

Presentation to 100 Huntley Street
March 23: "Keeping": Living with Open Palms

We will never understand fully the greatest gift ever offered to us: Jesus defeated death, paid for all our debts, past, present, future, and is alive today. So, Christ's followers have a guaranteed place in heaven. Isn't this exciting?

After His resurrection and before going to His Father, Jesus told His followers to make disciples of every nation. Listen to excerpts from Matthew 28:18-20, the Great Commission:

Excerpts from Matthew 28:18-20

..."All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.... make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. ... "

Funding this work ought to be a priority for believers. Especially since Jesus reminds us in **Mark 8:36**:

Mark 8:36

"What does it profit a man to gain the world and lose His soul?"

We ought to take our eyes off our circumstances and us, surrender all to Him, and let Him work through us. Most of the world doesn't know our risen Savior. That harvest is plentiful. Will you become a worker? Will you accept your share of funding this Great Commission?

The body of Christ, you and I, are responsible to fund God's work. We must move away from the "tithing" mind-set, stop tipping God to get "blessings", start listening to Him, and place all His funds at His disposal. He will tell us how much we need to live and how much should go to funding His work. Don't let our state of affairs enslave us, causing us to limit God, and place Him in a box.

Be alert, but not preoccupied with circumstances, which God uses sometimes to convict us to act. Remember, Jesus knows what you need even before you do; so don't try to manipulate Him with your giving.

Grace giving, which I call keeping, is integral to your personal relationship with Christ. Pray continually; ask Him to tell you where to give His funds. When you get extra funds, be open to giving everything to Him, if He tells you.

But check your motives when you give. Are you responding to some person's promise of a quick fix for "you"? Do you feel manipulated? Stop; pray, cry out to God to show you how to act. Ask Him to give you wisdom to increase amounts to fund His work and lower amounts for you. Most of all, obey Jesus.

Ponder these matters as you pray to support a specific church or Christian charity:

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Matters to consider before giving to church or Christian charity:

1. Is Christ central?
2. Do they believe and teach Biblical truths only?
3. Do they act as good stewards of funds?
4. Does the church elect leaders according to the Bible?
5. Is the charity a member of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities (4-Cs) or equivalent?

Membership in the 4-Cs means the charity has an independent, active board, a declared commitment to the Christian faith, and an independent audit of their financial statements, available if asked, and more.

One hundred Huntley Street is a biblically based, Christ centered program fulfilling a crucial role in the Great Commission. Everything they do point to Christ. Further, Crossroads belong to the 4-Cs. To be sure, Canada needs evangelizing; and this is a vital medium to do this. Ask the Lord to show you, your role in supporting this ministry. Don't wait for special appeals. But whatever you do, pray for the folks here, that they remain broken for the lost.

Our responsibility doesn't stop with giving. God's stewards need to check to see if supported groups remain faithful to His Word. No need to become paranoid about giving and spending; merely let your financial affairs match your beliefs.

Rejoice; we have Good News: Jesus Christ is alive today. Use His funds to reach the millions who don't know Him. Will you let Christ direct your financial affairs?

Next time, we will talk about estate planning.

God bless; remember Jesus loves you.