The Last Citadel

Since our obedience is tested more thoroughly when our submission is difficult, then the testing of our faith in Christ is common to man when it comes to money. My wife and I have been walking the waters of faith recently in regards to finances, and this past weekend we were blessed with a huge break, and my heart was tested immediately. The natural tendency is to hoard every penny, not knowing when we will catch a break again, but I clearly heard the Lord calling me to bless some particular loved ones in our family. As I let it go and gave a portion of it away, freedom and joy really settled in my heart. No sooner did I arrive at church when a brother in Christ came to me and gave me the exact amount without even knowing the situation.

Likewise, the churches of Macedonia were tested financially and became an example of ones who excelled in giving, even within their poverty. Second Corinthians 8:2 states, “…that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.” Our wallets are often the last citadel to fall under God’s rule. Sadly, we negate an opportunity to see God’s provision and perhaps more devastating, we lose the joy that can be had in giving. Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35) We know this intellectually, but in the moment the fear is louder than the call of faith. What we are really saying is that we don’t trust our God—how badly does that hurt to say?

Our God is faithful, more than able, and passionate to answer our prayers. I believe some of us reading this today will be tested with this exact thing. Let’s not look to our budgets or the security of our future, but rather to the Lord that has spoken this to us. He did not go through the peak of all extremes on the cross and redeem us only to leave us. His divine lordship over our finances is a liberating freedom within the confines of divine security. So let go and give as you see the needs and sense His prompting.

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