



## *Stingy and cheap, but in love with a faithful God!*

by Daryl Storey  
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First of all, I have a small confession to make ... I am cheap.

Wait. not only am I cheap I am also stingy!

But through all of this tightfistedness, I still feel called to offer a portion of my income back to God. And I am doing so, at 10% of my net income, which is not a lot. But it is an amount that I will feel.

It wasn't always like this. I mean, I was always cheap and I was always stingy ... But fortunately, I am married to someone who is not. in fact, Pete is so beautifully generous with his time, money and

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spirit that he is really the one that should be up here talking.

But you get me.

For the past several years, Pete and I have combined our incomes and tithed a portion of the total, a generous amount. Pete filled out the pledge card, Pete wrote the checks and Pete put the money in the bank that actually covered the checks. As a result of this, I never felt the money leave our account. I never missed it. (Pete might have, but he never said so.)

And I could have gone on this way for a good long time. However, when Bishop Greg Rickel was here at our stewardship kick off dinner, he mentioned a few things that got me to thinking.

One was that we are hardwired, we are MADE to want to give back to God. There is something in us, that in giving back to Him, blesses us so much that we want to give back in return. We are so richly blessed.

Secondly, he said that a part of that process was in the sacrificial act itself. That there was SACRIFICE involved. So in tithing or pledging, part of the importance was to actually FEEL that there is a sacrifice in returning to God what is rightfully His.

So, that one kinda got me. After all, I wasn't feeling it in the least. And I got to thinking some more... about how God is always faithful, His promise that we will not want, and He has shown that to me time and time and time again. I don't think that I am really worried that I won't have enough, as God always provides.

So, I'm giving it a shot. I'm already straining at the bit now, having taken on some new payments, thanks to my Verizon "bundle"... and a teenage driver on my auto insurance ... that one hurts!

But I know that God will take care of me. And in taking this leap of faith, it's really more about the leap itself than the dollar amount.

God wants us to show Him that we trust him. That we know He will take care of us. By leaping off the ledge He gives us the opportunity to do just that.

Stingy? Yep. Cheap? You betcha! But in love with a God that is loving, faithful, ever giving and always true.



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