



## **What is in Your Hand? (Pt#2)**

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### **Introduction:**

We began talking last week about what is in your hand. We talked about strength, ability and authority. The principles that we considered included the fact that little is much when God is in it. It can be simple and ordinary, and even small compared to what the need is, but if given to God obediently, miraculous things will happen. Don't grasp it too tightly, give it to God.

### **Exodus 4:2 - Then the Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied.**

As we continue to ponder this question God asked Moses.....what is in your hand.....we want to look this morning at the resources and tools that God has placed in our hand.

The same principles apply to resources and tools as apply to strength, ability and authority. So often we think that what we have and what God needs are so far apart that it would be difficult to be stretched as far as the need is for the job to get done. With God all things are possible.

### **I. Time is in our hands**

When God made the heaven and the earth, He made day and night. In the third chapter of the book of Ecclesiastes, we read there is a time for every purpose under heaven. God made time and so He has given us the time we have for a purpose. There is a purpose to work, to play, to build, and to tear down. Each of us has the same measurement of hours and moments in a day. It is what we do with that time that counts for God.

I was reading in my devotional time this week about the number of days one lives on this earth. If we live to be 80 years old we will have lived 29,200 days. I figured it up just for the fun of it and since I'm now 52 years and 7 days old I have lived 18,987 days. Scriptures instruct us that we should number our days so we may learn wisdom and grow thereby.

Think of it that each day and each hour we live, brings us that much closer to the end of this life and eternity. How are we using the resource of our time?

In a lifetime the average American will spend:

Six months sitting at stoplights  
Eight months opening junk mail  
One year looking for misplaced objects  
2 years unsuccessfully returning phone calls  
4 years doing housework  
5 years waiting in line  
6 years eating

Survey of 6000 people polled in 1988, *U.S. News and World Report*, Jan 30, 1989, p. 81.

Seize the time we have been given. Grasp it and use it to the fullest extent that you can.

There are lots of wasted hours sitting in front of our TVs. Sometimes we think that is family time but is it really? There is very little communication between the individuals in the family because we have to be quiet to watch and hear what is being said. There are not many Biblical values that are reinforced on most TV shows. Just think how many people you and I



3. God is a great big wonderful God, and he can take our little and make something big out of it.

God cannot use anything we've got until we let go of it. He will not force us to give up anything, but when we willingly offer it to Him, He can do great things with it.

Well, just like the resource of time, God places through our hands the resource of finances and we are the ones who get to manage it. We can squander it, or we can hoard it. We can give it or we can clutch it.

There is a scripture in proverbs that speaks of this principle

**Proverbs 11:24**

**There is one who scatters, yet increases all the more, And there is one who withholds what is justly due, but *it results only in want.***

Can I share with you that God doesn't put the resource of money in our hands just for us? He trusts us with this resource to be a blessing to us and others.

What is in your hands, and what are you doing with it?

There is a principle in the scriptures called tithing. God established this principle not because He needed people to give Him anything. Everything that we see

**Conclusion:**

I want to ask you again this morning— consider what is in your hand. What has God placed there? What are you doing with it?

was His creation and belongs to Him anyway. But the principle of tithing is that one tenth of everything God trusts you with should be given to God. Tithing and giving are good for us. They help us trust God. Tithing is one tenth. One penny out of 10 cents, 1 dollar out of 10 dollars, 10 dollars out of 100, 100 out of 1000. It isn't that God needs that. We need to practice that so our faith is strengthened, and we have the proof that God is trustworthy.

Suzy Orman has written books and spoken at seminars about being financially independent. From the things I've read that she has written, there are sound financial principles in what she writes. I am not aware if she claims to be a Christian, but in her talks and books, the principle of giving is very clear.

There are resources that God blesses us with and it's not just money. Perhaps it is the resource of time. If we tithed the resources of time and money to God, it would change our life and change the people we attempt to reach. Think of it! 24 hours a day would be spent serving God every day, in devotion, in witnessing, in preparing to serve those in need, in ministry in the kingdom. Sometimes we have a hard time spending an hour and a half in worship and service once a week.

Just think, one dollar out of every 10 would be given to God's work and invested in ministry and the work of spreading the gospel. What a harvest there would be!