

Psalm 4:7

***You have put gladness in my heart,
More than in the season that their grain and wine increased.***

I don't know about you, but one of the great things in the working environment is when you get a raise. There are a few reasons:

One is that you now have more money on your paycheck, which will help you get out of debt. Another reason is that it tells you that you are doing a good job and that you earned the raise, and you don't feel like just a number in the company that you work for.

A third reason is that with an increase in pay, that also means an increase in your tithing....
Sraaaaatch (sound of needle being dragged across a record).

"Now wait a minute, you had me until the tithing thing. Didn't the Lord give me a raise so I can pay bills and have a better way of life?" you may be thinking.

Possibly, but with the Lord increasing His blessings to you (more money on your paycheck) don't you think you should show your thankfulness by giving back to Him? After all, that's one reason we tithe, which is to thank the Lord for His blessing of a job and the money He has provided for us.

But maybe you haven't gotten a raise in a while; are you still thankful to the Lord for His provision of a job and a paycheck? Read today's verse again:

† ***You have put gladness in my heart, More than in the season that their grain and wine increased.***

The Psalmist is pretty much talking about getting a raise "***the season that their grain and wine increased.***" Yet I love the first part of this Proverb which says, "***You have put gladness in my heart, More than***" which tell me that he already was happy and content with the Lord and His blessings even before he got the raise.

So I will ask you again, "*Even if you haven't gotten a raise in a while, are you still thankful to the Lord for His provision of a job and a paycheck?*"

"Well Yeah" you may be thinking, "*But I would be happier if He got me a raise.*" Which is pretty much how we as humans think, "*The more you bless me, the more I am happier with the Lord.*" But is your relationship and joy in the Lord based upon what He gives you, or Who He is?

I love to buy my wife flowers several times a month, and she is thankful for them and happy when I do. But even if I didn't, it does not change her love or happiness towards me, because she loves me and is happy with me because of who I am, not because what I give her. Yes, I will admit my buying her flowers are an expression of my love for her, and I do it to remind her that I love her, but not to make her love me more.

I believe the Lord blesses us to remind us of His love for us, but not to make us love Him more, because He already demonstrated that by giving His ultimate gift, His Son Jesus Christ, for us to have eternal life with Him in heaven, and no amount of money can ever top that.

† **John 15:12-13** *This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.*

† **Romans 5:8** *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*