

SUNDAY SERVICE MESSAGE
8th & 15th May 2016

Congregation: Jinja Pentecostal Church-Uganda

Teaching Blog: <http://revival-time-ministry.info/messages/>

1.Text: **Philippians 4:15-17**, “ *You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs. Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account”.*

2. Theme: Heavenly Account

3.Background: Paul wrote this letter from prison in Rome to the church he planted during his second missionary journey. Philippi was one of the cities in the region of Macedonia. It was the first place Paul set foot in the region of Macedonia after the Holy Spirit objected to their plan to continue in Asia Minor, speaking in a vision in which a man was beckoning from Macedonia (Acts 16:12-40). Lydia, a wealthy lady was the first convert and housed the church in Philippi.

The church, having heard of Paul’s imprisonment decided to send a hefty financial assistance to Paul in prison in Rome. This was sent by brother Epaphroditus. He sent the letter to the Philippians through Epaphroditus as an acknowledgment and thanks for their support. This was not the first gift, but one of the many supports apostle Paul had benefited from **Philippians 4:10**, “*But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity*

Not only was the Philippians church a good supporter of Apostle Paul and the work of the ministry, but the entire region of Macedonia excelled in giving **(2Corinthians 8:1-4, “Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been ¹given in the churches of Macedonia, that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. For I testify that ⁴according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, and this, not as we had expected.....**

ACCOUNT IN HEAVEN: Most of the things on earth is a copy of things in Heaven. On earth here banking is a necessity to people who have resources: The resources can be kept safely and also accessed at will. In the Bible time banks existed, though not as sophisticated as today.

What happens on earth is a copy which is in Heaven: Account has to be credited before withdrawal is effected. Before talking about the account in Heaven, I must make it clear that we are saved by giving, not at all; we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ, and not by good works. However, we live in a material world and the laws regarding wealth and provision apply to us.

We can choose to live a holy life but in an abject poverty or live comfortably. If we chose the latter, then we have to abide by laws regarding wealth. The Bible and Lord Jesus talked more about wealth than any other subject. The Bible also talks about an account in Heaven. In a similar way, each person has an account in Heaven. and urges people to bank in Heaven, so that they have resources **Mathew 6: 19-20, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. “But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal**

Our Salvation and going to Heaven is not based on giving, but on faith in Jesus Christ. The law of provision is for our material welfare. God's law of giving and receiving is the only way for material welfare **Luke 6:38**, "*Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure -pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.*" **2 Corinthians 9:6** *Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully*

The only way we build our heavenly accounts is through giving. Prayer in faith is simply a means by which we withdraw from our Heavenly account. Just like an earthly bank account, there is depositing before withdrawal, and the withdrawal must not surpass the balance in the account. There is interest calculated upon deposit, just like the earthly banking institutions do.

Mechanism of answering prayer for money and material request:

On earth here, banking institutions have staff and equipment. In Heavenly banking services, angels serve the same purpose after being directed by the Heavenly father through Jesus Christ. **Hebrew1:***But to which of the angels has He ever said, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET"? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?*

NB: What we bank determines what we can withdraw in prayer 2

Corinthians 9:6 *Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully and Proverbs 11:24* *There is one who scatters, and yet increases all the more, And there is one who withholds what is justly due, and yet it results only in want.*

Table one: Poverty stricken Born Again Christian earning UGX 700,000 a month

Account	Amount	Heavenly interest X10	Amount in a month in Heaven	Amount in Heaven for one year
Tithes	0	X10	0	0
Love offering Every Sunday	500	X10	20,,000	240,000
First Fruits	0	X10	0	0
Thanks giving	0	X10	0	0
Special contribution	5,000	X10	50,000	600,000
Total	10,000		70,000	840,000

His Maximum Faith Limit is 840,000 a year. He cannot pray and receive anything above UGX 840,000. His faith that comes by hearing the word of God cannot allow **Romans 10:17**

Table Two: Prosperous Born Again Christian earning UGX 700,000 a month

Account	Amount	Heavenly interest X10	Amount in the Heavenly account in a month	Amount in the Heavenly account in a year
Tithes	70,000	X10	700,000	7,000,000
Love offering every Sunday	10,000	X10	100,000	1,200,000
First Fruits	700,000	X 10	7,000,000	7,000,000
Thanks giving	20,000	X10	200,000	2,400,000
Special contribution	50,000	X10	500,000	6,000,000
Total	150,000		8,500,000	23, 600,000

His maximum Faith limit is 23,600,000 a year. He will have faith to believe God for anything up to that amount **Romans 10:17**

4 .What are the five channels in which the Heavenly account is credited?

(a) Tithes: A tithe is 10% of the income and belongs to God. **Paying tithes is an honor given to God as a provider.** In the Old Testament it was a law. In New

Testament tithing is not a requirement for salvation. However, the material benefits and curses attached to tithe remain the same in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. **Malachi 3:8-11** *Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings.*

You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes, says the LORD of hosts.

Paying tithes brings an overwhelming economic overflow. Prophet Haggai, the contemporary of Malachi puts it clearly for those who were defaulters , **“Haggai 1:6** *You have sown much, but harvest little; you eat, but there is not enough to be satisfied; you drink, but there is not enough to become drunk; you put on clothing, but no one is warm enough; and he who earns, earns wages to put into a purse with holes.* Tithe is God’s property, and using it needs borrowing it from the owner, God Himself. Payment must be with **20% interest** **Leviticus 27:30-31** *'Thus all the tithe of the land, of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S; it is holy to the LORD. 'If, therefore, a man wishes to redeem part of his tithe, he shall add to it one-fifth of it.*

Not paying tithe is Robbery and sentence is prison of; **financial ban (poverty)**. Obedience to it is paid in overwhelming overflow of material blessings.

(b) Love Offerings (worship). Early Christians met regularly on the first day of the week (Sunday) perhaps as a celebration for the resurrection of Jesus Christ **Acts 20:7** *On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight..* They met to:

- (i) To fellowship one with the other in breaking bread
- (ii) Hear the word
- (iii) To sing together to praise and worship the Lord. As part of their worship love offering were part of their **worship 1corinthians 16:2** *On the first day of every week*

each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that ⁶no collections be made when I come.

God commanded the men in Israel to appear before Him three times a year to thank Him and celebrate His goodness, but not to appear before Him empty handed **Deuteronomy 16:16** *Three times in a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses, at the Feast of Unleavened Bread and at the Feast of Weeks and at the Feast of Booths, and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed.*

The amount of love offering is not fixed by the by God but depends on the Love, gratitude and relationship one has with God. It must be given cheerfully not grudgingly **2 Corinthians 9:7** *Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly * or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

(c) First Fruits: God is preeminence in our life, and He deserves to be honored by the first fruits of our increase. At the time of the Bible the economy of Israel and the surrounding nations was mainly Agricultural. When the Bible talks about “*first fruits*”, it is not limited to only agricultural products **Proverbs 3: 9-10** *Honor the LORD from your wealth And from the first of all your produce; So your barns will be filled with plenty And your vats will overflow with new wine.*

These are not laws that make us to be accepted by God. We are already accepted in Christ Jesus. These are expressions of our love, trust and respect for God, the source of all provisions. They have material benefits that we may wish to explore and enjoy on earth here.

It is difficult to determine the quantity of the first fruits, nor its content in terms of money. However, people have taken it to mean things like first salary, first profits or sales etc. Whatever it may be, God sees the expression of love and dependability on Him and honors that.

(d) Thanks giving: When ever a miracle is done, we acknowledge God with thanks usually in terms of testimony. In many Pentecostal church services, time is allocated for people to share testimonies of what God did and others rejoice. But it is a blessing and pleasing to God to accompany it with a gift to God. For example, when Hannah got her miracle baby, Samuel, she went back to thank God. She did not go empty handed **1 Samuel 1:24** *Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with a three-year-old bull and one ephah of flour and a jug of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh, although the child was young.* . In the entire Old Testament, all thanksgiving was accompanied by a material offering **Leviticus 22:29** *"When you sacrifice a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the LORD, you shall sacrifice it so that you may be accepted* **Leviticus 1:12** *If he offers it by way of thanksgiving, then along with the sacrifice of thanksgiving he shall offer unleavened cakes mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers spread with oil, and cakes of well stirred fine flour mixed with oil.*

(e)Special need contribution: In the past, and even now, temporal emergency and non-emergency situations do occur that will need an immediate intervention. This would include and not limited to accidents, sickness, famine, displacement, construction, the poor etc. The church community is always expected to intervene. God is a caring and a loving Father. God does not throw support from Heaven, but He uses the hands and the pockets of available people. God will definitely reward those who have made themselves available. Here, the reward is not only limited to earthly material blessing but also eternal benefits. A good example was Cornelius in the Bible **Acts10:31** *and he said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.* We are not saved by works of charity. However, our faith in Jesus Christ is evident in good works. Works do not produce salvation but Salvation produce good works **Mathew 25:31-46** *"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.*

"All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 'For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.'

*"Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? 'When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you,³⁹to the extent * that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.*

Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.' "Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?'

*"Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent * that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' "These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

END

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