

Observations:

- * Whoever owned lands or houses sold them
- * They gave all of the money from the sales to the apostles
- * NO ONE suffered any NEED

The Holy Spirit led the early church to...

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY!

Built A Synagogue

Luke 7:2-5

2 And a centurion's slave, who was highly regarded by him, was sick and about to die.

3 When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders asking Him to come and save the life of his slave.

4 When they came to Jesus, they earnestly implored Him, saying, "He is worthy for You to grant this to him;

5 for he loves our nation and it was he who built us our synagogue."

Observations:

- * The centurion loved his dying slave
- * Jewish elders earnestly request Jesus' help
- * The centurion loved God's people
- * The centurion GENEROUSLY built them a synagogue

The Holy Spirit led this Roman military leader to...

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY!

Conclusions:

Clearly, the Bible teaches that believers should give as the Holy Spirit leads. 100% of the Biblical examples of New Testament giving displays itself in...

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY.

Therefore, give as you are led by the Holy Spirit...

He has a solid track record of Generosity!

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By: Robert Dallmann

*"But if ye be **led of the Spirit**, ye are not under the law."* (Galatians 5:18)

*"This I say then, **Walk in the Spirit**..."* (Galatians 5:16)

Led By The Holy Spirit - NOT The Law

Should Christians tithe? **NO!** As with everything in a born again believer's life... we are supposed to be LED by the HOLY SPIRIT.

Christians should NOT be in bondage to obeying the Law, but rather should be living their lives as the Holy Ghost leads them.

Believers in Jesus Christ should give as they are led by the Holy Ghost.

What Does Spirit-Led Giving Look Like?

All true Christians should agree that God tells us to be "led by the Holy Spirit", this Spirit-led life includes every area of our existence, including our charitable giving practices.

SHOULD CHRISTIANS TITHE?

Does it make sense that God expects Spirit-led obedience in every aspect of our lives... EXCEPT in our giving?

Since *“being led by the Spirit”* can be subjective, we should examine the Scriptures to see what the Biblical examples of “Spirit-led giving” look like. Does Spirit-led giving follow a predictable pattern? If so, what are the characteristics of this type of giving?

In the following sections, we will look at some of the Biblical examples of “Spirit-led giving”.

The Poor Widow - Gave 100% of ALL she had!

Mark 12:43-44

43 And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:

*44 For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want **did cast in all that she had, even all her living.***

Observations:

- * The poor widow had no husband/provider
- * She gave 100% of all she had
- * Jesus was so moved that He called His disciples over to point out her liberality

The Holy Spirit led this poor widow to...

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY!

Zacchaeus - Gave 50% of ALL he had and repaid 400% of what he had stolen!

Luke 19:8

*8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord: Behold, Lord, the **half of my goods I give to the poor;** and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, **I restore him fourfold.***

*9 And Jesus said unto him, **This day is salvation come to this house,** forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.*

Observations:

- * Zacchaeus repented of his theft
- * He gave 50% of all he had
- * He repaid four times whatever he had stolen
- * Immediately after Zacchaeus' proclaimed generosity, Jesus stated that salvation had come to his house

The Holy Spirit led this converted thief to...

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY!

The Poor Macadoneans - BEGGED to give even though they were in DEEP POVERTY

2 Corinthians 8:1-4

1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

*2 that in a **great ordeal of affliction** their abundance of joy and their **deep poverty** overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.*

3 For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord,

*4 **begging us with much urging** for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,*

Observations:

- * They were in great affliction and deep poverty
- * They overflowed with joy and desired to give
- * They gave beyond their means
- * They **EARNESTLY BEGGED** for an opportunity to give

The Holy Spirit led these POVERTY stricken believers to...

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY!

Property Owners - SOLD lands and houses and gave 100% of the proceeds

Acts 4:34-35

*34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses **sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold***

35 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.