

**God has laid his hand upon all things, both man and his possessions; for all belong to him.** He says, I am the owner of the world; the universe is mine, and I require you to consecrate to my service the first-fruits of all that I, through my blessing, have caused to come into your hands. God's word declares, "Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruits." "Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first-fruits of all thine increase." **This tribute he demands as a token of our loyalty to him.** RH

December 8, 1896

The work of God, which should be going forward with tenfold its present strength and efficiency, is kept back, like a spring season held by the chilling blast of winter, because some of God's professed people are appropriating to themselves the means that should be dedicated to His service. Because Christ's self-sacrificing love is not interwoven in the life practices, the church is weak where it should be strong. **By its own course it has put out its light, and robbed millions of the gospel of Christ....** RH October 13, 1896

Every believer should be wholehearted in his attachment to the church. **Its prosperity should be his first interest,** and unless he feels under sacred obligations to make his connection with the church a benefit to it in preference to himself, **it can do far better without him.** It is in the power of all to do something for the cause of God. There are those who spend a large amount for needless luxuries; they gratify their appetites, but feel it a great tax to contribute means to sustain the church. **They are willing to receive all the benefit of its privileges, but prefer to leave others to pay the bills.** Those who really feel a deep interest in the advancement of the cause, will not hesitate to invest money in the enterprise whenever and wherever it is needed.—Testimonies for the Church 4:18.

The great outpouring of the Spirit of God, which lightens the whole earth with His glory, **will not come until we have an enlightened people, that know by experience what it means to be laborers together with God.** When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God.

**God cannot pour out His Spirit when selfishness and self-indulgence are so manifest; when a spirit prevails that, if put into words, would express that answer of Cain,—“Am I my brother’s keeper?”** RH, July 21, 1896.

If we indeed have the truth for these last days, it must be carried to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. Ere long the living and the dead are to be judged according to the deeds done in the body, and the law of God is the standard by which they are to be tested. Then they must now be warned; God's holy law must be vindicated, and held up before them as a mirror. To accomplish this work, means is needed. **I know that times are hard, money is not plenty; but the truth must be spread, and money to spread it must be placed in the treasury.** RH October 12, 1886

Of what value is untold wealth, if it is hoarded in expensive mansions, or in bank stock? What do these weigh in the scale in comparison with the salvation of the souls for whom Christ, the Son of the infinite God, has died?—RH, December 24, 1903

**To give or to labor when our sympathies are moved, and to withhold our gifts or service when the emotions are not stirred, is an unwise and dangerous course.** If we are controlled by impulse or mere human sympathy, then a few instances where our efforts for others are repaid with ingratitude, or where our gifts are abused or squandered, will be sufficient to freeze up the springs of beneficence. **Christians should act from fixed principle, following the Saviour's example of self-denial and self-sacrifice.** RH, December 7, 1886.

However large, however small the possessions of any individual, let him remember that it is his only in trust. **For his strength, skill, time, talents, opportunities, and means,** he must render an account to God. This is an individual work; God gives to us, that we may become like Him, generous, noble, beneficent, by giving to others. RH, May 16, 1882

We should never forget that we are placed on trial in this world, to determine our fitness for the future life. None can enter heaven whose characters are defiled by the foul blot of selfishness. Therefore, **God tests us here, by committing to us temporal possessions, that our use of these may show whether we can be entrusted with eternal riches.**—RH, May 16, 1893

All the good gifts of God to man **will prove only a curse, unless he employs them to bless** his fellow men, and for the advancement of God's cause in the earth.—RH, December 7, 1886.

The spirit of liberality is the spirit of heaven. **The spirit of selfishness is the spirit of Satan.**—RH, October 17, 1882.

**The Lord does not need our offerings.** We cannot enrich Him by our gifts. Says the psalmist: “All things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee.” Yet God permits us to show our appreciation of His mercies by self-sacrificing efforts to extend the same to others. **This is the only way in which it is possible for us to manifest our gratitude and love to God.** He has provided no other.—RH, December 6, 1887.

**Not till we wish the infinite Father to cease bestowing His gifts on us, should we impatiently exclaim, Is there no end of giving?** Not only should we faithfully render to God our tithes, which He claims as His own, **but we should bring a tribute to His treasury as an offering of gratitude.** Let us with joyful hearts bring to our Creator the first fruits of all His bounties,—**our choicest possessions, our best and holiest service.** RH, February 9, 1886.

As we are continually receiving the blessings of God,  
so are we to be continually giving. **When the  
heavenly Benefactor ceases to give to us, then we  
may be excused;** for we shall have nothing to bestow.  
RH, February 9, 1886.

Many of God's people are in danger of being ensnared by worldliness and covetousness. They should understand that it is His mercy that multiplies the demands for their means. **Objects that call benevolence into action must be placed before them, or they cannot pattern after the character of the great Exemplar.** Counsels for the Church, Page 272

I speak of the tithing system; yet how meagre it looks to my mind! How small the estimate! **How vain the endeavour to measure with mathematical rules, time, money, and love against a love and sacrifice that is measureless and incomputable!** Tithes for Christ! Oh, meagre pittance, shameful recompense for that which cost so much! Testimonies for the Church 4:119

Brethren and sisters, if the Lord has blessed you with means, do not look upon it as your own. Regard it as yours in trust for God, and be true and honest in paying tithes and offerings. When a pledge is made by you, be sure that God expects you to pay as promptly as possible. **Do not promise a portion to the Lord, and then appropriate it to your own use, lest your prayers become an abomination unto Him.** It is the neglect of these plainly revealed duties **that brings darkness upon the church.** RH, December 17, 1889

**Let no one, when brought into a strait place, take money consecrated to religious purposes, and use it for his advantage, soothing his conscience by saying that he will repay it at some future time.** Far better cut down the expenses to correspond with the income, to restrict the wants, and live within the means, than to use the Lord's money for secular purposes. Testimonies for the Church 9:246, 247

Hasten, my brethren and sisters, to bring to God a faithful tithe, and to bring Him also a willing thank offering. **There are many who will not be blessed till they make restitution of the tithe which they have withheld.** God is waiting for you to redeem the past.

The hand of the holy law is laid upon every soul who enjoys God's benefits. **Let those who have kept back their tithe make an accurate reckoning, and bring to the Lord that of which they have robbed His work. Make restitution, and bring the Lord peace offerings.** "Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me." If you acknowledge that you have done wrong in misappropriating His goods, and freely and fully repent, He will forgive your transgression.—RH, December 10, 1901

**I saw that some have excused themselves from aiding the cause of God because they were in debt.** Had they closely examined their own hearts, they would have discovered that selfishness was the true reason why they brought no freewill offering to God. Some will always remain in debt. Because of their covetousness, **the prospering hand of God will not be with them to bless their undertakings.** They love this world better than they love the truth. They are not being fitted up and made ready for the kingdom of God. Testimonies for the Church 1:225

Some have felt under sacred obligations to their children. They must give each a portion, but feel themselves unable to raise means to aid the cause of God. They make the excuse that they have a duty to their children. This may be right, but their first duty is to God.... **Let no one throw in his claims and lead you to rob God. Let not your children steal your offering from God's altar for their own benefit.** Testimonies for the Church 1:220.

The Lord instructed Moses, for Israel, “Thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always.” Exodus 27:20. This was to be a continual offering that the house of God might be properly supplied with that which was necessary for His service. **His people today are to remember that the house of worship is the Lord’s property, and that it is to be scrupulously cared for.** But the funds for this work are not to come from the tithe. 7MR, 451

God has lent men talents—an intellect to originate, a heart to be the place of His throne, affection to flow out in blessings to others, a conscience to convict of sin. **Each one has received something from the Master, and each one is to do his part in supplying the needs of God's work....**

**Speech is a talent.** Of all the gifts bestowed on the human family, none should be more appreciated than the gift of speech. It is to be used to declare God's wisdom and wondrous love. Thus the treasures of His grace and wisdom are to be communicated. An indwelling Saviour is revealed by the words. But the Holy Spirit does not abide in the heart of him who is peevish if others do not agree with his ideas and plans. From the lips of such a man there come scathing remarks, which grieve the Spirit away, and develop attributes that are satanic rather than divine. **The Lord desires those connected with His work to speak at all times with the meekness of Christ. If you are provoked, do not become impatient. Manifest the gentleness of which Christ has given us an example in His life....**

**Strength is a talent, and is to be used to glorify God.** Our bodies belong to Him. He has paid the price of redemption for the body as well as for the soul.... The brain is the organ and instrument of the mind, and controls the whole body. In order for the other parts of the system to be healthy, the brain must be healthy; and in order for the brain to be healthy, the blood must be pure. **If, by correct habits of eating and drinking, the blood is kept pure, the brain will be properly nourished.** We can serve God better in the vigor of health than in the palsy of disease; therefore we should cooperate with God in the care of our bodies. Love for God is essential for life and health. Faith in God is essential for health. In order to have perfect health, our hearts must be filled with love and hope and joy in the Lord....

**Influence is a talent**, and it is a power for good when the sacred fire of God's kindling is brought into our service. The influence of a holy life is felt at home and abroad. The practical benevolence, the self-denial and self-sacrifice, which mark the life of a man, have an influence for good upon those with whom he associates....

**All the capital that many poor men have is time and physical strength; and this is frequently wasted in love of ease and in careless indolence, so that they have nothing to bring to their Lord in tithes and in offerings.** If Christian men lack wisdom to labor to the best account, and to make a judicious appropriation of their physical and mental powers, they should have meekness and lowliness of mind to receive advice and counsel of their brethren, that their better judgment may supply their own deficiencies. Many poor men who are now content to do nothing for the good of their fellow men, and for the advancement of the cause of God, might do much if they would. **They are as accountable to God for their capital of physical strength as is the rich man for his capital of money.** Testimonies for the Church 3:400.

Now is the time for all to work.... What will many answer in the day of God, when He inquires, What have ye done for Me, who gave My riches, My honor, My command, and My life to save you from ruin? The do-nothings will be speechless in that day. They will see the sin of their neglect. **They have robbed God of the service of a lifetime. They have not influenced any for good. They have not brought one soul to Jesus. They felt content to do nothing for the Master; and they meet no reward, but eternal loss.** They perish with the wicked, although they professed to be followers of Christ. RH, March 14, 1878.

**Many a man devotes months and years to the acquirement of a trade or profession that he may become a successful worker in the world; and yet he makes no special effort to cultivate those talents which would render him a successful laborer in the vineyard of the Lord. He has perverted his powers, misused his talents. He has shown disrespect to his heavenly Master. This is the great sin of the professed people of God. They serve themselves, and serve the world. RH, January 1, 1884**

**In that day those who think that God will accept meagre offerings and unwilling service will be disappointed.** God will not put His superscription upon the work of any man, high or low, rich or poor, that is not done heartily, faithfully, and with an eye single to His glory. RH, January 5, 1897

**Whether engaged in business in the field, in the warehouse, or in the counting room, men will be held responsible to God for the wise and honest employment of their talents. They are just as accountable to God for their work, as the minister who labors in word and doctrine is for his. RH, September 18, 1888.**