

Kingdom News

Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever... (Matt. 6:13)

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Mediums of Exchange

Forms of Currency

Currency, (although not a legal definition) enables the transfer of good/services. Money is one medium of exchange within various systems of currencies.

In America, cash is a form of currency. Bank/cashier's checks, credit/debit cards and money orders are other forms of currency or mediums of exchange. There was a time when U.S. currency was backed by a gold standard. This meant that for every unit of money, there was a corresponding measure of gold that substantiated its worth. Under the gold standard, institutions (for the U.S. that would be the Central Bank) that issued currency agreed to supply (upon demand) gold in exchange for their money/treasury notes. At this time, gold "as a standard" is not currently used by any government. (3/30/08 ref. to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gold_standard)

In the Kingdom of God, "faith" is a form of currency. "Giving" and "obedience" are other forms of currency or mediums of exchange; but these must unequivocally be accompanied by faith. "Love" is the economic policy that governs all mediums of exchange; in the Kingdom. For the sake of this discussion we'll focus on faith's operation as a medium of exchange. In the Kingdom "faith" is still

Medium of Exchange

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The Leadership Corner *Leadership Living, Inc.*

When God Tells You What to Do When Should You Do it?

This is an interesting question. God speaks to Christians quite frequently and in many different forums. We do not always realize that it's God talking to us, but there are times when we can tell without a doubt that He is speaking directly to us. So, when we do understand that God is indeed speaking to us, what is our role? Well, it depends in part on what God is saying. Of course, we should always listen with a heart of faith. In addition, it is helpful if we can determine if God is sharing with us information about who He is or what He will do in our lives, or if He is giving us instructions.

When God shares information, it is always good to ponder it and allow the word to penetrate our hearts. It is often useful to compare it to what the written Word of God has said. *Revealed* Word will never contradict *written* Word. In this case, our role is to receive what God has said. We may or may not choose to share what was spoken by God with others. On the other hand, there are times when God gives us specific instructions (i.e. get up an hour early tomorrow, cook dinner, take a class, apologize to someone, etc.). In these instances we may again ponder what He says and allow the word to penetrate our hearts, but we really need to do a bit more. We need to obey ... ***immediately!!***

That's right. The moment we understand what God is telling us to do, we need to start moving in

that direction. By expeditious obedience, we honor God and show respect for His leadership and intervention. Responding to God slowly (or procrastinating) has the reverse effect.

Recently the Lord told me to have a second phone line installed at my home. Now, while I could definitely use the additional line (especially to utilize a fax machine), I had not planned to do so anytime soon. But, I knew that at the point that I understood what God was telling me to do, I had to start moving in that direction. So, I shared this information with my husband and he agreed. I went on to order the additional line that same day and it was activated within three days. Shortly after that the Lord opened the door for us to undertake a project where the second phone line came in handy.

We'll want to keep in mind that God gives us instructions because we are in partnership with Him. Therefore, when we want Him to work in our lives, we must be ready for Him to give us instructions about what He wants us to do as part of His plan. Sometimes the instructions involve doing simple things. At other times, He instructs us to participate in major undertakings. Just know that every single time we obey God, we are actually partnering with Him to bring about His plan in our lives. So, when we understand that God is telling us to do something (anything), we are to be quick to obey God. When we move slowly to obey, we risk forfeiting something great that He is either preparing us for or preparing for us. ☪☪

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backed by a “gold standard;” which is the Word of God and His promises. The same is true for “giving” and “obedience.” Hebrews (11:1 KJV by reference) teaches us that “faith” is the substance (or assurance) of things hoped for (desired). In the Kingdom, faith is the medium by which we realize the manifestations of our hopes and dreams.

Let’s talk about what it means (in the Kingdom’s sense of the term) for “faith” to be backed by a “gold standard.” The scriptures abound with promises and provisions, graciously provided for us by our Lord Jesus Christ. Many of these promises may be appropriated by *simple* faith. Others have prerequisite demands. But all must be procured through the use of faith. And all such requests (i.e., desires, hopes, expectations, etc.) must be founded on at least one of God’s promises or provisions (whether stated or implied; specific or general).

There is an interesting similarity between the operation of the Law of Supply and Demand in the economic realm and in the Kingdom realm. The case being that one can only make a *real* demand for something for which there is a *real* supply. Sounds simple enough, right? Let me ask you a question. Have you ever taken your children to the zoo to see the unicorns? Do you know anyone who has? ... No? ... Why not? ... Is it perhaps, because there can be no *real demand* for that for which there is no *real supply*? The truth of this principle is everywhere evident in our world. We can buy tickets to the theater; but we cannot buy tickets to the moon. This particular characteristic of the Law of Supply and Demand is evident in the Kingdom as well. This parallelism is not necessarily true of all of the characteristics of this law; but certainly so of this specific characteristic.

We cannot reasonably make a demand (request) for anything for which God has not made a promised or a provision. This could, potentially, explain why some of the things we believe God for, will never materialize. But for all of the things for which there exists a promise or provision, faith is the medium of exchange.

For example, James (1:5-6a KJV by interpretation) teaches us that if anyone lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives wisdom generously, without prohibition, to all who ask in faith. Now this is a promise to everyone; to be appropriated by simply asking (which implies faith). Now a petition for salvation is somewhat different. While it is available to everyone (in fact, it has already been given to

DIAMONDS



The question is not “whether Jesus died for your sins.” Jesus did die for your sins. Whether or not you believe this simply determines your quality of life; both in this world and in the world to come. – JoAnn C. White



everyone); appropriating it involves fulfilling prerequisite and (I'll coin a new phrase here) *post-requisite* activities. We can certainly expand on those at a later date. For the sake of this discourse, let us continue in this vein. A petition for salvation certainly requires faith; for whoever approaches God with a petition, must first believe that God exists; and that He rewards diligent (faith-filled) pursuit. (Heb. 11:6 KJV paraphrased) And on that note; Hebrews 11 outlines a list of faith's accomplishments.

We will find everywhere in the scriptures that faith is required (whether expressed or implied; with or without prerequisite) to receive the promises of God. It is the medium of exchange or "lingua franca" in the Kingdom.

If you have faith that is small, but pure (not mixed with doubt), you can move even the largest obstacles in your life (Matt 17:20 KJV by interpretation).

Let's not misrepresent this case, let us be very clear about something here. When the scriptures teach us about faith, it is teaching us to have faith in **God** (Mark 11:22 KJV). It does not, however, teach us to have faith in "ourselves." I'm not telling you to *not* believe in yourself. What I *am* saying is that if you want the promises of God and favor of God on your life; your faith must be in Him (not you). The strength of God's promises rests on the veracity (defined here, as the habitual observance of truth) of HIS character; which is immutable. I cannot say the same about myself; neither can you. The reason I broach this subject is because there are discussions on the virtue of believing in one's self. It is my humble opinion, that this is simply another point of deception; especially for the believer. I know my own character and apart from God's influence on my life; I don't trust myself. Another reason I'm sharing this is that we may come to a place in our lives where it will seem that our "faith" doesn't quite deliver like it used to. Before you question God's faithfulness, I encourage you to (very honestly) ask yourself "upon what is my faith founded; in whom do I believe?" If you cannot know for certain that your faith is founded on the promises of God; then you cannot know for sure that you can have what you believe. If on the other hand, your faith is firmly grounded in the promises of God; nothing and no one can stop your having what you believe God for.

Again, in the Kingdom of God, faith is a medium of exchange. And by it you can exchange your life for

His.

Now, there is a "faith that works by love" and there is a "faith that does not work by love." We'll talk about that in the next edition of Kingdom News. <✠>

JoAnn C. White, sMHG

JEWELS

"Desire" is like a child, it must be taught the appropriate uses of its powers. – *JoAnn C White*

God is Motivated by Love

By David L. White

Our experience teaches us that people do whatever they do as a result of who they are and what they know. Sometimes we may have a mistaken perception of who we really are; nevertheless the principle holds true, that we are actuated (or moved to action) as a result of who we are and what we know. This is even true of God; who He is and what He knows always governs what He does.

I submit to you, that there is much to be learned from becoming familiar with who God is. We can learn things such as why we should do what He directs. We can learn how, and for what, we should pray. We can learn how we are to interact (with Him and with others), etc. When we learn who God is; we then know what characteristics to value. The question follows then; "Who is God?"

1 John 4:8 (KJV paraphrased) says "He that does not love; does not know God; for God is LOVE." This means that **whenever** God is actuated or is moved to action; His

motives are founded in love; love for righteousness, love for truth, love for His Kingdom, love for us, etc. There is a great deal of depth, here; that often can be overlooked. As alluded to earlier, by observing what motivates God, we see what ought to motivate us; LOVE. Why? God is love, therefore when we operate in love we are in symphony with God. Of course this love is guided by wisdom and prudence. We know that anything founded in God necessarily agrees with His will.

When our actions accord with God's will, it is then righteous for Him to further discover His will to us. In contrast when we are actuated by that which is not love (e.g., selfishness, etc.); our actions are not congruent with His character. Based on that, it would represent unrighteous in God to reveal His will for our lives. When God does not manifest Himself in our lives; here is a place to begin inquiry. Sometimes we can misunderstand how God interacts in our lives; at these times, we need to ensure that we are being patient and diligent to watch for Him. On the other hand, when the works of God are not clearly visible to us; we have to ask ourselves, is it because there is discord; perhaps our prayers, actions, or motives are not grounded in love.

As previously stated, by watching God (through the scriptures and in our lives), we can learn how to pray. From this observation we are able to discern what is important to Him, thereby understanding what ought to be important to us. When our prayers and petitions are founded in love (to God first), then they are comprised of the virtues that motivate God. This is why we must be watchful of prayers that result from selfishness. Selfishness is sin; selfishness opposes love. Imagine the effects of prayers that grow out of love, if you will. Imagine the focus of these prayers being your family; see your family grow and heal. Now imagine these prayers petitioning on behalf of the souls of mankind; see hearts change. These prayers may be offered regarding your job,

career, education, personal development; see these areas of your life change. Now imagine these prayers petitioning the throne on behalf of your relationship with God. You get the point. In this sense *love* is like the essence of life; that thing without which life cannot exist (like air; like blood; like water). Prayers not born of love, or not founded in love, are lifeless and ineffective. Actions not founded in love cannot yield fruits to life. Of course that which does not yield living fruits; must of necessity yield the fruits of death. To some degree or other, everything yields fruit; some of life and some of death. Actions and motives yield life through love, or death through sin.

These are all results of a universal law. This we refer to as the *law of love*. It is similar to many of our natural laws, in that there are positive effects consequent to acting in accordance with this law. Likewise there are negative effects consequent to acting contrary to this law. If we walk off of the roof of a 50-story building; there are negative consequences resulting from acting contrary to the Law of Gravity. God has given us everything that we will ever need. Many of these needs are met in accordance with the operation of certain laws; which yield life when we abide by them. In contrast, violation of these laws brings death.

The law of love just happens to be woven into God's very nature. Or shall we say, love issues from His very nature. This is why he is actuated by this particular law; as opposed to the laws of gravity or time, which do not affect or govern His actions. Remember when we act in love, we act in accordance with the nature of God; thereby creating a situation in which it is righteous for God to disclose His will, to us. When we act from that which is not founded in love we act from that which is not godly; thereby creating a situation that would render God unrighteous to bless. As a result, God doesn't bless that

situation because He is not unrighteous. It is contrary to his very nature. You will notice that people are similar, in that to motivate a person, we have to actuate something that is within them; for instance an emotion, a fear, a sub-conscious reality or perception.

When handled with integrity; we see this truth in operation as leaders or managers attempt to influence their teams. We see this as parents try to teach their children; or professors motivate their students. We also see this in our relations with God. In fact, if we successfully apply this truth in our relations with God; we can experience success in its application elsewhere in our lives.



PEARLS



He that has knowledge; uses his words wisely; because he knows that:

- A man is snared by the words of his mouth
- Life and death are in the power of the tongue
- Sin is present where words are multiplied; but the wise guard their mouths
- A fool's voice is known by the multitude of words

(Prov. 17:27; 6:2; 18:21; 10:19 and Eccl. 5:3 KJV by reference)



A Journey to Intimacy

Self Discovery

What the Lord is teaching me now, is what I will call my tendency to be "lazy;" to "major on the minors." Now each person will get an individual interpretation of what this could mean. But before the mind carries us away on flights of fancy; let me provide a little detail.

For some of you who know me; or who live in close proximity to me on a daily basis; you'd probably think this disclosure to be absurd. But what I am finding is this; the closer I desire to walk with God, the more I am beginning to see the things in my self and my life that are (or could be) overall counterproductive to my goal of intimacy. A mild tendency to "slothfulness" may not seem like such a crime. But if it has the ability to interfere with my obedience; then it is approaches "treason."

To some, it may seem disconcerting or even frustrating to have a desire to live right before God; and to continually be shown your short-comings. As odd as it may seem; to me it is both "beautiful" and "inevitable" to see these things about myself. Not necessarily "beautiful" in the common sense of the term. But "beautiful" in that as I am able to know the things, about myself, that will eventually compromise or complicate the success of reaching my goals; I am able to do something about them. On the other hand, if I am not able to see these things, I cannot change them; leaving them to wreak havoc of my plans. The fact that God continues to show them to me, confirms for me that He is also invested in my success. "Inevitable" in the sense that God is Light; and it is impossible to come into the light and not be discovered. I recall one time, getting dressed to leave for an appointment. In my dressing area where the lights are "soft;" I thought I noticed a faint, "almost imperceptible" spot on my blouse ... maybe I was mistaken. Hurried, I continued to get dressed. As one would suspect, the moment I stepped out into the sunlight; what was difficult or impossible to see otherwise, became painfully obvious. And so is the case with the presence of God. Things that we take for granted, in our interactions with ourselves or our relationships with others; are not taken lightly in our relationship with God. God is a Righteous Judge, and cannot "look the other way" when it comes to sin and disobedience.

So here we see that both the "Word" and the "works" of God go hand-in-hand.

- We are instructed to lay aside all encumbrances and sins because they will sabotage our successes (Heb. 12:1[b] KJV by interpretation). This is the Word of God.
- Then, throughout our lives, God repeatedly shows us our selves; and how that if left to our own inclinations we will derail even the

best laid plans. Please don't be put off by this. And please don't hide when God discovers to you; your faults, sins or shortcomings. Don't make excuses or platitudes for them. Own them, repent (change), accept God's forgiveness and go on to success. This is the work of God.

I'm blessed by it. What is more beautiful than the Lord being invested in our success (both spiritually and naturally)? I promise you, that you'll live a thousand years and NEVER find anything more precious than to have the Lord participate in your life.

Now, as I am able to see the areas in my life that present challenges to increased intimacy with God; I am able to change (repent). As these vulnerabilities become evident to me; I acknowledge their presence. I ask the Lord's forgiveness and ask for wisdom and grace to change.

He that is slothful in his work is brother to the waster (Prov. 18:9 KJV). The writer of Hebrews (6:12 KJV by interpretation) encourages us to not be slothful, but to model the behavior of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises of God.

I am able to see, in God's word, how that He has already made provisions for me to be free from these challenges; by appropriating faith in his promises.

This is what I am working on now. 

JoAnn C. White, sMHG

✎ SUMMARY ✎



In the Kingdom of God, "faith" is a form of currency. "Love" is the economic policy that governs all mediums of exchange; in the Kingdom.



We need to obey **immediately**. That's right. The moment we understand what God is telling us to do, we need to start moving in that direction.



When we act from that which is not founded in love we act from that which is not godly; thereby creating a situation that would render God unrighteous to bless. So he doesn't bless that situation because God can't be unrighteous. It is contrary to His very nature.



I promise you, that you'll live a thousand years (twice told) and NEVER find anything more precious than to have the Lord participate in your life.

$\langle \rangle$ Closing Prayer $\langle \rangle$

Father, in the name of Jesus, may the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in Your sight; our Strength and our Redeemer. We believe that the seeds sown will fall deep into the earth and bring forth an abundance of good fruit. We ask that the lives of every man, woman and child who receive Your words, be blessed in the month of April; and may their hearts and lives be changed forever. May Your Kingdom and Your throne be honored and advanced. The Kingdom, the power and the glory are all Yours. Amen

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