

ASK “PASTOR M.”
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 (“Pastor M.”)

Question #1: One of the prominent evangelists on TV says, “I believe in anticipatory tithing. If you want to make a \$100,000 next year, start by giving \$10,000 of your income. If you want to make a million dollars next year, start by giving \$100,000.” This evangelist has a reputable ministry, but I’m concerned about this particular type of teaching.

- M.B., Rhode Island

Answer: Well, M.B., first of all, let me say that tithing is biblical. God does bless tithing done from a pure heart. (Read Malachi 3:10-12.) I also believe tithing and giving are part of Kingdom of God economics. As such, God will bless and multiply proper giving into the Kingdom.

However, for a real God-given blessing to result from our giving, we must be sure that our giving is part of an overall, committed “Kingdom lifestyle.” Tithing and giving, as with all Kingdom principles, can never be turned into “gimmicks” to just produce some kind of result, which at its basis, is actually carnal. Here we really start dealing with something *very subtle* – what is the motive of our heart? Paul warns Christians that our lives will be evaluated at Christ’s judgment seat according to the QUALITY of our work (1 Corinthians 3:13). A teaching such as “anticipatory tithing” could easily become an attempt to put a “righteous looking cover” on a greedy heart.

Still, we must remember that God does promise to bless and multiply proper giving into the Kingdom of God. Jesus brought the Kingdom to this world to give “nobodies” a chance to become “somebodies” in the Kingdom. Jesus takes the poor, the sick, the throw-aways of society and turns them into righteous, valuable jewels in His crown. Kingdom economics is part of Jesus’ overall program of restoring people to wholeness. Kingdom economics gives people a chance to operate in a financial system controlled by God and which is not subject to the ups and downs of the world’s economic system. God will bring a person out of a poverty background into a place of godly abundance where they can live honorably without the pressure of bill collectors constantly hounding them and God will supply them with a job and the means to support their family and enjoy life in a godly way. This is the essence of godly prosperity – finding God’s will and being successful in it. Psalm 1 and Psalm 112 are clear statements of God’s

plan of prosperity for His people.

In 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 the apostle Paul gives us sound guidelines for proper giving: 1) If you sow bountifully, you will reap bountifully. Sow sparingly and you'll reap sparingly. 2) Give with a cheerful heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion. 3) If you really want to be a blessing to others, God will make sure you always have enough to be a blessing to others. If you really want to sow into the Kingdom, God will even supply the seed to sow. 4) You will be enriched in everything. First, you'll have the joy of being a blessing. Second, you'll have the joy of receiving a blessing.

Someone could, I suppose, practice anticipatory tithing with a pure heart so they could prosper to be more of a blessing to others. It is possible. But we also have to be careful of the devil's subtle snares of getting greed to take root in our heart. My advice is tithe and give on *what you have*, not on *what you want*. Then God will always supply you with a prosperity and rate of increase that is spiritually safe for you. Financial giving is *part* of the Kingdom lifestyle, not the *essence* of Kingdom living; serving Jesus is the essence.

Question #2 (also from M.B.): Some people say demons are fallen angels. I've also heard that they are spirit offspring of unions between female humans and fallen angels. Is scripture clear on where demons come from?

Answer: The fact that there is so much debate on the origin of demons shows that the subject is obscure. The late Derek Prince, who had a powerful deliverance ministry, lists two possibilities: 1) Demons are fallen angels associated with Satan in his rebellion against God, or 2) They are disembodied spirits of a pre-Adamic race that perished under some judgment of God not recorded in detail in scripture. Prince then states, "I do not believe that scripture provides us with sufficient evidence to say with certainty which, if either, of these theories is correct." (pg. 91, *They Shall Expel Demons*.) Prince does suggest that from his own experience in ministry, he leans toward the second theory.

I believe there are three main theories (and I emphasize they are theories) concerning the origin of demons. I will try to briefly summarize and evaluate each position.

1. Some believe demons are the spirit offspring of unions between female humans and fallen angels. Proponents cite Genesis 6:1-4 and Jude 7 for this view. I personally have extreme difficulty with this view and reject it. In Matthew 23:29-30 Jesus made clear that angels do not have capacity for sexuality. While an evil spirit may have a capacity for lust and may enter and control a human body to find expression for its lust in the physical world, there is no scriptural confirmation that a spirit being can have sexual

intercourse with a female and produce a spirit offspring. Given if the “sons of God” of Genesis 6 were fallen angels, the outcome was a giant human being, not spirits. I personally believe the sons of God were sons of Seth and the daughters of Cain, and there was no sexual intercourse between fallen angels and humans. I believe Jude 7 refers to angels walking away from godliness to live evil lives.

2. A second view is that demons are the disembodied spirits of personal beings of a pre-Adamic creation that existed between Genesis 1:1,2. These beings came under God’s judgment when He judged the first earthly creation and its administrator Lucifer. These pre-Adamite beings lost their bodies in the judgment and are condemned to wander the earth during this current dispensation of time. Because they are disembodied, they try to inhabit humans to express their evil and perverse desire as they did during their original state of being. Among Bible teachers who subscribe to this theory are Dr. Finis Dake and Derek Prince. There is some merit to this view. It is, however, like most ideas of a pre-Adamic creation, highly speculative. While there is nothing contrary to scripture in such a theory, there is no direct evidence to confirm, only circumstantial speculation.

3. A third view is that demons are actually fallen angels. Surprisingly many Bible teachers reject this, citing Jude 7 and 1 Peter 2:4 as evidence that fallen angels are currently captive in the Abyss or pit. Scripturally, it seems certain some fallen angels are confined to the Abyss. However, I think it is also an inescapable truth that some fallen angels are still on the loose in the earth. Paul writes about our war being “against principalities and powers” in Ephesians 6:12. These are ranks of angelic powers. Paul also speaks in several places of the “rulers of this age” clearly referring to evil angelic powers. So, while I believe there are angels confined to the Abyss, there are also evil angels still in our earthly realm. Satan is the ruler of the entire kingdom of darkness and he runs a very strict, wicked organization at propagating sin, evil and suffering throughout the earth. So, even if demons originated as theory #2 proposes, they still take orders from Satan and his ruling principalities and powers. I personally favor the theory that demons are part of the different ranks of fallen angels, but I can’t say absolutely they are not the disembodied spirits of a pre-Adamic creation.

But wherever demons came from, we know their ultimate destination – the Lake of Fire. And we know the authority we have over them is the same authority we have over Satan and fallen angels – the name of Jesus, the blood of Jesus, and the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18).