

Liberation From “This Part is Mine and This Part is God’s”

By: Russ Gressett

The Holy Spirit moved me off of “percentage giving” years ago because I needed to be liberated from the mentality, the thinking process and the actual belief that “this part is mine and this part is God's” if I was ever to mature as a son and steward in the Kingdom of God. I am not saying that everyone should move away from giving by percentage and just hear a number from the Holy Spirit ... you may not have the same issues that I had, but that is how the Holy Spirit dealt with me.

The truth is the belief system of, “this part is mine and this part is God's” was a real stronghold in my life. It actually hindered me in numerous areas. I remember vividly how the Holy Spirit got my attention one morning regarding this issue. I was literally thinking in my mind that morning, “this part is mine and this part is God’s.” The Holy Spirit’s conversation with me on the inside suddenly went something like this, “So, if this part is yours and this part is God’s, whose are you?” The question stopped me dead in my tracks and I saw it. I could never “unsee it” again. One, simple, probing question from the Holy Spirit and I was changed forever. Oh, I had a lot of un-learning still to do, but I was forever changed. From that point on, I started down a road toward the freedom of understanding true ownership, which is really building block number one for a true steward in the Kingdom of God.

In our covenant, it's not 10% that is the Lord's, it's 100%. We have been bought for the absolute highest price possible. The payment was literally made with a person who is un-paralleled in value ... Jesus. We were bought with Jesus and by Jesus. Our lives are not our own (1 Cor. 6:19-20). That is what we said “yes” to at salvation ... to become all together His.

Of course, one of the first things this impacted was how I saw giving. That was and is a big part of my calling and purpose in the Kingdom of God. In the midst of a real revelation and understanding of that ownership truth, if I now wanted to be a “tither” or a “10 percenter”, I saw that in reality I would have to take back 90% from Him. I had never considered it in that light before, but it was front and center to me now. After traveling down this road all these years, I don't want to take back 90%. I would rather be owned of Him and all together His. I would rather Him be provider instead of me being provider. He is far better at everything than I am.

You might say, “Well, that is just semantics, Brother Russ.” I hear that, but I would respond that without a working, operational, revelation of true ownership, we have the tendency to believe the lie that something in our stewardship doesn’t “become God’s” until it leaves our hand. We might not say it just like that, but that’s what we believe in the background of our thinking. Believe me. I have worked through those issues. It matters. We can tell by the words that come out of our mouth. The thought process of “This part is His and this part is mine” is not a New Covenant doctrine. That doctrine reinforces the thinking and believing, for example with money, that when it is sitting in our bank account, it’s not God’s ... but it becomes His when it leaves our bank account and goes into someone else’s bank account. By believing it’s not His when it’s in our bank account, it really thwarts a truly convincing, inner belief that we are really His stewards. Meaning, the ownership revelation is not fully a “working and operational” revelation ... which in turn means it’s really no revelation at all. It’s what the Holy Spirit refers to as “lip service revelation” when He is dealing with me in these areas.

Here is a good example. Have you ever heard the phrase, “It all belongs to God anyway, we are just giving this portion back to Him.”? I have heard that a thousand times if I have heard it once. Said it myself, I am sure, numerous times. The problem is this thought process largely thwarts our seeing “giving” as a ministry act of God working through us. When we have a true revelation of ownership, giving to the local church is not how we “give to God”, it is how God gives to the local Body through us. It is a ministry act (think Acts 2 and Acts 4). All New Testament giving should be looked at as “ministry”... God flowing through us in love, via relationship. The importance of seeing and understanding this is that it requires us to recognize that a change in the direction of flow has occurred. Instead of “us giving to God”, it is now “God giving through us.” We gave all to Him at one time. It was a heart issue and we became all together His. That’s everything. We became His purchased possession. That is real. We now have to begin to believe, talk and act like it is real. If we do, it will change how we see everything that we do in our lives.

1 Corinthians 8:5 (parentheses - my commentary)

5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord (no more “this part is Yours and this part is mine”), and then to us by the will of God (relationship ... producing ministry).

Notice the change in the direction of flow in that singular verse spoken about some of the most famous givers in all of the bible. What did they do first? Then, what did they do via relationship? I call it the “85 effect”. If there is one verse that wraps a succinct description around what happened to these Macedonians, this is it. They got a revelation of ownership and then became ministers of giving.

As ministers of giving, we can see by example of the Macedonians, and by Paul’s teaching after having observed what happened in them, that they picked up on the purpose in their heart regarding giving (2 Corinthians 9). We too, should pick up on the purpose placed in our heart for giving. That is where the relationship is ... in and through the heart.

What does that mean? It means we should do our giving by relationship not rote, mechanical, formula. We will do more giving than we ever dreamed possible and fall in love with that ministry and that outflow from the Father's "riches in glory by Christ Jesus" when we do (Phil. 4). We will get in sync with His heart and voice and become an artery of provision in the Body of Christ in a way that we are unable to do in our own abilities (2 Corinthians 8:3). We will get a sense for that anointing and the flow of that ministry of provision which is motivated only by love.

Our “knowers” and “hearers” in the spirit will get really accustomed to His voice in this area because we are regularly exercised in it. As this happens and maturity develops, the Holy Spirit will also begin to train us in gathering as well. He will give us wisdom and ideas and teach us the manifestation mechanisms that He intends to utilize to tap into the wealth and provision He has already placed in the earth. He knows how best to harvest and place that wealth into service of the Kingdom of God. One thing is certain; He has a plan and purpose as to how to get all the work and ministry done and the provision supplied for the doing of it. There are a tremendous number of people who have this as all or part of their calling and purpose in the Kingdom of God (Rm. 12:8). They have just not recognized it yet as a ministry function in the Body or heard the English language wrapped around it for the understanding of it and sight of it.

Amen.