



# The Gift of Greatness.

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Yesterday we thanked God for what we have done for God this year. Today, I still want the matter of the river life, a life that flows, that flows towards others, I want it to grip us. You are going to thank God for something you did for somebody this year. Your ministry to somebody, your flow to somebody, not the one that stayed inside your heart, the one you did. Service, love, gifts, ministry.

There is a lot of love among us. Many people don't know how much love is in the heart of the believer. Generosity does not help the lazy and the greediness because the needs that are created by laziness, God never intended any kindness to meet them, because those needs are sinful needs. They are needs created by sin. A life of laziness has created needs that are sinful. There is no provision in the compassion and kindness of God for such needs.

In 1Tim 5: 9 - 10 : the apostle Paul says that the church is not to help any widow who was not married to one man, if she married more than one man, if she did not raise her own children well and if she did not help the brethren through hospitality, when she is old with nobody to help in her family, even the church should not help her, because God intends her to die in order to ripe his world of such accidents of creation, some products just got bad in the industry of creation. There are helps that we offer that are sinful, because such person should not be helped. God's money contributed in the church, don't think that because the church is a place of love, we are to use church money anyhow. There are principles about the use of church money, need is not enough, there must be moral foundation. The church is supposed to have a list of helpless people.

In order to help desperate, old people in the church, we must have a moral foundation to commit God's money to them.

Those with humanitarian world view, they see men in needs as victims and they believe that God is in the obligate to help such people, they don't know the nature of sin. They are lovers of man and they believe that once man is in need, God has a debt and those who claim to follow God, have a debt. That is the teaching of the social gospel and there are many leaders in CMFI who have embraced it, it is the mentality of Cain: I am a victim, my punishment is greater than my crime. Cain commits sin, he excuses himself and he wants mercy from people. And there are many leaders who believe that everything God has must be bend to serve men. They are humanist, they are not Christians. There are moral principles in generosity that uphold righteousness.

When that woman came to Elijah for a miracle, she gave Elijah the moral foundation for her expectation she told him, my husband die with debt but he feared God, he walked with God. It was not just the need, there was moral justification to be helped by God. If you are the one that always argue and see everyone in needs as a victim and don't search in his life, you are a sinner, you are a hater of God, you want to accuse God. It is not because you love man, it is because you hate the ways of God, you have righteousness, you don't like the fact that God recompense those who do well and punish those who do evil, you want to overthrow the divine throne so that men will not fear God. Unfortunately, God is not like that. "what a man sowed he shall ripe";

Generosity does not help the lazy.

Secondly, generosity does not help the covetous. When a man enlarges his heart to jealousy, wanting to have all that others have, believing that if God has given this and that, he also have the right to receive it from God, God has no provision for covetousness. In the ninth commandment, thou shall not covet. There are boundaries to our desires. There must be the discipline of your desires. You are not permitted to see something that is wonderful in your neighbour and you start wanting it. You are not to extend the desires of your heart. Kindness is never enough for the covetous, because the person has a frog in his heart. No gift can satisfy the covetous and no gift can satisfy the lazy. Some people are life that, always complaining about life, your husband is the worse, your children are the worse, because you are curse by discontentment, produced by jealousy.

If your cup is full by what you have gotten through hard work, because you are satisfy by what you got from God, even a drop will satisfy. Those who work hard appreciate even small gift. Those who are contented, they appreciate even small gifts, from the heart. For such people, they will find a lot of love in the church. For the discontented, no matter what you do, they will always say that there is not love in the church. For the lazy, no matter all you do, unless you take over the responsibility of their life, nothing will ever be enough. They have criminal needs. Unrighteousness transform the love of the brethren into nothing. For those who work hard, for those who are contented, a little can produce overflow. If the cup is full, even a drop will produce overflow.

But for the heart that is full because of laziness, they have a bottomless pit.

- *Thank God for the love of God that has been poured in the hearts of the brethren.*

Nourish and cherish. Cherishing means giving value. When you marry a woman, you have committed yourself to raise her value. In your hands, a woman must have more value than she brought when she came in, if not, you failed as a husband. Every husband has to choose how to give value to his wife. For me, God prescribed to me how to give value to my wife when I was ordained and I have been labouring to obey. Confessing to your wife that you love her is part of giving value if the confession is true and form the heart.

Attention, not the attention that nourishes her selfishness, but attention that gives her value in your heart, so that she is not part of your furniture in the home, whom you don't notice.

Gifts: there is an honorarium value to gifts. Gifts honour, not only meet needs. Kindness is giving to meet needs, but there is also honour. There are some gifts that are to honour the person, to raise value.

A wise husband should plan to make a value associated gift to his wife each year, beside meeting her needs. Something that says: "you are precious to me, I don't have much but, even with what I have, have this". You neglect it to your peril.

So confessions, attention, gifts that nourish love and gifts that raise value.

You can also nourish your wife by service, to bring in elements that are deficient in her person. You should have the honesty to write down your wife's demons, the badness in her.

Your wife may not have completed her education, you must find ways to develop her talents, you may find ways for her to finish her training, but you must find ways to give her value. You can also give value to your wife through expressing your needs for her. 90% of African men don't express their needs for their wives, they want to do everything to prove that somebody pushed them to marry her, as if they never need her, as if they could live their lives without her.

You give value to your wife by expressing your need for her, in your life. What can she do for you? In your ministry. Is there place for her in your life? What place? Is there place for her in your ministry? What place?

Your wife cannot be your co-worker unless you intelligently plan her place in your ministry as you plan for the other co-workers;

Nourish: buy food, pay rents, provide to basic needs, not to her luxury and jealousies and covetousness. But there is also cherish, to raise her value.

You have your Christian duty to make her blameless for Jesus, a person Jesus can enjoy. When you marry a woman, you have yourself to be co-worker with Jesus to make her a better person for Jesus. You must ask: what does Jesus expects for my wife? How can I make her a person for Jesus, not for me. If you do not ask that, you are not a Christian husband; Christian husband cooperate with Jesus so that the woman she marry can be better for Jesus.

Nourish and cherish: when you got married, that was your commitment, that was your duty.

Just like the woman have to ask: what have I brought into this man's life? What does it mean to be a helper? It is to make the man better. Either you are a king's maker or a king's destroyer. Either you are a leader moulder or you are a leader graveyard. It is your choice. You have chosen to be a grave to drag a man down. It is not what you transform him into, it is what you end up to be by your behaviour.

The best gift of love is that you make yourself the best that a person can have.

Etre une femme chrétienne c'est chercher à ce que Dieu ait le maximum qu'Il peut avoir de cet homme. Une fois que j'entends qu'une femme se plaint que son mari donne plus à Dieu qu'elle, je la déteste. Quand tu entres dans la vie d'un homme pour être le rival de Dieu, c'est le diable qui t'y avait envoyé

If you put the claims of God on our husband and use your power and influence to get your husband to follow God and serve God, indirectly, one of the side effect is that you will gain.

Les femmes sages font tout pour que Dieu puisse posséder leur mari.

- *Pray that the leaders of our ministry will seek greatness from God.*

The Lord taught me about the gift of greatness.

*Esther 10:3*

*Mordechai the Jew was second in rank to King Xerxes, preeminent among the Jews, and held in high esteem by his many fellow Jews, because he worked for the good of his people and spoke up for the welfare of all the Jews.*

*NIV*

There are three things that the Bible tells us about Mordechai

1. He has great earthly honours. He was second in rank to Xerxes, prime minister of Medo Persia.
2. He was the first preeminent, that is first position among the Jews. He was a preeminent of all the Jews.
3. He was greatly loved by all the Jews.

God gave him these three things; the Bible explains why? Because of his spirit of service. Because he wanted the wellbeing of others. Because he worked for the welfare of others.

That is the way to greatness.

A spirit of service, that is what many don't have. Many have ambition.

Mordechai's ascension and greatness, there was a moral foundation; the spirit of service.

God gives great position and great wealth to those who have a large interest in others. If you are ambitious and you are anxious for yourself, your real budget of greatness is very small, God has to give you only that which is enough for you.

Haman had ambition,

Mordechai has a spirit of service

Haman collapsed. Ambition is not a sufficient motivation.

If you are ambitious, you have limited your greatness.

Why did God give greatness to Mordechai? The Bible gives us the reason. He sought the wellbeing of his people and he worked for their good. He sought, that means that is what his heart wanted. He sought the wellbeing of his people, that was his inner motive and he worked for the good of his people; that was the direction of his will and activity.

Why should God give your greatness?

So that you will be superior to others?

So that your selfishness can be reinforced?

For what?

Who has understood the pillars of Mordechai greatness? That means that which carried him to greatness and why greatness was given to him;

*Gen 45:7-8*

*7 But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.*

*8 "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.*

*NIV*

Joseph knew why he was elevated. Look at his elevations:

1. Father to pharaoh
2. Lord of his family and household
3. Governor of Egypt

A threefold appointment and elevation. But he knew why? To care for you. It was greatness, advantages, leverage given to a man with a spirit of service. That is the way to greatness. When Joseph understood God's plan in a selfish perception, God allowed him to be hated by his brothers, sold to Egypt, reduced to slavery, made a prisoner. God needed to purge him of ambition and self-centredness. When he understood, it was not for him. Greatness is a stewardship given to those who have a spirit of service. It was for others, for his brothers, those who hated him, those who were jealous of him. He had great positions, not to prove to his brothers that they were wrong, to serve them. Greatness is a stewardship for those who have a commitment to serve others.

Everybody who have been given greatness and who is ambitious has collapsed. King Saul, Absalom, Lucifer.

You all know that when God appeared to Solomon and asked Solomon, : what should I do for you. Solomon said: give me something to serve your people and the bible said: God was happy that, that was what he asked. People generally don't ask things for others, they asked for long life, wealth, the dead of their enemies, you were not thinking of yourself, you asked for wisdom in order to serve my people, I will give you what you did even asked and God gave him greatness, not because he was ambitious but because of his spirit of service.

*Job 42:10-11*

*10 After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before.  
NIV*

God waited for Job attitude towards his friends in order to God to bless him. If Job had remained vindictive, if God had remained bitter, God would never have granted him resurrection blessings. God would not have doubled his life. It was the factor of others. The factor of freeing even his own friends by forgiving them, seeking the good of others; seeking their up greatness, seeking that they should not suffer for what they have done against him. So God gave him greatness. There is a spirit of greatness.

The younger ministers in our ministry, they frighten me. They may use the leader's name as a ladder for personal ascendancy, but there is not spirit of genuine service , but they don't know that the One we ae dealing with, God, He knows. He knows why you want the things you want; but I want God to bless our ministry with greatness. I want god to bless the leaders in our ministry with greatness, but they will have to overthrow their selfish personal ambitions.

If God does not see a commitment for others, why should God give you wealth? To help who? Why should he make multitude to love you? God sends the love of men to those in whom they have an inheritance and you cannot cheat. That is the way of greatness and that is the stewardship of greatness, and nobody can cheat.

That is another definition of loyalty. The greatest man given by God amongst men was John the Baptist who sought the greatness of another. So, this spirit of service does not mean many people. For John the Baptist, it was "that he may increase and I will decrease". That was the way of greatness

For Joshua, it was "Ly Lord Moses, et not be another prophet and God told Moses, it is that Joshua, he will care for you. Moses had told God: give me somebody who will care for this people, to go out before them and to come in before them, somebody whose life will be given for them. And God told Moses, the person who has that kind of spirit is Joshua. It was not because Joshua had ambitions for leadership, it was because he cared for Moses' things.

Pau says Timothy had that same spirit. He serves God like a father, he will naturally take care of you because of me. Either the spirit of loyalty, when it is the seeking of the greatness of another or the spirit of service which consist of leadership - for others. That is the way of greatness and that is why many have missed it, because of personal ambition.

- *Pray that God will bless many leaders in our ministry with the gift of greatness for service.*
- *Pray that God will judge the using of others for personal greatness, whether leaders using people under them or people using the leader for their greatness, So that it will be impossible, by the ways of Lucifer, to have greatness.*

The Lord Jesus prayed for greatness in order to glorify the Father (John 17: 1). Il cherchait la grandeur en vue de quelque chose. Pour le Seigneur, la grandeur n'était qu'un atout pour le service. Elle -moi pour que je puisse te servir. Pour le Seigneur c'était : donne-moi ce avec quoi je puisse te servir. Pour le Seigneur, la grandeur est un don pour le service.

Le Seigneur Jésus a prié pour la grandeur comme un don pour servir Dieu.

Il y a ce que l'ambition peut obtenir, mais il y a un meilleur chemin. Dieu donne la grandeur afin que ils puissent servir les autres. L'apôtre Paul dit, je vous montre le meilleur chemin : c'est celui d'aimer les frères. Les gens n'ont pas la grandeur spirituelle parce qu'ils n'aiment pas les frères.

- *Prie pendant ce jeûne pour toi, que Dieu te bénisse avec la grandeur spirituelle.*

I want God to bless our ministry with greatness so that we may have something to give to one billion people. We cannot be nothing and then feed one billion people.