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## Giving Money Is Easy—Giving Time Takes Commitment!

Dear Chosen One: To God be the glory for the great things He has done. Can you believe we are already in the month of February?

Years ago, I heard a sermon that said, *“It is easy to give up your money, but not your time.”* That message pierced my heart. I remember walking out of church with tears in my eyes because I knew I was like many other Christians—I was cheating on my timesheet with God.

At that time, I was wrestling in my spirit because the Holy Spirit had told me it was time to change locations, and I was procrastinating through disobedience. I tried to substitute my disobedience with works, using my money to help others in need, but God required my obedience. That very night, after hearing that sermon, I decided to trust God wholeheartedly. I made the necessary arrangements and walked away from a place I was using for comfort instead of relying on God. That moment became a turning point in my life. God needed me to walk by faith and not by sight.

Presently, the pressure of keeping up with the world’s standards is causing many Christians to function in **reverse gear**. Many people are trying to appease God by giving Him—or the church—their money while spending or wasting their time on other things.

The Bible clearly tells us:

*“Remember the Lord your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful, in order to fulfill the covenant, He confirmed to your ancestors with an oath.”* (Deuteronomy 8:18)

We have forgotten that it is God who gives us the strength to gain wealth. *“He owns the cattle on a thousand hills”* (Psalm 50:10). He doesn’t need our money. The cares of this world have caused many people to spend more money than they earn and to purchase more things than they need—or can afford.

This financial dilemma is a burden carefully designed by the devil (the god of this world) to keep both Christians and unbelievers in financial bondage. When people are preoccupied with worldly affairs, they are distracted from spiritual matters.

Many people feel as though they can manipulate God. They go to church only when they need something. They give as if they are lending to God and then feel that God owes them repayment.

A few days ago, while I was praying, I heard the Holy Spirit say, *“Bridget, many people are willing to give Me their money, but I desire their time in My presence.”* I pondered this and realized how true it is. When the church needs volunteers, many individuals are more willing to contribute financially because they are too busy or simply don’t want to be bothered. There are more people willing to contribute to the church than to commit to God.

As a worker in the harvest field, this Scripture has come alive to me:

*“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into the harvest.”*

(Matthew 9:37–38.) Some laborers want to know what’s in it for them before they go into the field.

# Money Is Simple to Give; Time Is the Real Gift!

We must all take heed to this passage:

***“What do you benefit if you gain the whole world, but lose your soul?”*** (Mark 8:36)

Are you spending more money and less time in God’s presence or with the people you love? Are you preoccupied with things instead of people? Many people have sat at the dining table with loved ones while their minds were focused on their next money-making plan. Even in church, many Christians are contemplating their next spending spree or how to gain more wealth.

Here are **seven important questions** I would like you to ponder, and then make the necessary changes to enhance your spiritual life:

1. How much time do you spend daily reading your Bible and praying?
2. Have you witnessed or told anyone about God’s grace and goodness in your life?
3. When was the last time you had fellowship with other believers in person?
4. Do you practice godly principles in your daily life?
5. Do you value your money more than your time?
6. When was the last time you spent quality time in God’s presence or with a loved one?
7. Have you forgiven the person who hurt or violated you?

Quality time is essential to maintaining a loving, stable, and healthy relationship with God and your family. Yes, money is also an important commodity and is needed to meet our basic needs in this world. However, time spent in God’s presence and with family is priceless and precious.

Money should never be a substitute for time. Take heed! Don’t allow your time on earth to expire while you still have money in your pocket, only to spend eternity living with regrets.

I believe that when we meet God face to face, He will not be interested in how we spent our money, but in how we spent our time and what we did to advance His Kingdom.

Remember, time wasted cannot be retrieved, but money lost can be replaced. It is time to change your gear from reverse to drive. You will have a better and wider view of life and of the people and things that truly matter. You don’t have to go through life with a rearview vision when you can shift gears. **Go forward!**

The Bible says:

***“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”*** (Matthew 6:33)

As we move forward, I challenge you to take time out of your busy schedule and begin spending time doing things that are meaningful and productive.

May the peace of God continue to perfect your vision and lead you into truth. Love yourself and share that love with someone else!

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