

VICTORY CLASS LESSON KEY:

Black lettering: taken from booklet “Seven Steps to Joy” by Tom Ward Sr., our study guide.

Blue lettering: John Linnehan’s expanded thoughts/notes.

Red lettering: answers to questions in Tom Ward Sr.’s book “Seven Steps to Joy.”

Victory Class Lesson Seven

I Corinthians 15:57 quote, memorize as a class.

GIVING – YOU (US) GIVING BACK GOD’S TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE (TO HIM).
(TITHES & OFFERINGS)

1.) Define Stewardship – IT’S NOT OWNERSHIP. I Corinthians 4:2 “Moreover it is REQUIRED (not suggested) in stewards, that a man be found faithful. Stewardship is taking care of 3 areas in your life: IT’S MANAGEING GOD’S TIME – TALENT – TREASURE.

The dictionary defines stewardship: 1) To manage, 2) to oversee, 3) to take care of something that does not belong to you. Stewardship is NOT ownership! We own nothing.....God owns everything! Possession is not ownership. Everything we possess has been LOANED to us by God! We are not our own, we have been bought with a price, the precious Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ! I Corinthians 6:19+20 “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?” “For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” (God Gave Everything He Had! John 3:16.)

2.) Define success: establishing REALISTIC goals for YOUR life based on Biblical Principles and Commands. Then achieving those goals to the best of YOUR own INDIVIDUAL abilities. Using the Time, Talent, and Treasure God has given you!

3.) Excessive IRA’s, 401K’s, retirement time....HOGWASH is the best spiritual theology I can give you to that satanic mindset that twists God’s Word and It’s Directions and Instructions for our lives. Romans 12:1-2 should be enough to convince us not to retire but to work for God and serve God until we die. (i.e. ad for retirement villages in Florida) **The Law of Connection: Paul Touches Hearts, Then Asks for Response:** After climbing an enormous theological hill, Paul shifts gears in Romans 12. The first eleven chapters provide a basis for our belief, but from chapter twelve to the end of the book, the apostle supplies a basis for our behavior. First doctrine; then duty. This is how Paul always attempted to connect with his listeners. Paul pleads with his friends, based on God’s mercy, to lovingly surrender themselves to the Lord. He urges them to respond in four ways: **1) Presentation:** We are to present our bodies to God as living sacrifices (v.1). **2) Separation:** We are to avoid conforming to the world’s ways (v.2). **3) Transformation:** We are to renew our minds and thus change our lives (v.2). **4) Demonstration:** We are to prove we belong to God by doing His Will (v.2). Paul argues that these four acts provide the logical response to God’s Grace. He knew this was a tall request, but he spent 11 chapters building a foundation for the “big ask.” Leaders who connect touch hearts in a big way, then ask for a big response.

4.) Memory Verse – Malachi 3:10 Read and expand on 6-12 both NKJV and TNLT “prove me now.” Conditional command or promise: NKJV “Bring all the tithes (there was actually originally 3 tithes involved and I believe that the total of the 3 was approximately ¼ or 23%!) into the storehouse; that there may be food in my house, and try me now (KJV prove me now) in this, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open for you the window of heaven, (God Himself) and pour out for you such blessing, that there will not be room enough to receive it.”

WOW! Another major conditional promise from Gold like Joshua 1:7-8.

© SUMMARY: MONEY IS LIKE MANURE: IF YOU SPREAD IT AROUND, IT WILL DO A WORLD OF GOOD, BUT IF YOU PILE IT UP, IT WILL STINK TO HIGH HEAVEN! ☺

obedience to God's command brings good success. Saved by faith, walk by faith, live by faith, we should also give by faith. Hebrews 11:6 says, "without faith it is impossible to please God." What if faith you ask? Hebrews 11:1 says, "now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." James 2:14-26, "faith without works is Dead!" Works are the evidence, the proof of our faith!

Notice as you answer the following questions the Biblical basis for giving our tithes and offerings to God. Don't give because I say so (or Pastor). Give because God is leading you.

Tithe equals 1/10th

1. How much did Abraham give to God (Genesis 14:17-20)? **Tithes of all – 1/10th of everything.**
2. Jacob also gave a certain amount to God. How much was it (Genesis 28:20-22)? **He "surely" gave 1/10th. Example.**
3. Moses commanded Israel to give how much (Leviticus 27:30-34)? **1/10th. Read verse 30**
4. We give our tithes out of **love** for God (2 Corinthians 8:24 "Therefore show to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love and of our boasting on your behalf"). "the proof of your love" Study the whole of chapter 8 & 9, verse 5, example of putting money in the offering plate and holding on way too tight ☺, chapter 9 verse 6&7. **BE EXCELLENT IN GIVING OF GOD'S MONEY!**
5. The Corinthian church collected their offering on what day of the week (I Corinthians 16:1:2)? **The first day, Sunday. Under this calendar we are under.**
6. How had Israel robbed God in Malachi 3:8? **By not giving tithes and offerings. Give whatever the Holy Spirit tells you!**
7. What did God do to those who would not tithe in Malachi 3:8-9? **Cursed them with a curse.**
8. The **local** church is God's New Testament storehouse. What kind of blessing does God promise to those who will tithe (Malachi 3:10)? **God Himself will bless us abundantly.**
9. **(IMPORTANT)** Write in a few words what you believe 2 Corinthians 9:6 ("But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully, will also reap bountifully.") means concerning giving. "**Sowing and Reaping**" **If you give only a little of your money, God will only return a little to you. But if you give a lot, God will return a lot. READ Gal 6:7-10**
10. **(IMPORTANT)** What did the church at Macedonia give even before they gave the Lord their tithes and offerings (2 Corinthians 8:5)? **First gave themselves, dedicated themselves.**
11. Read what God says about giving in Luke 6:38. **The Lord will use other men (people) to give blessings to us if we give to the Lord. KJV TNLT**
12. **(VERY IMPORTANT)** One of the greatest privileges God has given you is to be able to give tithes and offerings. Giving is the only way God's work can continue in this world. How does God want you to give to Him (2 Corinthians 9:6-7 "**But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully, will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.**")? ☺ **Cheerfully, happily not grudgingly out of "ritualistic" duty and obligation. ☹ "So let each man give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." Are you a mad, sad or glad giver? ☺**

My Friend, did you know, or at least do you know now...that you have been bought with a price, your soul is paid for 100% by Jesus Christ, God's only Son! II Corinthians 6:19-20 **God's purchase and sale agreement to buy you for a price is truly the most important message in the whole Bible!**

TRIPLE A PLAN AAA
(1. **A**DMIT, 2. **A**CKNOWLEDGE, 3. **A**CCEPT)

MY DEAR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,

JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD!

Why not have a peace and joy inside like you've never had before? Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." You really need to accept Him as your Savior right now, even while you are reading these few verses from the Bible, God's Holy Word.

1. **A**DMIT YOU ARE A SINNER. (I am a sinner too!) ☹

Romans 3:23 "For ALL have sinned and come (fall) short of the glory of God;"
God Himself says in many Bible scriptures that we all have sinned.
The good news is, God can forgive our sins.

2. **A**CKNOWLEDGE THAT JESUS IS YOUR SAVIOR.

(Jesus in my Savior too!) ☺

Romans 6:23 "For the wages (the penalty, the price) of sin is death but the (free) gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." This verse is not just talking about our physical death, but most importantly, our spiritual death, our eternal punishment and our eternal separation from God forever.
Our sin can keep us from going to Heaven.

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates (shows, proves) His own love toward (for) us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Jesus Christ has paid the price of our sin. When He died on the cross, He became our substitute. When we accept His substitutionary act of dying on the cross for our sin, then we can believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Only then we can have eternal life in Heaven with Him when we die and our soul leaves this earth.

3. **A**CCEPT JESUS AS YOUR LORD. (Jesus is my Lord too!) ☺

Romans 10:9, 10, 13 "That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, YOU WILL BE SAVED."

"For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, (becomes right with God) and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

"For whoever (anyone who) calls on the name of the Lord SHALL BE SAVED."

Friends, listen! Choice, not chance, will determine whether you spend eternity in Heaven or Hell. This is what God Himself says in His Holy Word, the Bible. It's **THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION** you will ever make! **Right Now**, pray this prayer **IF** you really believe it and sincerely mean it. Please allow me to help you with your prayer.

Remember, just "repeating these words" will not save you. Only your faith, only your belief in your own heart, your own soul, your own inner being, will save you. My prayer for you is that the words you are going to say with me right now will accurately represent what you believe by faith in your innermost being, in your very own soul.

YOUR SALVATION PRAYER

Now, please repeat your prayer after me, "Dear Heavenly Father, I know I'm a sinner." Now say this, "please forgive me of my sins." Now say this, "thank you for dying on the cross for my sins and saving my soul." Now say this, "right now I accept your free gift of eternal life." Now finish your prayer like this, "in Jesus' Name I pray. Amen."