



# Weekly Devotion

## “Tough financial times demand big faith”

Soaring gas prices and record levels of inflation are making lighter wallets for everyone these days. But even in these tough financial times, God's command to honor Him with our money still stands. We honor God by financially supporting the churches we attend. And when it comes to our giving, we should always give God the first and the best of what we have to offer. But at the same time, we'd be wise to remember that God is more concerned about the fullness of our faith than the fullness of our wallets.

Jesus Himself proved that actual physical amounts are of no consequence to God. Recall the story of His feeding the crowd of more than five thousand. The massive crowd was hungry. But no one had any food—except a little boy, who just happened to have five loaves of bread and two small fish.

The doubtful disciples looked at the boy's meager portions and said, “What are these for so many people?”

Indeed, the boy didn't have much. But he took what he had and handed it over to Jesus anyway.

The Apostle John tells us that “Jesus then took the loaves, and having given thanks, He distributed

to those who were seated; likewise also of the fish as much as they wanted. When they were filled, He said to His disciples, ‘Gather up the leftover fragments so that nothing will be lost.’ So they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten (John 6:9, 11-13).

If Jesus can fill thousands of bellies with five loaves of bread and two fish (and still have twelve baskets full of leftovers), He can definitely take whatever we give him and use it to accomplish mighty things. The little boy with the loaves and the fish didn't have much. But he gave what he had to Jesus and trusted Him to make something of it.

As that young boy proved, a man honors God not by the amount he gives, but by managing what he has with faith and responsibility. As Jesus also said, the way a man manages his money is a good reflector of his faith (Luke 12:34).

Even in tough financial times, we should likewise honor the Lord with our financial resources. A person of strong faith will honor the Lord with every area of his life—including the contents of his wallet.

The message of Jesus' feeding of the multitude is clear: Dedicate the first and the best of your money to the Lord, however much it is. Then trust in Him to reward your faith with the daily provisions your body needs.

To close, I once again point us to the comforting words of Jesus—when He encouraged His disciples to trust in their Heavenly Father to provide for those who keep their priorities straight:

“For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on...Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?...You of little faith! Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’...for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:25-34).

**Bro. Colin Trisler**  
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Pastor

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