

BY PLAN OR BY IMPULSE

I. Living by Plan or by Impulse

A. Accepting Christ as Savior

B. Joining a church.

C. Your Education and training

D. Your work, occupation, vocation, employment, business

II. Giving by Plan or by Impulse

A. Some people give by impulse to the Lord's work

1. Often they do not feel the impulse very regularly.
2. Nor very strongly
3. As a result God's work suffers
4. Lost people are unreached
5. Children & adults are untaught in God's Word.
6. The "impulsive" giver is deprived of a blessing.

B. God's Word teaches that Christian giving should be by a plan.

1. The proportionate plan is commonly accepted as the tithe.

2. The history of tithes

a. In Biblical history

- (1). Before the Law of Moses, ^{melechizedek} Gen. 14:20; 28:22.
- (2). The Law of Moses - Deuteronomy, Numbers, Lev.
- (3). Hezekiah's reformation, 2 Chron. 31:5,6.
- (4). After the Captivity, Neh. 10:37; 12:44.
- (5). The teaching of the prophets,

Mal. 3:10

(6). In Christ's time, Mt. 23:23

(7). Teaching of the N.T.

Provision for maintenance of the apostolic ministry, sending the gospel to Others, common sharing with Christian brethren in need, Mt. 10:10; Rom. 15:27; I Cor. 9:7-14.

b. In Church History

- (1). The Apostolic and Church Fathers urged the obligation of tithing on the earliest Xtns; Cyprian, Ambrose, Chrysostom, Augustine, etc.
- (2). Ancient Church councils favored tithing.

(3). Practiced by Christians in England from the eighth century on.

(4). The great and small tithe

(5). Tithes given "in kind";

Deut. 14:24-26 allowed to come in money value rather than in kind.

3. The principle of giving by plan rather than by impulse.

a. Should be started by every young Christian

b. Christians ought never to wait for fervid appeals or ardent addresses to sympathy.

c. This does not imply that tithing is performed as a mere mechanical form;

-- nor "sparingly", grievingly, regretfully, holding back after the gift.

d. System in giving is the secret of all success.

e. Giving tithes to start with, as a minimum proportion, will in many cases lead a Christian on to increase the proportion as he grows in fortune.

4. The motive of giving by a plan.

a. Think of what God has done for us.

b. Remember that all comes from God.

c. Think of the great work to be done for Christ.

d. Think of the promises which reward the tither and generous giver.

e. Think of the unconcern of others.

III. SERVING by a Plan rather than Impulse

A. Christians SHOULD always feel an impulse to serve the Lord, but they in fact do not.

1. Satan will try to smother that impulse

2. Our pre-occupation with other things may smother that impulse

3. Our disobedience & unfaithfulness to the Lord may make us insensitive to that impulse.

B. Reasons why we should continue in a definite Plan of Christian service, regardless of whether or not we feel a special impulse to do so.

1. The command of Christ is just the same.
2. The needs of God's work continue just the same.
3. People are lost just the same.

C. The best plan and program of Christian service is through cooperation with the plan and program of your church.

1. "Can I be a Xtn without joining the church or attending & serving through it ~~or supporting it~~?"
Yes, but. . . .

"Can I be a Christian without joining the church or attending the worship services ~~or supporting its~~ ministries?"

Answer: "Yes, it is possible, but it is something like this -- "

A student who will not go to school.

A soldier who will not join an army.

A citizen who does not pay taxes or vote.

A salesman with no customers.

A seaman on a ship without a crew.

A business man on a deserted island.

An author without readers.

A parent without a family.

A football player without a team.

A bee without a hive.

A tuba player without an orchestra.

A scientist who does not share his findings.

Definition of "Impulse" = "A sudden inclination to some unusual unpremeditated action, ~~neither due to~~ or a natural (or emotional) tendency other than rational."

GOD HAD A PLAN OF REDEMPTION:

Eph. 1:9-12, ". . . his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ. . . the PLAN of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will. . ."

The Jehovah of the Bible is not capricious or impulsive as the pagan gods of Greece, Rome, or other ancient cultures.