

## Just Before the Offering—A Two-Minute Stewardship Teaching

### Giving in Three Time Zones

Each time a believer gives to the Lord, the gift is expressed in three time zones: the past, the present, and the future.

Every offering expresses **gratitude for what God has done in the past**. 2 Corinthians 8:9 says, "For through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, though he was rich, yet for your sakes, He became poor so that you through His poverty might become rich." Our tithes and offerings reflect our gratitude for the grace and mercy of God that allows us to be transformed from poverty to prosperity. When we give to God, it's not out of pressure, but out of appreciation for what he has done for us in the past.

Every offering allows the believer to **prioritize the present**. Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." God doesn't need our money, but we need to analyze what we're doing with our money. Giving allows us to prioritize our present by making sure we are putting God first in our lives.

Every offering **plants a seed for the future**. In 2 Corinthians 9:6 Paul says, "Remember this, whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. And whoever sows generously will also reap generously." Sowing and reaping don't happen on the same day—or even in the same season, but each seed planted today insures a harvest tomorrow. When a believer gives today, he invests not only in the future of the Kingdom, but his own future as well.

This morning, let's give in three time zones—the past, the present, and the future.