

# THE CHRISTIAN'S STEWARDSHIP RESPONSE

## My Faith

What we do for Christ and our church at this time needs to be done NOW. Remember the Broadway musical "Annie," based on the comic strip, "Little Orphan Annie." In it she sings again and again:

The sun will come out tomorrow, so you've got  
to hang on 'til tomorrow – come what may!

Tomorrow . . . Tomorrow, I love you, tomorrow;  
you're only a day away!

It is a great song filled with optimism and determination. For us however, "tomorrow" is not the answer – "today" matters. What you do must be done now – Commitment Sunday.

Two things are necessary for meaningful sacrifice: love and faith.

**First**, His love for us, and our love for Him. This is embodied in a verse of scripture and a verse of song.

"For Christ's love compels me – leaves me no choice!" (II Corinthians 5:14)

### "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small:  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my life, my soul, my all.*

**Second**: Only faith, complete trust in Christ and His promises, will lead us to the point of genuine sacrifice.

This can be seen in the history of Israel as they were about to enter the promised land and faced the barrier of the Jordan river. God said to the priests:

"When you move among the people and they follow you, and the people have sanctified themselves, having set themselves apart for a great adventure, you are going to move down to the water's edge. When you come to the water's edge, your priests are going to pause. But tell them this, "Take one step more, and put your feet in the water.'" (Joshua 3:3)

Think of it – "Take one step more." God was ready to part the waters, but it took one more step – a step of faith for the miracle to happen.

This is where you are today: Take one more step! A step of faith and God will do His miracle in your life.

Every great event in the lives of God's people in the past was the result of faith on their part. God was able and willing but he waited on their faith. Read the eleventh chapter of Hebrews.

Times have changed but God hasn't. His promises are still valid. It is still true that "my God shall supply all your needs." Surely if you can trust Him with your soul for eternity you can trust him with your dollars for now.

One of the most powerful testimonies I have heard or read is given below. Dr. Kregg Hood in his excellent book Take God at His Word asks:

*"When was the last time you read Luke 6:38? "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." I have a confession to make. For far too long I have simply not believed this passage. I have tried hard to find some way to get around the truth that is taught so clearly. I think my motivation was based partially on my opposition to what some call "prosperity teaching." But, deep inside, I think my struggles with this passage really signaled my lack of faith in God to reward my obedient giving.*

*"Jesus says to tap into God's economy. The Lord is a generous provider. You won't run out of money! Don't be afraid to give. When you give, you also receive - "a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap." I've never seen an exception to this rule. You always receive more than you give. If you give love, you receive more love. If you give friendship, you receive more friends in return. I've even noticed if you give a smile to someone, you will receive more smiles. So it follows from Scripture and practical experience that if you give money, you receive more money.*

*"For years I struggled with this text. I thought it was materialistic to think God would bless me financially when I gave money to do his work. But, in reality, the materialistic view is thinking that my own ingenuity is the only source of my ability to make money. A spiritual person obeys and trusts God to release his blessings and provide all the resources of life. The unspiritual person believes human effort is the source of material wealth."*

Actually this is what the Bible says in II Corinthians 9:10,11 (NIV). Paul is saying that if you give generously, even sacrificially, that, "God will make you rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion and your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

In Malachi 3:10 God himself promises that if we are faithful and even sacrificial in our giving He will "pour out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive all of it." That is enough for me. Isn't it for you?

His promises and His plans are certain. You can trust Him in every area of your life. Take the step of faith - a step of action!

## *This Is Faith In Action!*

*Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief. I have faith – make it stronger. I love You. Help me love You more. I trust You. Help me step out in belief, faith, love and trust to make a commitment that will help accomplish Your will for our church.*