



Lesson 6: “What Do You Value Most?”

By

Reverend Tiate Carson

Minister of Stewardship & Development
Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral of NY

Someone said it best when they stated, “If you ever want to know what people value most, just look in their checkbook.” People pay their mortgage or rent because they value living in a home. They pay their light and water bills because they value having lights and running water. They make sure that they pay their cable bill, because they value the 200 plus premium channels that they are able to watch. People also, faithfully pay their tithes, because they value storing up treasure in heaven that is recession proof.

Not only does what is listed in your checkbook represent what you value the most, but it also represents what you place your trust in. Be careful of not placing more trust in Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Verizon, Macy’s, and the like, than you do in God. Many times, the first thing that gets sacrificed during hard financial times is our giving to God. We believe that because God knows that we have fallen on hard times that He will give us a pass, until times get better. Unfortunately, this line of thinking is spiritually flawed. Do you realize that your giving to God what is rightfully His (tithe) opens the windows of heaven to provide for you everything that you need? In other words, I can’t wait until I have what I need to plant the seed, because the seed prepares the way for the harvest. This beloved is not a money issue. It is a trust issue. Isn’t it amazing that people are willing to entrust their souls to God, but not their money?

Matthew 6:19-21 states, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” This scripture is not an admonition against you saving for your future. It is, however, a warning against placing your trust in things that are temporal versus things that are eternal. You are not your possessions and your livelihood is not dependent on what you have. God is your ultimate source and provider. Remember, whatever people value most, they will make an investment in. May God continue to bless you during your 90-Day Tithe journey! Feel free to email any testimonials, correspondence, or questions to us at tithechallenge@allencathedral.org.