

Give Glory

Unto The LORD



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GIVE GLORY UNTO THE LORD

As God's children, we certainly want to glorify His name, for our LORD God who is great and almighty, is also an all-loving God and through His love we sinners are redeemed to become His children. How then can we give glory unto the name of the Lord?

The Book of Psalms describes how we should give glory unto the name of the Lord:

Ps96:8 Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts! 9 O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth!

From the above verses, the Psalmist declared that we should give glory unto the Lord in this way:

- To bring an offering and come into His courts
- To worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness
- To fear before Him

To bring an offering and come into His courts.

We glorify the Lord by coming into His courts. Why? Since by coming into His courts and worshipping him, we acknowledge ourselves as God's people. By coming to church and worshipping there, we declare ourselves as followers of Christ.

Therefore some say that when someone asks us, "What is your religion?, actually that person does not really want to know what our religion is, instead he wants to know, "Who is our God".

In fact, these verses also explain that we do not only need to come into His courts, but we also should bring "an offering".

Why does God want us to bring an offering? When we study those verses closely, we will see that the offering is mentioned prior to coming into His courts, thus as the first among the other requirements.

Does God want us to bring an offering, because He is unable to meet the needs for maintaining His house and His servants or He finds it difficult to do so?

Or is it because the Lord we worship is so poor and needy, or craving for money? No. In the article "The Major Ministry", it is already explained that the Lord God is able to provide for the Israelites during their 40 years journey in the wilderness and also for His servants without any human help. Besides, the truth is that the entire universe belongs to Him and is under His authority.

Ps 89:11 The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine: as for the world and the fulness thereof, thou hast founded them.

If so, why does God want us to bring an offering?

God wants us to bring an offering, because God wants to know our hearts. To what purpose? Because when we come into God's house or as God's child, He wants Himself and not mammon to be in our hearts. God wants His children to worship Him sincerely and not worship mammon, so that only He Himself will fill our hearts and nothing else.

Mt 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Why do we have to bring an offering?

Because God wants to know whether we are willing to leave mammon for God's sake, give up mammon for making God our utmost priority.

If we really put God first, or if God is primary in our hearts, then it would not be difficult for us to give offerings because money, is of no worth to us particularly when compared to God.

But why should it be money/offering? Is not praise something that can please God? Yes, it is true, praise too can please God when it flows out of a sincere heart. This means that if God, and God alone, dwells in our hearts, then our praises would be pure and sincere unto God and would please Him. But if mammon occupies our hearts, would it be possible for us to praise the Lord sincerely?

Mt 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

If we look at people around us and at ourselves too, of course, we will see quite a lot in our congregation who sing praises unto the Lord with much enthusiasm. Perhaps they are also active in the choir, and many even testify about God's loving kindness. They seem to greatly glorify God. But sometimes they are not so enthusiastic to give an offering in the form of money or materials. Why? Because the praises we offer are merely lip service, while deep in our hearts we serve or make wealth as our priority. So it is hard for us to give an offering.

So it's not surprising that many ministers feel uneasy to preach about tithing, since many church attendants are allergic to listen to the message of this topic. And many ministers have to be extra careful when they need to bring the message about money matters. It is a very sensitive subject that can easily be misinterpreted, so to speak.

Why sensitive? Because touching on the issue of money would directly offend some people, as it is the very object they adore in their hearts. Thus alluding their idol will cause instant allergies. If the Lord is in our hearts, then when the pastor talks about money and even admonishes us of our responsibilities in handling money wisely, we should not feel hurt or offended as long as the discussion is in accordance with the scriptures or the Word of God, since we do not adore money or mammon in our hearts.

So this verse clearly explains that the first condition to glorify God is to make sure that God and God alone is in our hearts. When mammon occupies our hearts, then we will not be able to give glory to God, because what comes out of our mouths will be different from what is in our hearts.

Mt 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

Therefore, if we really have a desire to glorify God's name, be sure that only God dwells in our hearts and it is manifested in bringing our offerings with sincerity. We faithfully give our tithes, support God's work and help those in need.

To worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

If deep down inside us there is only God, then let us come to worship Him. To worship means to kneel down in reverence before Him and come in His presence with a humble heart. We glorify God because we acknowledge His greatness as the King of kings. With a humble heart because we realize that we are actually just dust. (Please read Our Attitude in God's House).

But worshipping God should be with holiness. Why is holiness so important? First, *"for it is written: Be holy, for I am holy." 1 Pe 1:16*

Secondly, if we live a holy life, our lives will become a light for others, so that people around us can see the real difference between the children of God and those who are not. Then they will glorify our Lord.

Mt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

The above verse tells us clearly that to give glory to God does not always have to be utterances from our lips in the form of praise or testimony. Rather, the main thing is that our lives should become a living witness that gives light to people around us, so that from their mouth may come out praises unto our God.

To fear before Him.

What does it mean "fear before God"? Or what kind of people are those who fear or tremble in the presence of the Lord.

Dear readers, I am a businessman running some restaurants. Quite often I heard the waiters or waitresses tell how they trembled when they had to wait on or to serve certain important guests, particularly the government officials. Yet they did not tremble when they served those guests earlier, some times ago. Why? Since at that earlier time those guests came with their families or not wearing their official dress (the awesome uniform of high functionaries), so the waiters serve them just as the

average guests considering them similar with any other guests. Later, however, when those people came in their formal official uniform, and the waiters knew who they really were, as high rank officials, then they became shaky serving them. Likewise, we too will tremble in the presence of the Lord only when we know who He really is, know His holiness, His glorious majesty, His magnificent power, and all other divine attributes of His Divinity. Just like the woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years:

*Mk 5:25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years.
26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse.
27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.
28 For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.
29 And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.
30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?
31 And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?
32 And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing.
33 But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.
34 And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole: go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.*

*Lk8:43 And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any.
44 Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanchèd.
45 And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?
46 And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me.
47 And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately.
48 And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.*

Why did the woman fear and tremble? Because the woman did not only know and believe that she would be cured if she could just touch the clothes of Jesus, but she really did feel the power of the Lord Jesus healing her. In Luke 8:47 it is recorded that this woman came trembling before Jesus, because He knew that she had touched His clothes. Actually what made this woman tremble was

not because she had touched Jesus' clothes, but because when she touched it, she was healed instantly! At that very moment it was not impossible that there were other people who had touched or come in contact with the Lord Jesus. His disciples said, "*Master, thou seest the multitude thronging thee.*" Yet they did not tremble because they did not feel the power of the Lord Jesus working miraculously in themselves.

Likewise we can tremble before the Lord only when we experience the Lord's power in our lives just like what this woman had experienced. And to be able to experience the power of the Lord Jesus we must first know the Lord Jesus personally, then have faith in Him, hence we can experience His power. Do not be like the people around the Lord Jesus at that time, for though they were near Him and perhaps even touched or came in contact with Him, yet they did not feel the power of the Lord because some of them may not know the Lord Jesus. They just huddled around Him because they went along with their crowd. Some may have heard of the Lord Jesus and know Him, but they do not have faith, therefore they could not feel the power of the Lord working miraculously in their lives.

Similarly, the experience of the waiters and waitresses mentioned earlier, when they served some guests just like any other ordinary ones, before they knew that those guests were high officials. But after they knew and realized that those guests' were of honorable social standing then they trembled when they had to serve them.

So Psalm 96:8 tells us that we can give glory to the Lord God only by putting Him as most primary in our hearts so that we will obey to bring our offerings, either our tithes or any other offering. We also must be holy because God is holy. And when we live in holiness we can become a light to those around us so that they will glorify God. We also have to know the Lord God personally, and experience the power of the Lord in our own lives that will make us tremble before Him.

That is why Paul declared to the church in Rome:

Ro12:1 Beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

True worship is living our whole lives in holiness and pleasing to God. To be able to please God, we need to know God, to know all His laws and commandments, so that we will do God's will only.

Whereas in the past the world was filled with heresies such as Atheism, New Age, Humanism, and many more, today the quite powerful and influential precept is the Freethinker using this symbol:



A freethinker is one who holds the view that everything should make sense and exist for a reason.

Something absurd like religion, for example, must be rejected.

That is why the epitome of this genre is pansies, because pansy pronounced sounds alike the French word *pensée* which means the mind. And the shape of the flower is like a human face. Blooming usually in mid-summer, this flower when in motion is like nodding, which is characteristic of people who are thinking hard.



But in its development, Freethinker has changed from just a view or an opinion to a belief. The adherents now believe that there is God but they do not feel they need God, because human beings have a remarkably capable brain and by making good use of it man can achieve whatever he desires. That is why the epitome of a Freethinker looks like the picture above, where "the Holy Spirit in the form of a pigeon" is put in the human brain, not in the heart as is commonly pictured in Christianity.

The Freethinkers generally look neat and self-confident. On the contrary, the appearance of a New Ager is often shabbily.

Freethinker movement grows rapidly in developing countries, especially after advances in technology invented the methods of cloning and discovered *stemcells*. They believe in their abilities and are very confident that technology and science will be able to solve all human problems, so they assume that human beings do not need God because all human and the world problems can be solved by man's capacity without the intervention of God.

In some countries, when we ask someone, "*Which church do you usually go?*" to know the person's religion, some will answer firmly and confidently, "*Sorry, I am a Freethinker.*" Some Freethinkers even "belittle" or look down on people who are followers of any religion, the so-called believers in some transcendental being and regard religious people as outdated since they still believe in things that make no sense.

In one of the hospitals in Singapore, I once fill out a personal data form. In the column about Religion, "Freethinker" was among the other choices such as Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, etc.

Intentionally or not this movement is beginning to penetrate into the teachings of the church, whereas now many books as well as pastors try to explain all the miracles that happened in Bible scientifically.

For example, they tried to explain how the Israelites could get manna for 40 years during their journey in the wilderness, by saying, "*At night, the insects that fed on tamarisk trees in the southern deserts discharged white sticky fluid. The substance was called "man" by the Arabs. Its taste was sweet like honey (Exodus 16).*"

When read at a glance only this explanation seems make sense or reasonable, but as you study it deeper you will feel how incorrect and rather silly it sounds:

- When the Israelites got out of Egypt, their number could be about 1 million including the women, children and some people of other nations.

Ex12:37 And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children.

38 And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, even very much cattle.

- For 40 years the Israelites gathered manna each day, an omer per person, until they arrive at the border of the land of Canaan.

Ex 16:16 This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded, Gather of it every man according to his eating, an omer for every man, according to the number of your persons; take ye every man for them which are in his tents.

Ex 16:35 And the children of Israel did eat manna forty years, until they came to a land inhabited; they did eat manna, until they came unto the borders of the land of Canaan.

- The day before the Sabbath, they had to gather twice their daily needs, or 2 gomer per person.

Ex 16:5 And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.

If it is true that manna derived from some white liquid produced by certain insects then:

- ❖ How many insects were needed to produce 1 million gomer manna every day during those forty years in the wilderness?
- ❖ Were those insects bred by the Israelites? If this is true, how many tamarisk trees were there to feed those insects as they were dwelling in the wilderness?
- ❖ If the insects were not bred, did the Israelites always journey through the places where there were tamarisk trees, and did that species of insects always follow the Israelites wherever they went?
- ❖ Did the insects eat more every time on the day before the Sabbath, so that they could produce more liquid to compensate the need of 2 million gomer?
- ❖ Was the insect fluid called "man" in Arabic sweet? Probably not. Yet in Exodus 16 a verse was used to explain that manna was sweet like honey, while the present "man" has no sweet taste.
- ❖ Why was there no more manna when they reached the border of Canaan? Were the insects dead or did they fly away?

Freethinkers spread their teachings mostly through books and films, in National Geography, Animal Planet, Discovery Channel, including Wikipedia. The current phenomena show that some ministers try to explain the Word of God through matters that make sense. They presume that by using the method of delivering the Word of God through matters that makes sense, it will be more easily understood. The presumption may be true, although it is still debatable. However, in practice, some ministers generally just chose a verse or a passage of the Scripture as a theme, and the theme is then explained scientifically, such as from the aspect of psychology, management or the point of view of philosophers, church fathers, famous evangelists or senior pastors, not from the point of view of the Bible. They explain the Word of God using human logic and human opinion, so that they never explain the verse by using other verses from the Bible as a reference. Even if other verses are included, usually it is just because of some similar words or something alike. But if we examine further the verse they use as an explanation we will find out that it has a different context. Certainly, the context of the message is not easily digested or understood if the verses added by the pastors are out of context, particularly if our knowledge of the God's Word is limited.

Furthermore, since the desire to explain the Word of God in such a way as to make sense, so finally the Word of God is explained by principles as if God were human, or God's nature and desires were like human nature and desires.

If man loves to be served, he thinks that God also expects us to serve Him. If man loves to be applauded, then to him God would also love to be applauded. If man likes to show approval or give honor to someone by way of clapping hands together, then to him we could also give honor or glory to God by clapping hands together. However, God's way of thinking is so far different from our human way of thinking:

Isa 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Therefore, in these days of the end times we must have sufficient knowledge of the Word of God, since inadequate knowledge of God's Word will cause us to be easily led astray as we are unable to distinguish between God's Word and human doctrines.

2 Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Some of the things we do to prevent the penetration of false teachings into our thoughts and hearts:

The main thing is of course we have to read the Bible a lot. Every member of our family reads the Bible from Genesis through to Revelation at least once a year without skipping any part.

Our family has made a great effort to worship in one church at the same service hour. And usually after the service we discussed the sermon we have just heard, whether it was in accordance with the God's Word or not. And oftentimes the topic became a springboard for conversation to discuss other themes from the Bible. We also have a family altar every day. And above all, we continue to pray for wisdom to be able to discern between the voice of the Shepherd and the voice of strangers.