

## OPERATING IN DIVINE ECONOMY

### LESSON 1

**Objective:** - *To help Participants discover how to operate under God's divine economy as it relates to stewardship.*

#### **1) What is divine economy?**

- 1.1 This is God's way of economy
- 1.2 Operating spiritually guided principles in economy
- 1.3 It is God's way of living and running business
- 1.4 The economy of the world aims at making you a rich slave. Keeping you in bondage to borrowing and owing for life
- 1.5 God's economy is aimed at making you a rich king (A lender and a giver not a borrower)
- 1.6 When you discover how to operate in God's economy you will not enjoy the world's way of doing things.
- 1.7 The world system says grab and accumulate, God's system says work and give or distribute
- 1.8 The world's system is selfish
- 1.9 God's system is sacrificial
- 1.10 The world's system says me first – God's system says God and others first
- 1.11 The world's system gets wealth to gratify the flesh and promote us.
- 1.12 God's system gets wealth to promote His Kingdom by doing good.

#### **2) God's desire for us**

11Cor.8: 9 Jesus became poor to make us: -

- 2.1 To enjoy plenty
- 2.2 To enjoy abundant life
- 2.3 To have the riches of the Gentiles
- 2.4 To be above not beneath
- 2.5 To lend and not borrow
- 2.6 To prosper 11John 2

#### **3) How to enjoy divine economy**

3.1 Be a giver (11Kings 4:8-17 Shanamit, 1Kings 17:8-16 Woman of Zarephath)

- 3.1.1 It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts20: 35)
- 3.1.2 Give and it shall be given to you (Lk 6: 38)
- 3.1.3 There is he that scatters yet increases (Prov. 11: 24-25)
- 3.1.4 Seed time and harvest will not cease (Gen. 8: 22)
- 3.1.5 God gives seed to the sower (II Cor. 9: 10)

#### **3.2 Power of work/investment**

- 3.2.1 Work is a blessing not a curse
- 3.2.2 God created Man to work (Gen1: 28)
- 3.2.3 No work no food (11Thes 3:6-13)
- 3.2.4 The diligent shall be made fat (Prov20: 4)
- 3.2.5 The slugged shall beg in harvest (Prov20: 4)
- 3.2.6 A little sleep and folding of hands brings poverty (Pro24: 30-34)
- 3.2.7 Use your skills (Prov18: 16 A man's gift makes room for him)
- 3.2.8 Use your gift – Talent (Mt 25:14-30 Parable of talents, 11Kings 4:1-7 The widow used her little oil)

#### **4) Stay out of Debt**

- 4.1 The borrower is a servant to the lender (Prov22: 7)
- 4.2 You shall not borrow, but lend to nations (Deut 15:6)
- 4.3 You shall be above, not beneath (Deut 28:1-2)
- 4.4 Borrowing will make you work and have nothing to show for your hard work. Debt will bring financial death.

#### **Types of first fruits**

Abraham offered Isaac, Hannah offered Samuel, God offered Jesus

### **LESSON 2**

**Objective:** - *To help participants know the purpose and power of tithing in the life of a believer.*

#### **1) The Place of Tithing**

Mal 3:6-12

##### **1.1 What is tithing?**

- 1.1.1 It is the 10<sup>th</sup> of what you earn
- 1.1.2 It is that which belongs to God
- 1.1.3 It is your divine insurance

##### **1.2 Why others do not tithe?**

- 1.2.1 Ignorance – they do not know. No one taught them.
- 1.2.2 Background – some come from churches that only received annual dues
- 1.2.3 Fear
- 1.2.4 Selfishness
- 1.2.5 They think offering is tithing
- 1.2.6 Debt (they owe so much)
- 1.2.7 Disobedience
- 1.2.8 Greed – love of money
- 1.2.9 Worldliness

##### **1.3 What should we tithe?**

- 1.3.1 Should we tithe only money or anything?
- 1.3.2 Should we tithe only salary or gifts included?
- 1.3.3 Should I tithe my gross or net income?
- 1.3.4 Should I tithe before payment or after?

#### **2) The Purpose of tithing**

- 2.1 To honour the Lord (Prov. 3: 9-10)
- 2.2 God commands us (Mal. 3: 6-12)
- 2.3 Deut. 12: 6-12, Bring the tithe
- 2.4 Lev. 27: 30, the tithe is God's  
Deut14: 22- 29; 26:12-14; Deut. 18:1-8
- 2.5 Numbers 18: 1-32 for Priests/Levites
- 2.6 That there may be food in God's house (Mal. 3:10\_
- 2.7 Neh. 10: 38 the Levites shall take tithe

#### **3) Misunderstanding on the purpose of tithe**

- 3.1 Tithe is not for members' welfare but full time workers
- 3.2 Its not to be used for burial ceremonies
- 3.3 Its not a loan scheme for members
- 3.4 Its not for church gathering refreshments
- 3.5 Its not for building projects

**4) The consequences of not tithing**

- 4.1 You abide under a curse
- 4.2 You open a door to the devil to destroy what you have
- 4.3 You rob full time workers of their pay
- 4.4 You spend foolishly – you buy things that you do not need-or you are over charged
- 4.5 It results in Mismanagement
- 4.6 The devil destroys what you are trying to save
- 4.7** The devil gains access to messing with your health, property etc.

**5) What to do when you have eaten your tithe**

- 5.1 Repay it with interest