



Holding Things Too Tightly

Luke 12:13-21 KJV

[13] And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me. [14] And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you? [15] And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. [16] And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: [17] And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? [18] And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. [19] And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. [20] But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? [21] So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

A person who lives for himself and has no room for God is a fool according to scripture. How can a man think only of this life when the length is but a whisper of smoke? In all things we do, we should think of things we do towards our eternal life.

Psalm 14:1 KJV

The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

James 4:14 KJV

Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

John 6:27 KJV

Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

God promises to provide all our needs.

Philippians 4:19 KJV

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

The Basis for our Expectations:

1. He promises to meet our needs
 - Is he able to keep His promise? Yes.
 - Is His character of the type to keep the promise? Yes.
2. Expectations - One of God's greatest desires is for us to learn to trust His wisdom and timing, not just "expect" Him to move in a certain way because we've done something.

The Right Focus:

1. Seek first his kingdom (live a Godly life)
2. Trust him to meet our needs
3. Ask in faith without doubt (doubt cancels faith)

Dominant thoughts we sometimes hold too tightly that can push God out of our lives:

1. Dreams
2. False beliefs
3. Attitudes
4. Habits
5. Past hurts
6. Timing demands
7. Approval of others traditions
8. Children
9. Rights
10. Perceived obligations

We have no right to hold or withhold anything from God because he has given everything to us in the first place. If we try, it's simply an invitation for God to begin prying it out of our hands, finger by finger until it falls to the ground and we lose it all. We need to walk before God with our hands out, empty, desiring only that which God desires for us to have.

1. We should daily test our desires to make sure there is nothing standing in between ourselves and God.

Psalms 40:8 KJV

I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

James 1:13-15 KJV

[13] Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: [14] But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. [15] Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Hebrews 13:18 KJV

Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.

2. Manna is a great illustration of God telling us he will provide for us but we must trust in him and not hoard what he gives us. Hoarding is a disbelief in God that he will provide for us.

Psalms 78:24-25 KJV

[24] And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven. [25] Man did eat angels' food: he sent them meat to the full.

James 5:1-3 KJV

[1] Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. [2] Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. [3] Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

Job 27:16-17 KJV

[16] Though he heap up silver as the dust, and prepare raiment as the clay; [17] He may prepare it, but the just shall put it on, and the innocent shall divide the silver.

3. Tithing is a minimal outward sign of our faith in God, a belief that God provides what we need and a gratefulness towards those things and a respect towards the one who provides only what we need that benefits us spiritually.

Malachi 3:6-10 KJV

[6] For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. [7] Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? [8] Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. [9] Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. [10] Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Acts 20:35 KJV

I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

4. Sometimes we allow the gifts God gives us to become a tool of the devil. This applies to talents, opportunities and/or relations.

Isaiah 44:9-11 KJV

[9] They that make a graven image are all of them vanity; and their delectable things shall not profit; and they are their own witnesses; they see not, nor know; that they may be ashamed. [10] Who hath formed a god, or molten a graven image that is profitable for nothing? [11] Behold, all his fellows shall be ashamed: and the workmen, they are of men: let them all be gathered together, let them stand up; yet they shall fear, and they shall be ashamed together.

Matthew 26:14-16 KJV

[14] Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, [15] And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. [16] And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

God assumes full responsibility to supply our needs when we obey him.