

TITHING YOUR TIME

INTRODUCTION

Occasionally I have noticed on some of the brothers' faces, that they were worried about the schedule for becoming a full time worker. But God has a solution for that. God wants to help you. As a matter of fact God wants to do a miracle in your life. And I believe that God has brought you to this meeting to do a miracle in your life. I believe that this particular lecture will help you to be in tune to God's will for your life.

Let us see, who has heard of tithing? Everybody has already heard about it? Who has already had an opportunity to begin practicing it? Oh, all right a good beginning already. Now giving part of your money to God is only one small part of your whole life. There are many other things that God gives to you besides money. He has given you a beautiful brain. How often do you thank God that you wake up with a good functioning brain? How often have you thanked God that you woke up in the morning and you are not insane? I am sure I can guarantee that a large portion of you here have never even thought of it. You have just taken it for granted. You never stopped to thank God for it. It is time that you tithe some of your mind to God. It is time you tithed some of your body to God. It is time you started thinking of tithing some of your family to God.

Many mothers in the Bible and some fathers in the Bible gave their children to the service of God. All of my children were dedicated to God before they were born. Some of my children were dedicated to God before they were conceived in the womb. I love Jesus Christ and everything I have, everything I am, I give to him. Certainly, you want to give God some of your time. That is what we are going to talk about, giving God some of your time. Time so you can teach other people about Jesus Christ. Maybe you can disciple other believers with a course. Maybe you can teach some unbelievers with some lessons from the book of John. Having Bible classes for unbelievers is one of the very best ways to evangelize. Oh, I am so glad about the Adventists in the Ukraine. In many places they have rented halls and held weekly Bible classes for unbelievers. Hallelujah! It is beautiful! You can do the same thing. The first thing we want to talk about is:

I. FULL THROTTLE

A. Whatever you find to do, do it with all your might



Full throttle — Do you know what full throttle is? Who here drives a car or a tractor? Ok. When you give the vehicle “full throttle” that means you press the pedal right through the floor. And the people standing on the street hear “Eeeeeeeeee.” And they see your car taking off zig-zagging across the road. That is what we are talking about.

Ecclesiastes tells us, *“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might”* (Ecclesiastes 9:10). When I have a conference I have it with all my might. When I sleep — and I do not sleep very much, I like to sleep four hours a night. When I sleep, I sleep with all my might. When I get close to my bed, I say good night to my wife and then “zz zzz zzz,” and my wife is still lying awake.

I want to follow the Bible here. Just get going and do it with all my might. A lot of people say, “Yes, we should do that. How are we going to do that? And when will be a good time?” “I cannot do this alone.” And, “I need permission from the pastor.” And, “What will the district superintendent say about it?” I like to just roll up my sleeves and get going.

One of the big problems Ukrainian immigrants have is that they do not know how to adjust to a hard working society. There are many complaints about it. Every couple of months I hear some comments from somebody about Ukrainians who find it hard to adjust in America.

B. Diligent hands bring wealth

Diligent hands are always busy. It is interesting to watch the hands of people. When you are on a bus or when you are on a train, you look at a man's hands, they do nothing, you look at a woman's hands, they are always doing something. At the same time the mouth is going too. It is true. A woman's hands are much busier than a man's hands. And who gets the credit for raising good children? The hands of the father or the hands of the mother? The hands of the mother.



“Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth” (Proverbs 10:4). So learn to be busy all the time. Have some notes with you that you can review. Have pockets full of little Bible verses from the *“Basic Christian Life course”*. And you just take a look at it, whenever you have a moment. Carry some Four Spiritual Laws pamphlets with you, and when you are waiting for the bus, begin talking to somebody about Jesus Christ.

C. The desires of the diligent will be satisfied

How many people have you heard give a testimony about how God called them to do spiritual work saying: “I was just sitting at home in my rocking chair, and I was just relaxing and having a good time, and all of a sudden God called me. And God said, ‘I want you to do some spiritual work.’” Who has ever heard a testimony like that? God just does not call lazy people. If you desire to be used by Jesus Christ, you better get busy.

“The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.” (Proverbs 13:4).

D. All hard work brings profit

We have the story of the talents. People were given a small gift with which they could experiment how they were going to use it. Afterwards their boss came back and said, “Oh, you did a good job. Here, I will give you a whole bunch.” *“The desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.”* (Proverbs 13:4).

Oh, here is a beautiful thing in Proverbs 14:23: *“All hard work brings profit.”* I have done so many different things. I remember working in the coal mines, hacking away at the coal underneath the ground. I remember working 48 hours without stopping, driving a tractor, and more hours than that! Oh it is wonderful to think that all that work was bringing profit. If you pray about your work and dedicate it to Jesus Christ, everything you do will profit. ***It may profit you. It may profit your wife. It may profit your children. It may profit God. It may profit your boss. It may profit your church.*** There are all kinds of profits. And many times you yourself won't even notice it, or even see it.

II. THE “HOW” OF WORK

A. You should not need to be checked up on

How should you do your work? An example is set before us in 2 Kings 12:15. Some men were fixing the temple. They received much money for buying the materials, paying the workmen, and making the repairs. What does it say about these men in the Bible? The royal secretary and the high priest *“did not require an accounting from those to whom they gave the money to pay the workers, because they acted with complete honesty.”* Nobody checked up on them because they were very faithful people. They were totally trustworthy.

But what was happening in Ukraine some time ago? Just look around at the building sites as an example. It is the first week of the month. People have just been paid last week and the crane just stands there. The second week of the month, the crane moves around a couple of times. Oh, you can see there is somebody there, and they are not sleeping. The third week you see the crane working. You see people climbing up and down. Then the fourth week, you see everybody is running around in a big panic because the boss said, “Next week is payday. It will be the end of the month and we have not met our quota yet.” So everybody is in a panic and the crane is going around and around.

That is not God's plan. God wants everybody to do a little bit better than what they think they can do. Let that be your spiritual standard. Try to do a little bit better than what you think is possible. Oh, that is a beautiful spiritual standard for which God can bless you.

B. Your work should be above reproach

In our lecture on "Biblical Principles of Management", we had this phrase — **"above reproach."** Daniel was above reproach. People were looking at his work. People were wondering about what he was doing. People were angry and upset with him. People were hoping to find some fault in him. They were waiting for him to do something wrong. On the tip of their tongues there were always the words "yes, but..." But there was nothing to say, they could not say anything. He was above reproach. *"At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent."* (Daniel 6:4)

In Timothy we receive some instructions for church leaders. The man of God must be **above reproach**. Yes! That is God's standard for you. What is your standard? What is my standard? Often my standard is, "Oh well, I don't know. That is good enough." When I am saying it is good enough, I am saying, "I know it could be better but, I do not want to." Later we will see how that very idea of "It is good enough" is sin. If you know you can do it better, but you say, "It is ok", — that is sin. It is not acceptable to God.



III. THE CRUX OF THE MATTER

(The crux of the matter is the central focus point of the matter.)

A. Do not work for your daily food

I have been throwing around some hand grenades during this conference. But here is a bomb. In John 6:27 Jesus says, *"Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life which the Son of Man will give you."* Jesus is giving you instructions, "Do not work for food." Do not work for clothes, do not work for these physical things of life. Jesus is saying, "Did you forget? For forty years I fed and clothed 6 million people and they did not have to work." It is a very interesting phrase here in the Bible, *"Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life."* What is Jesus telling us? He is telling us, "Quit your job; start doing spiritual work." Why are you messing around working in the factory? Why are you messing around working on a farm when you can teach and preach? These are God's instructions, but He needs people who want to believe these instructions.

B. How God supplies

I shared this in Chernovtsy several years ago. A month later a brother named Yaroslav came to me and asked, "What do you want me to do? I have already quit my job." And slowly God began to supply his need and the needs of many other brothers. Some of them had to suffer for several months. But in time many of them found new opportunities by which God provided for their wives and for their families. Let us look at

Deuteronomy 29:5. This is the verse I was talking to you about, how God supplies. For forty years God supplied. *"During the forty years that I led you through the desert, your clothes did not wear out, nor did the sandals on your feet. You ate no bread and drank no wine or other fermented drink. I did it so that you might know that I am the Lord your God."* God wants to do miracles in your life. He wants to do miracles in my life. I remember the time when we did not have enough money to pay the rent. After a month our income was less than the rent for the house. But nobody died. My wife did not die.



C. The failure of a “do it yourself” program

The failure of a do it yourself program. Haggai 1:6 tells us about that, “You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.” They were earning wages to put them in a purse with holes in it. This is a hard fact. You can laugh at it easily, but we will need to face Jesus Christ with this fact.

D. Pursue doing good, instead of just doing

Pursue doing good, instead of just doing. Psalm 34:14 says, “*Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.*” So many people love to just **be doing**. You talk to the senior pastor or superintendent? and he says, “I want you to take some communion to some old folks, and then go and preach in the prison, and tomorrow help us build a new building and then in the evening I want you to preach. Then do this and that and that.” You are also doing this and doing that, running all over the place. You are so busy. But have you done any good? Are there results?

What do we read about Jesus Christ? Over and over we read again that Jesus went about **doing good**. There are hundreds of people doing evangelism in Ukraine. It is wonderful. Praise the Lord. I am all for it. But **who is training church leaders?** There are three million new believers from the Jesus film alone. And there are others. Where are those three million people? Are they in your church? Do you have three million people in your church? I do not see them in the church. Why? Because there is no shepherd. Nobody is taking care of them. Start doing good. Jesus says, “Go into all the world, and continue teaching all the things that I have told you.” The big need in all of Ukraine is training church leaders. It is good to teach boys and girls. But it is even better to train other teachers.

E. The holiness slogan

James 4:17 is my most favorite verse in the Bible. It says, “*Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.*” What are you saying? “Oh it is good enough.” As soon as you say, “It is good enough,” you are sinning. Because, at the moment you say that, you know it could be better.

You were serving the Lord as a Christian. Three months ago you were an ordinary church member. Everybody said you were a good church member. Then you started to study the Bible and began to grow spiritually. All of a sudden, that which was “good enough,” is no longer good enough. Last week you were doing a little bit of this for God and a little bit of that for the church, and it was good enough. Next Monday after this conference, you are going to go and do a little bit of this and a little bit of that, and your conscience is going to say, “It is not good enough. You can do better. If you are not going to do better it is going to be sin.” God is setting a new standard for you. The Bible says: “*From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.*” (Luke 12:48).

F. Look at some of the Biblical examples

We have:

- 1) Andrew brought Peter to Jesus.
- 2) Peter's mother got up immediately after she got healed and started serving Jesus.
- 3) Matthew immediately followed Jesus. He did not say, “What will my friends say about it?”
- 4) Zacchaeus. Jesus said to him: “Come down from this tree right now. I must be in your house today.”
- 5) We already talked about the apostle Paul.

He did not say, “Forgive me.” He said, “Jesus, what do you want me to do? I have got two healthy feet. I have got two healthy hands. I have two eyes, and I have got a big mouth. What do you want me to do?” And God said, “Preach the Gospel.” What does the Bible say about your mouth? It says, “Open your mouth wide,” and God says, “**I will fill it.**” Start opening your mouth and talking about Jesus Christ.

G. To be great is to serve

Not great like worldly people think of. "Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must first be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all." (Mark 10:43&44). Jesus came to minister, not to be ministered to. Let us look at the very best example we have in the Bible.

IV. THE BEST EXAMPLE: JESUS

A. Jesus became a servant

Philippians 2:7 says that Jesus *"made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant."* I am sure if He was married He would get out of bed first and let His wife sleep a little longer in the morning. He came to serve. If there is something you notice about Jesus, it is surely that He was always doing something nice for somebody. He was helping them. He was healing them. He was counseling them.



B. Jesus said: "I desire to do your will, O my God." (Psalm 40:8)

What a beautiful thought. How I wish I could just open up some of your heads right now, pull off some of the hair and look inside to see some of your ideas. *"I desire to do your will, O my God."* (Psalm 40:8). God called Moses saying, "I want you to serve me." What did Moses say? "I don't want to, I don't want to." As a result he reaped a lifetime of troubles. God called Jeremiah. What was his response? "I do not want to." And he also reaped a life time of trouble. God called Isaiah. And what was Isaiah's response? "I will go. I will go."

This is an opportunity now for you to measure your heart. What is the desire of your heart? I cannot think of anything more beautiful than, *"I desire to do your will."* Jesus also said that.

C. Jesus also said: "My food ...is to do the will of him who sent me." John 4:34

The disciples had walked miles to the town to buy bread. Then they carried it all the way back. They spent all their energy; they ate all the bread; and they were back where they started from. And they asked Jesus, "Are you not going to eat?" "I do not need to. It is not necessary. My food is to do the will of God." We cannot find better examples than this. Let these examples be a challenge to us.

V. THE CHALLENGE

A. Jesus assigned His work to us

In Mark 13:34 Jesus describes his going away, "It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch." He has given to each one a charge. Everyone has an assigned job. When I asked you what your spiritual gifts were, most of you did not know. I think it is time to get on your knees and say, "God, what is the task that you have for me?" God has a plan for you! And His desire is that you will fulfill that plan. That is the most beautiful thing that can happen in your life.

B. Work in order to share

Ephesians. 4:28 says, *"He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need."* God wants you to have abundantly more than what you need. God wants you to have enough so you can share with other people.

C. Be devoted to serve the saints

We read in 1 Corinthians 16:15 about the household of Stephen who was a very early believer. Paul said of them, *"They have devoted themselves to the service of the saints."* That family, the whole family, devoted themselves to serve the saints. Have you ever been in a store here and noticed the service you get? You say, "May I see that please?" The sales person looks grim and slams something on the counter. "Can I have that please?" The sales woman frowns. "How much does it cost?" As an answer you get a shrug, or if you are lucky they may point to a sign somewhere. That is the service you get. I do not think that is the kind of service the Bible is talking about here. This whole family devoted themselves, dedicated themselves, to make life for the believers nice and comfortable.

D. Do something good to those who trouble you

Luke 6:35 says, *"But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked."*

Who is your enemy? Is it Yeltsin? You have never met Yeltsin. I do not think it is Yeltsin. Is it Saddam Hussein? You have never met these people. Who is your enemy? Your enemy is the other church member that you do not want to sit beside. He is sitting right there and you come into church and take your cap off, you say a prayer, you look at him and say, "I will sit over here." That is your enemy, the person with whom you do not feel comfortable.

Who is the enemy in your building? It is the neighbor who just gets in the elevator when you come and you think, "Well, I will go up the stairs." That is your enemy, and God has put that enemy very close to you, so you can see what satan is like, and so they can see what Jesus is like. God expects you to do extra nice things for this man. "Here let me carry your bag." "Oh my, you got yourself dirty on the wall; I will wipe that off for you."

Lots of little things, extra little things for people about whom you feel a little bit negative. Is there anybody here who does not have any person about whom he feels negative? I think most of you can get very busy next week. You do not need to do a lot of praying, you just need to roll up your sleeves and get started. That is all. *"Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."* (James 4:17).

VI. THE DEMAND

A. An abundance of free time demands sharing

"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." (Luke 12:48). God has given you time. And the minimum you can do, is to give God 10% of your time. God has given you 168 hours every week. And you can give him maybe 16 hours. Maybe you are thinking about your working hours. In the lecture **"Making A Weekly Plan" (TM2)** we note that a normal working week is about 45 hours. I think God would be very pleased if every week you gave him **four and a half hours** to do His spiritual work. You have so many wonderful opportunities just waiting for you to dedicate them to God.

B. If you are not contributing you are destroying

You cannot be neutral. You cannot be neutral. You cannot just sit in church and be a good church member. Proverbs 18:9 says, *"One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys."* Now there is a person in the church that is very critical and negative. He never does anything except complain. And you think, "Thank God, I am not like that person." The Pharisees also said that. You are so happy that you are a nice decent church member. But this verse says that if you are not doing anything, you are a brother of the person who is destroying. You are the same, you are doing things together. Either you are contributing or you are destroying. Either you are building up or you are tearing down. Either you are doing evangelism, you help new people to become Christians, or you are destroying the church of God.

C. You are expected to work abundantly

1 Corinthians 15:58 says, *"Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."* You are expected to work abundantly. You are not expected to work normally. You are not expected to work just hard. The Bible says you are to **work abundantly**. Abundantly means more than what is expected. An abundant harvest is when you have many more cherries from your trees than you expected.

Either you are becoming a beautiful believer, helping many brothers and sisters in the church, or you are destroying the spiritual standards of young people in your church. They are looking for a hero. They are looking for a heroine. They are looking for a Godly example, and they are expecting something very special. They have high ideals. What are you doing?

VII. THE FINAL INVENTORY

A. Jesus wanted to complete His work. John 4:34

John 4:34 says, *"My food ...is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."* Jesus had a driving passion to finish the work that God had given him to do. Everything he did had a purpose. He waited for three days after Lazarus had died, so that God could be glorified. Another time the Bible says, "He must absolutely go through Samaria." And that is what he did, and people got saved.

B. Jesus did complete His work

Jesus prayed, *"I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do."* (John 17:4) He hung on the cross and said, "It is finished. I have done it. I have completed it. **There is nothing left to do.** I do not need to live another day. Everything that God wanted me to do, **I have done it!!!!**" He shouted it out to the whole crowd, "It is finished!!" What a beautiful exclamation. Are you going to say that on the last day of your life?

C. Paul wanted to complete his job

Here is my Bible College graduation Bible verse: Acts 20:24, ***"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me -- the task of testifying the gospel of God's grace."***

D. Paul did complete his job

Later on in Timothy, we read that Paul did complete his job. He says, *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."* (2 Timothy 4:7). There are hundreds of believers that say, "If I could only live my life over again. If only I had another chance. If only I could live longer."

E. Dorcas was always doing good

In Acts 9:36 Dorcas is described as a woman who, *"was always doing good and helping the poor."* She was **always** doing good. Not some of the time. She was not just doing. She was doing good, all the time, from the time she got up, until the time she laid down.

F. Be a doer. That is what counts. Matthew 21:28-31

Be a doer, that is what counts. It is very nice to have you here. It is wonderful, but this is not the real test. Next month, and two months from now, I am going to get testimonies from some of the other leaders that

are here, and they are going to tell me how you are changing your spiritual life. They are going to tell me the new decisions you made. They will tell me about those of you who are going to ***tithe ten percent of your time*** to God. Then I will have many sleepless nights. I will lay on my bed and I will cry and I will say, "Hallelujah! It was worth everything I did, because the harvest is white and now we have new workers for the harvest. Amen."

CONCLUSION

- A. **Decide to work only for eternal life.**
- B. **Share your spare time — In your spare time, start doing something spiritual.**
- C. **Tithe your business time — Give *ten percent* of all your working time to God.**
- D. **Do not get caught in James 4:17.**

Work only for eternal life. I hope you will pray about that. Not everybody can do that. I understand that. But the desire can be in your heart. Let me share with you a few ideas how you can do that.

- E. **Suggested Project: How to begin working only for eternal life.**

Memorize, Review and Meditate on these vital verses over the coming year.

1. Brag about it. Matt 5:16
2. Be rich. 1 Tim 6:18
3. Keep purrin' and spurrin'. Heb 10:24
4. Keep what you have got. Rom 12:11
5. Just do not forget. Heb 13:16
6. Deliver the proof. James 2:18

How do I transfer from doing normal work to doing spiritual work only?

- 1) Restudy this message on tithing your time.
- 2) If you are going to change your work it needs to be of faith.
- 3) You must have total peace in your heart that this is what God wants you to do.

(I was 32 years old when I felt before God that I would never do secular work again. I was very impressed to only do spiritual work. I took a spade and I walked around the house in the back yard and I said, "God, I am planting this spade here, and I will never ever work in an ordinary place just to eat." I had complete peace about it.)

- 4) You need training to do full time spiritual work.
- 5) You need to be aware that temptations will come. Everything you do spiritually will be attacked somehow.

Let us say you have prayed about this and you are beginning to plan towards a full time ministry.

- 1) Write down a proposed work schedule. Make a plan of what you will do spiritually, or all of a sudden you will be sitting at home doing nothing.
- 2) Make an itemized list of your financial needs.

"We need this much for food; this much for the apartment rent; I need so much for travel in my spiritual work." If you do not know what you need, how can you pray for it? How can you ask God for something when you do not know what you need? Make a list of your regular weekly needs.
- 3) Make a proposed final date of your secular work.

Remember when you are doing each of these points you are praying all the time about each one of these points. And now you are beginning to pray about the last day of your secular work. For example, "Lord, I believe I could start doing evangelism beginning the 1st of June." You write that down, "May 31st is the last day of my secular work." Then you begin to pray, "God, there are only 90 more days until May 31st. God, there are only 89 days until May 31st ...etc." And expect a miracle. Maybe you say you want to work through the summer and then in September you want to become a teacher. It has to be something between you and Jesus Christ.

4) A proposed plan of new financial provision.

If you go home on Sunday evening and tell your wife, "I am going to quit working," she may just be a little nervous. She says, "Well, that is fine for you, but what about me and the six children?" So while you are praying, you are asking God to give you a new plan. A plan by which God is going to give you **more money in less time**. I believe God can do that for every one of us. I believe God can give more money in less time to every one of you, whether you become a full time worker or not. Most people spend too much time working for clothes and food. It is not necessary. Transferring to spiritual work is a step of faith. Some other brother said, "I am going to go to Poland in June, July and August, then I am going to teach all winter." It is a beautiful idea. There are many other ways by which God can give you more money in a shorter period of time.

My dearest brothers, both the harvest and the Lord of the harvest is waiting. Just Say "YES! I am going to do it! You can count on me!" Let us make the angels sing today. Amen, may God bless you richly.

Blessings to you, our dear friends!

We are happy to present the video, audio and paper materials that have been prepared by **New Life for Churches**. You have the privilege *upon completion of your practical assignment* to use this lecture with others.

Practical assignment

Completed

- With your wife, continue to pray about God's challenge and expectations for you

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