me, if I did!

The same way he climbs third floor to our Bible study venue twice every week to teach and lead us in prayer, edit his message and put on his website, write a book and put on his website for free download, that's how I owe it to him to ensure that he gets ***reward for his labour from my pocket.***

Refusal to do this is not being wise; it's stupidity for me as a Christian!



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## **Your Offering Size**

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Please permit me to digress to explain something about the size of your offering.

You are not required to give plenty money if you don't have it. The scriptures say that it's acceptable according to what you have.

Scriptural truth is that you don't give under compulsion, because your pastor or unit leader is coercing you. You are not also supposed to give angrily or what you don't have.

Anything resembling this is not in keeping with Bible teachings.

How do I know?

*If you are eager to give, **God will accept your gift on the basis of what you have to give, not on what you don't have.** (2Cor 8:12GNB)*

*You should each give, then, **as you have decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty;** for God loves the one who gives gladly. (2Cor 9:7GNB)*

I understand that there are people that will insist you give certain amount otherwise you will be sanctioned. Don't mind them. They may mean well; but they don't know better!

Give as you have purposed in your heart. Be sure you are not giving under compulsion because God likes it when you give with joy.

Please note that this truth is supposed to give you freedom to give willingly; not an encouragement to become stingy and not give at all.



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## **Giving for Anointing?**

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I have heard preachers request that their congregation give a material possession to tap their anointing.

For Christ's sake, we don't give to Pastors to tap any anointing! I have not seen where the scriptures say or infer that money is a tool for taping anointing from a man of God.

That's why I believe that the person who tells you to give him your money, car or wrist watch to tap his anointing is either a manipulator, confused or a joker.

Elisha didn't give Elijah *shishi* to tap his anointing. He simply followed and served him, drank of his spirit by virtue of interaction and learnt from him.

Many claim that the water Elisha poured on Elijah's hand is a type of the monetary gift we should give in our days to tap anointing.

Nonsense!

That's what people say when they are looking for any scripture to twist in support of their interest.

The concept of pouring water on Elijah's hand is, by the tradition of that time, the duty of servants; it is not a means of tapping anointing. It can be likened to carrying your pastor's brief case in our days.

That's why Jesus, while teaching His disciples about serving, demonstrated it with washing their feet. (Luk 22: 26-27)

Simon the Sorcerer wanted to tap the power of God in the days of Apostle Peter with money; but he was rebuked.

*Simon saw that the Spirit had been given to the believers when the apostles placed their hands on them. So he offered money to Peter and John, and said, "Give this power to me too, so that anyone I place my hands on will receive the Holy Spirit." But Peter answered him, "May you and your money go to hell, **for thinking that you can buy god's gift with money!**" (Act 8:18-20 GNB)*

Apostle Peter shunned a man that wanted to tap anointing with money; unfortunately, we have people who are supposed to be

pastors asking their members to just give *so that* they will tap their anointing?

What an aberration!

When we teach that it's just about giving, we allow rogues in government houses, kidnappers and drug pushers to come give in church and build churches.

We *shamelessly* give them titles and recognition with fake prophesies of blessing when it's the harsh judgment of God that awaits their unrepentant soul.

As I leave this segment, Pastor Bankie, in his book, **Great Faith Can Be Yours**, teaches how to tap any anointing we desire in people. Please pay attention to him.

*“Now if you see a quality in someone which you desire, there are things that you can do that will make the anointing pass from that person to you, or at least make a similar spirit be given to you...”*

**You tap into someone's spirit if you are always in their presence, hearing their words.** *The interesting part is that even if you are unable to be in their physical presence (maybe the person is no longer living or lives in a far country), their recorded words (audio) and printed words are just as powerful.*

*For example, there is a man of God whose anointing I covet, so I went and got a complete collection of all his messages and started reading; his boldness of faith always excites me and seeps into my life. If you are an industrialist by calling,*

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*you need to grab the materials of some leaders before you in those fields whose characters and successes are to be emulated, and read them with zeal...*

***When great men write, read the books; their great spirits drop into your life. When you can get hold of their audio, don't let it pass you by. There is a connection to a spiritual gift as those words flow through you.***

That's how to tap anointing; not giving selfish godless seed for any anointing!



# ***Giving for Blessing***

Many times, we are asked to give as a way of provoking God's blessing; but that's not correct.

This practice bothers on ignorance and manipulation of the gullible who wouldn't pay attention to sound teaching of the word of God or have come under a spell.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said whatever thing you desire you should ask God the father and you shall have it. He didn't say sow a seed so that you shall have it.

Get it clear, God is not unconscious and therefore needs your offering to jolt Him back to life that you may be blessed.

*I am telling you the truth: those who believe in me will do what I do---yes, they will do even greater things, because I am going to the Father. **And I will do whatever you ask for in my name**, so that the Father's glory will be shown through the Son. (Joh 14:12 -13 GNB)*

When you have need, Jesus prescribes that we ask in His name; not the name of your offering, tithe, good work or anything. If you want to get a job because of your good work; what did you do to get life? That's the foolishness of trying to give to God so that He will give you!

God has given us so much without asking for anything from us. How we now think that the way to force His hands open to give even what He doesn't want to give us is by giving Him an offering is hard to grasp.

There is reward for giving; no doubt; but the motivation for giving *should never* be for receiving.

Your pastor teaches you that supply does not answer to prayer aside giving; but Jesus says, supply for *everything* answers to request made in my name.

What about the widow of Zarephat? Without getting into deep Biblical exegesis, let me point out that God sent Elijah to her to bless her. Her giving to Elijah, which Pastor Bankie explained was because of her normal lifestyle of giving, not for any gain, was the last straw that broke the camel's back.

In the words of Pastor Bankie explained thus, *“You cannot give once to get the widow's harvest. Giving a certain offering to get a certain harvest is most of the time a waste of time and money. If you are not ready to be a habitual sower, don't bother starting because it will not help you.”*

In the same vein, it was **NOT** Solomon's blessing that caused him to prosper; it was because he made a noble request from God. It doesn't make sense to say that it was the offering Solomon gave that caused God to appear before him and gave him an open cheque because if that's the case, He wouldn't have rejected the offering of Saul.

Even if the blessing is connected to the offering, it's more of the heart that gave the offering and what the offering communicated than the offering itself. That's why I said earlier that God is not just after the offering we make; He cares more importantly about the heart that is giving and the motivation for giving.

The childless woman that built a house for Elijah and got a child didn't get the child because she sowed a house. She gave because this one is a good man of God without shelter; not so that she may have a child. She reaped what Jesus Christ called the prophet's reward!

Our problem is that we often give to tap anointing or provoke God's blessing and not simply as a mark of honour for the man of God!



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## **My Point?**

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**G**iving is a principle we must learn and embrace. However, we must be careful to ensure our giving is borne out of love; not selfishness.

When we have need, we pray to God not give to provoke Him. He is neither your spouse, child nor pastor that may be provoked by material things.

Those who testify that they provoked God by giving are either lying or don't have a proper explanation for how they got their blessing.

**HE IS PROVOKED BY YOUR LABOUR OF LOVE; NOT ACTS OF SELFISHNESS YOU CALL GIVING!**



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