

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT2)

You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

You may read today's devotional verse and think twice about reading the devotional, maybe thinking, *"Oh no, he's going to ask us for money."* Or *"Oh no, he's going to talk about tithing."* If that is you, first off, in love I say, "Shame on you". Tithing is part of what God has commanded the children of Israel. And we should also be giving back to the Lord because He has given everything to us.

But as far as me asking for money? I never have, and I never will ask anyone to give financially to this ministry that the Lord has given me to do. I do ask for your prayers as I write these devotionals and for others who read them, that the Lord would use them for His glory to speak to others.

But going beyond that and today's devotional. There are some who tithe and treat it like they are feeding a slot machine (reluctantly). Hoping that if they give back to the Lord, "maybe" He will bless them (Pay off, hit the jackpot) for tithing, just like feeding a slot machine, hoping it will pay off, as you put a quarter or a dollar in the slot, you pull the handle and hope for the best. But most of the time, you end up disappointed as the slot machine laughs at you, tempting you to try again, saying to you, *"Yeah, maybe I will pay off next time, come on, just one more try."* So people continue to feed it, just one more time, hoping it will pay off. But notice I used the word "hope", because you are putting money in a machine, and now your hope is in that machine.

Yet the bible teaches us to put our hope in God, and HE will bless us. But how many are treating God like that slot machine. *"I can't pay my bills, Oh I know what I will do, I will tithe, and "maybe" God will pay off and give me a bunch of money back, because after all, doesn't it say somewhere in the bible that He will give back a hundred times more?"* With that type of attitude and giving, we are not putting our hope in God, but rather we are putting our hope in ourselves, *"If "I" give to God, He will bless me because "I" gave some money to Him."* Once again you have put God's graciousness upon yourself and what you have done to "earn" God's favor.

But those who give "cheerfully" (hilariously) to God, do so, not looking for anything back other than having hearts that are thankful to God for what He has done for us.

So, God is not a slot machine, or a financial investment, those are objects and institutions. No, God is the God of Salvation, and Hope and Forgiveness, and Provision, and the **"I Am that I AM"**. He is the true and living God that we need all the time, not just for our finances, or to help pay our bills. And He is not a God to play games with either.

- † **Exodus 3:14 (KJV)** *And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.*

- † **2 Corinthians 9:8** *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.*