

## GIVING COMES FROM THE HEART....NOT THE HEAD

QUESTION: Good afternoon. You've spoken quite often this morning at various times about giving. And I was wondering if you would expand on that theme of giving, and particularly about tithing and it's role, or does it having any role in our development?

ANSWER: Let me put it this way, tithing as a gift is most appropriate. The taking of a portion of your income, of your abundance and specifically applying it in the direction of, I'm going to say that which you value, that which promotes Awakening, is most appropriate. But if tithing is a means of creating more income, it is a selfish act, and not a gift at all. And therefore, it is a meaningless act relative to the intent.

To acknowledge in your life the value of that which promotes your spiritual growth, together with the investing of your income in the down-to-earth specific meeting of your needs constitutes a balance. If you feel inclined to do it, do it. It represents a balance, an evenness. But understand also that if you do not do it, you are not in a worse off position than the one who does do it.

I'm going to put it very simply, pay attention to where your gratitude is, and be willing to share of your abundance in the direction of those things you feel grateful for. That is tithing. I will tell you this: A smile, a spontaneous felt smile constitutes a tithe. But as is always the case, if you do it to get something, it is not a tithe and does not constitute a gift, it is an expression of selfishness and control, and the effort will fall flat on its face.

Giving comes from the heart, not from the head. And of course, the greatest gift you can give is the gift of you. And the only way you can give the gift of you is to be in touch with yourself. And the only way you will truly dare to get in touch with yourself is, if you find some way to realize a connection between yourself and God, yourself and the Life Principle, yourself and the Creator. The only way you can dare to get in touch with yourself is if you are able to acknowledge that your selfhood is derived from something more than just evolution. Because if your source is not divine, then what you will connect with when you connect with yourself is likely not to be very lovely, is likely to be flawed. And who wants to really

connect with something that is flawed and experience it, I will say, exquisitely and completely?

Gifts are very seldom really given. Most of what is given is given with an expectation of getting. You invite someone to dinner, you expect a return invitation. You do something nice for someone and then you are perturbed if that one or someone else does not return the gift. You must arrive at point where you give the gift because it constitutes a congruence with yourself, it constitutes an integrity of you, because it feels good to just give. You see, when you give you can be complete in the giving, but you cannot guarantee that what you have given will be received. It might be taken, but has it been received? Has that one let it in? You cannot guarantee that. And if you do not feel a completeness until the gift has been received, then you are practicing control, and manipulation. "I can't feel good until you receive my gift. See what you are doing by not accepting my love?" But love is something that must be given freely. And you must learn to get your joy out of the sharing of you.

When you give your power away to another by saying you can't feel good until they receive the love you are giving, or accepting and acknowledging the kindness you are expressing; when you put another's actions in the position of governing how you feel in an attempt to manipulate them, you end up being their puppet. And you will be miserable.

Giving is something you just give. You present yourself. And when there is nothing expected in return, you will find your giving becoming more genuine, and more complete in itself. Your giving will not constitute a demand, and in the absence of a demand the gift is more likely to be received. It will not cause the receiver to become defensive against the strings attached to the gift.

Now this is not something you do not already know, but it is well to have it clearly put again. That is the end of the answer.

~excerpt from early conversations with Raj/Jesus  
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