



Living for Giving

Numbers 7:1-17

Give Towards Eternal Needs

- The first principle of giving is to give toward the ETERNAL needs of the world.
- God didn't TELL the Israelites what to bring, they just realized there was a need and they filled it.
- We must make sure that the "needs" to which we are giving have eternity in mind.
- We must be careful that we do not spend all of our time, effort and finances investing in a building something that is temporary.
- We need to GIVE with an eye on eternity.

Give Towards Ministry Needs

- The second principle is to give toward the **MINISTRY** needs of the church.
- The grain offerings and the fellowship offerings symbolized the enjoyment of fellowship with God.
- All of God's people came together to fund the tabernacle and those who served in it.
- Each tribe gave exactly the same amount, because they all shared in this ministry.
- They gave generously out of love for God.
- The tabernacle functioned exactly as it was intended to function, with no unmet needs.

A Pattern For Giving

- The Israelites did not give to God so they could get His blessing, God blessed His people first and THEN they gave.
- God does not need our money!
- God does not depend on any man; we depend on Him!
- We have gotten the idea that the church is desperate and, if we do not give, the church will die.
- It's God's church and God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply!
- Biblical giving does not flow out of a sense of guilt, it flows out of love.

Conclusion

- The cattle God owns are given into the care and stewardship of His people.
- God did not need the gifts that the tribes gave Him.
- God blesses His people and then He reminds them that everything they have they received from Him.
- God loves a cheerful giver because a cheerful giver loves God!
- God could do it all Himself if He wanted, but He wants to give us a chance to be a part of what He's doing in this world!