

2.2 Money and Prophecy Lines

The restructuring of worship services has become the trend in thousands of ministries regarding what is known as receiving an offering. Ministry leaders for many years have taken slander for what is known to some as Money Lines. The practice is when an individual who proceeds to take up an offering requests specific amounts of money! Ministry leaders typically have a set amount of money (desired budget) to obtain, soliciting congregants to form lines, having specific dollar amounts in hand, represented in each line. The authority conducting the offering will target the House, asking for a certain number of people to form a line having the largest amount in hand. This line or other lines may form, asking for smaller increments of money. If the authority starts with a higher amount, those that may not have it must wait until they get down to their in-hand amount in order to give offering. Most times, small amounts of money are not accepted in money lines, as the authority will most likely conduct a freewill offering, after making sure there are enough people in the lines covering the desired budget! (You know they stand there counting the people while crunching numbers in their heads.) Lines can range from today's popular minimum of twenty dollars and soar up to even one thousand dollars!

This practice has proven successful for thousands of ministries, but has done disturbing damage to the lives of many congregants! Congregants feel as if they no longer have a choice in what they've known for years as freewill offering, as they are instructed to give what is being asked. Although ministries, which utilize the structure of money lines, their motive is to quickly obtain their desired

budget(s), without having to come up short depending on congregants giving freewill offering!

Congregants still choose not to participate in these lines; I remember many years ago attending services in Brooklyn (The Borough of Churches), the place where I was initially exposed to this practice, and it instantly turned me off! I remember it always taking up so much time, and I never had the desired money being asked! Therefore, I did not wait until they got down to the amount of money that would be considered freewill offering; I would just stand in any line that would represent the amount of money I would give, if I had it! Ministry leaders have now begun restructuring how they conduct money lines, as many congregants are doing what I have done many years ago. Leaders are now beginning to request to see the actual money before you place it in the offering basket or on the tables. Some will even dare to request that you place the money in their hands to make sure you are actually giving money! I guess many congregants have begun filling out empty offering envelopes while standing in the highest money line; and doing other practices to avoid the embarrassment that now filters throughout many congregations during offering!

I've observed many leaders placing extreme pressure on congregants while conducting money lines. Many times congregants just don't have the money; therefore, leaders will begin using scenarios to market the things of God, creating an influential atmosphere (power of suggestion) making us feel guilty for not giving! This manipulative influence forces congregants to begin paying for God's grace! Most scenarios used are targeted toward free elements of the Kingdom, making us feel as if we're taking advantage, and then soliciting us to give out of guilt toward what is free of the Lord! Congregants then begin moving quickly to give an

offering, as leadership will continue pressuring the House as if we're trespassers utilizing God's provisions without paying!

As societal measures continue to affect millions of households, whereas many families have set budgets of how much money they can afford to spend. This has now placed limitations on ministries, whereas congregants are finding church to be a major expense! *They run mental scenarios on you to get you into the lines who do congregants call when pastors and/or leaders are out of control?*

Congregants have been known for many years to not meet personal financial obligations, instead affording progressive trends of their assemblies. As mentioned earlier, there are many stories of congregants giving money set aside for their bills, mortgage and vehicle payments, and rent! This type of behavior seems unwise, but congregants have found themselves experiencing eviction, foreclosure, repossession, and bankruptcy, as well as other hidden financial and personal hardships! Many times when congregants get home, realizing they've given money which was set aside for other things, now not having any money to possibly maintain needed necessities! This kind of manipulation then places congregants in jeopardy, causing some to participate in illegal activity and other unwise practices to sustain themselves until their next payday or until their situation possibly change. When congregants find themselves caught up in situations generally not initiated by their own motives, there is no way they can later accuse a ministry! Many become very upset with themselves, not realizing what has been happening for so long, believing there is another force/craft working behind the structures of money lines!

When leaders begin to conjure scenarios used to implement a money line, they're typically executed very timely! A leader would simply look like a fool, jumping up at any given point during service

to solicit congregants to begin forming lines out of nowhere! Leaders know there are specific times when a congregation appears to be open and receptive to offering. Just as a professional fisherman knows the best time and places to catch fish, ministry leaders are training themselves for the best time and places to fish for our money! Typically, money lines are best executed when there appears to be an escalated level of worship. It's the same strategy used in sales, when consumers are taken by surprise by a sales representative choosing to catch us when we're not really paying attention. The motive is to get the giver focused on something else; then proceeding to request money, in conjunction to our needs. What I'm saying is; if a ministry leader can get us to begin focusing on some things that are lacking in our lives; continuing to focus us into all the diligence to stand strong, he/she can then solicit our giving in conjunction to how we need God for help; this then places a transaction on the Kingdom! Ministry leaders are increasingly utilizing the marketing of biblical principals as the major scenario used when implementing a money line or seed offering!

This structure can become very time-consuming, as ministry leaders are very adamant, even aggressive, regarding obtaining their desired budgets. Some will even walk their sanctuary aisles looking for individuals who appear to have money! I've even observed some calling out names of their congregants, as to pressure them to quickly move out of their seats to give, stating how they should be quick to believe, as if waiting or not giving is wrong! I can still remember many of them saying repeatedly, "We'll wait on you; you need to trust God with your money," "Is there anyone else that needs to step out on faith, believing God for your miracle, believing God for what he's about to do for you and your family." I can go on and on regarding scenarios used to solicit congregants to join a specific money line.

Why would a ministry leader choose to use a prophetic gift to raise an offering? Is this practice a common move of the Spirit, or is the motive behind it solely transactional? Utilizing a prophetic gift to raise an offering adds another level of controversy and speculation to congregants paying for the Word! “Thus sayeth the Lord...” has moved many into doing things which were not true utterances from the Spirit, but purposed from the individual having his or her own way with the people!

Prophecy lines are the most time-consuming verses the call for a money line. Money lines typically targets congregants having specific dollars amounts in hand, helping leadership determine, or rather meet, desired budgets. As prophecy lines creates the same transactional premise, but leaves the giver with an alleged Word from the Lord! Many times, leadership runs into problems when trying to give individual prophetic words during offering, as many congregants desire to give during this time! Therefore, to alleviate long lines, the man or woman of God speaks a general Word over the House, which becomes the transactional platform only for those who desire to give according to the delivered Word! The practice appears almost like gambling, as if there is a specific prize offered as contestants choose to play or not! In this case, the spoken Word would appear to be the prize (if it comes to pass), and your giving would determine your effort to win! This practice has been reformed and is better known today as a seed offering, soliciting congregants to now sow into the prophetic Word deliberated over the House.

Psychics and mediums fully utilize transactional forums for individuals desiring to pay for readings and foretelling. These arenas have been around for centuries, as it's widely acceptable around the world! Divination has been and still is forbidden in the Body of Christ, being a complete offense to why The Father has sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in the lives of believers, so why are we finding more and more Christians soliciting the help of psychics and mediums?

Christians are increasingly beginning to lack the knowledge of the Holy Spirit, even His functions for the life of the believer! Our sanctuaries are becoming more business-oriented, which creates an atmosphere that surrounds around our ministry leaders, whereas congregants have taken their focus off of the Holy Spirit! The mentioning of the Holy Spirit has clearly become just a terminology to many congregants, not realizing that the Holy Spirit lives in us to continue the work of Christ Jesus! That's why we have His Spirit, because He desires us to turn over the harvest! We are good ground, as we possess the same power that raised Him from the dead, continuing His work to enlarge the Kingdom! Not utilizing His Spirit that dwells in us handicaps us in regard to His leading! Within that stage, you won't know the difference between a vampire and a prophet!

Psychics and mediums possess the same kind of gift as of prophets and prophetesses, as they retain the choice of how to use the gift. Either the gift can be used to bring glory to God, or it can be used for alternative motives! Christians should never invite the operation of divination into our lives! It immediately offends the Holy Spirit and then exposes our own psyche to other spirit leadings that are not of light but darkness! What a psychic may tell you will most likely appear true, as they are able to utilize their gift (if they really have one) to connect to some information regarding

your life. But their trick is to allow the spoken words to disconnect you to the way of the Holy Ghost, which is purposed and already written! Jesus said *He is the door and all others that come are thieves and robbers...* (John 10:7-10). This clearly tells you that others will come, speaking a Word, while trying to lead you, deceiving, but are really stealing while ambushing your soul! The Holy Spirit is the only power source that a believer should ever seek! Everything else will only supply limited resources and ultimately get a believer stuck where he or she doesn't belong!

When utilizing a prophetic gift during offering, it then places an advantage on the man or woman of God receiving the gifts. As our society grows more and more compulsive, many congregants will begin paying for the Word increasingly! Therefore, as compulsive society grows, congregants are less likely to understand or read the Word of God for themselves, but depend solely on the ministry giving interpretation! Therefore, as a sign of gratitude or to say thanks, congregants will begin placing transactions based on what they have supposedly received! This behavior can then confuse a leader as now; he/she is made aware that congregants are willing to pay! When ministry leaders are made aware of congregants giving more money, some will try maximizing their potential, incorporating the forum into their assemblies!

Congregants must be very careful while in the presence of a ministry leader utilizing a prophetic gift during offering. There is always speculation involved, as congregants have experienced deceptive behavior without understanding how to pinpoint the cause! Many have fallen for the known alleged prophetic utterance: *"In Seven Days..."* including, *"Tomorrow about this time...."* These known scriptural-based slogans have captured emotions of thousands, possibly millions of congregants, then placing a

transaction in the House. (Many of us have fallen for one of these at one time or another.)

When these kinds of false utterances don't come to pass, there isn't anyone to call with hopes of getting your money back! Churches don't operate like a retail outlet, whereby dissatisfied consumers are able to return an item to receive a refund. There is no way a man or woman of God is going to return your money for a Word that didn't come to pass! Even if a Word that is seemingly specific to details in your life is delivered, it's never wise to then place a transaction, as God only requires your faith and obedience! Most times the Word had been delivered from a visiting preacher, because he or she knows how to work the House, playing the hit and run game (raise money, get paid and go)!

In the Old Testament of the Bible, we find manifesting angels, kings, judges, prophets, and priests being the primary mouthpieces for the Kingdom. Continuing we have Christ Jesus, which called the disciples, transforming into The Apostles, then being positioned as mouthpieces. Jesus then advised that He wasn't going to leave them comfortless, as the Father will send the comforter, the Holy Spirit! When the Church was established on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2), we then became witnesses, empowered by the Holy Spirit, collectively becoming mouthpieces and other functioning members for the Body of Christ!

The utilization of prophecy shouldn't price tag the Word, wherefore congregant's today desire more and more to afford God's lips! The believer already has full access to His lips, now being able to come boldly to the throne room reflecting His characteristics, power and wealth, having already received The Kingdom, which resides within us, because of the purchased possession that has been received!

Is it okay to give money to the House for a prophet/prophetess to speak a Word about your life? Well, you may be surprised to learn that many are hired for this specific purpose! Even in the Bible days, kings would solicit prophets to come into their realms, prophesying over the people with motives for manipulation; using the utterance having alternative motives over the people! Generally, congregants today begin growing weary of their own leaders at times, as they say the same things repeatedly. Therefore, many ministry leaders will invite someone else to speak about the same thing, causing people to then move earnestly, giving as initially desired!

Prophets and prophetesses are increasingly solicited to prophesy over thousands of assemblies around the world! Many ministry leaders know there to be great response and diligence from congregants! It's extremely difficult to know the difference between a prophet and/or prophetess that has been solicited by our leaders and those who are the real mouthpieces deliberating from the Kingdom. They are sometimes coached before services, and many are specifically told what to speak about! Specific congregants are targeted with motives to manipulate or control, obtaining money or other kinds of payoffs!

In more general scenarios, they're solicited to help ministry leaders with fundraising, congregational growth and other areas, as the ministry desires to comb the House for every dollar and cent they can find! Of course, not all ministry leaders are utilizing prophets and prophetesses for these reasons, and many clearly utilize them for edification for their assemblies, as well as other spiritually based festivities for assemblies. Many congregants today are still not aware of how our ministries leaders in the Body of Christ are solicited to speak over or into our lives as believers!

Prophets and prophetesses should be very cautious of how they're using their gifts as well! There is great responsibility to the one that stands as representation as a mouthpiece of God! Many churches and political officials are increasingly seeking to purchase this tool as a way to manipulate or control! Prophets and prophetesses should use several determining factors when solicited to speak or deliberate at events, therefore not getting themselves caught up in hidden platforms for deception! It is known that many are threatened to speak with specifics in conjunction to being financially supported by a particular ministry, private party and/or business entity even their own congregants trying to manipulate their own leaders! If or when prophets and prophetesses choose not to comply, he or she risks losing financial support proposed or already given! Most times the financial support comes before the proposal as a type of bait to capture the prophet or prophetess who is willing to engage in these kinds of practices! This is also used to control the leverage of what is specifically spoken, as this will schedule how often it's done.

So again I ask, is it okay to place a transaction (give money) for a prophet or prophetess to speak a Word over/into your life? Many will try backing this with Scripture found in the Old Testament, as individuals sought prophets for direction, such as when Saul and his servant were looking for his father's lost donkey (I Samuel 9:6). In the next verse, you'll find Saul asking his servant what they should bring Samuel for giving them the direction they were seeking in hopes of locating the lost donkey. Many then use Saul's question as to further explain the need to bring the prophet or prophetess an offering soliciting help! So is it the congregant's initial motive deciding what to bring the man or woman of God when we're seeking help or direction? Of course this kind of practice cannot platform in our church sanctuaries, as congregants

would definitely feel as if they're now paying for the Word! But there are prophets and prophetesses who have their own private practices where desiring individuals seeking help pay money for their services.

You will read by verse 9 (of the Scripture) that the servant had a piece of silver and told Saul that he would give it to the man of God in exchange for being told the way of the lost donkey. What is very interesting about this Scripture is that before Saul or his servant could make an exchange or even an initial introduction, Samuel (The Prophet) told them that his father's donkey had already been found! From my experiences God always speaks first, as Samuel already knew that he would run into Saul and his servant, because God had already spoken first!

I've had the same experiences in my life, having received prophetic utterances since the age of sixteen! I've discovered that I'm more open to receiving a Word from individuals who know nothing about me versus someone who has retained some information, desiring to speak a Word! This is solid evidence of the spiritual gift of Word of Knowledge. Many congregants don't know the difference between the spiritual gift of prophecy versus Word of Knowledge or Word of Wisdom. Trying to explain each function would make this chapter unbelievably long; therefore, I suggest you visit a Christian bookstore to educate yourself concerning spiritual gifts. You'll then be surprised how we're using them against each other as Christians, being ignorant of their real/initial investment!

In closing of this section, I'd like to say that many congregants are not taught effectively regarding the functions of five fold ministry and the functions of using spiritual gifts; therefore, we're vulnerable when leaders stand against us with hidden motives! We cannot continue to blame our ministry leaders for not educating

congregants regarding changes now implementing our sanctuaries. The less you know, the more they can manipulate your thinking!

Restructuring will always take place, as congregants are typically never in control of these kinds of things. But I pray that congregants begin collaborating, making sure those who are present and those who are coming will never experience an ambush of deception in the House.

It all may appear to be a great move of God, but it can quickly take you by surprise deceiving you. Many believe the world is growing darker and more evil by each day, but I personally believe it's not the world, but the hearts of people. We can see the world as it changes from season to season and from day to day, but the hearts of people can take a very long time to uncover. That's why God looks at the heart, and it should be our prayer that He continually searches our hearts!

My brothers and sisters, God has clearly blessed us all with spiritual blessings, and we have to use them wisely. We don't have to afford His attention or pay for His provision; He is always mindful of us. There isn't one time or moment between earth and the Kingdom when He's not thinking about His people! We're always on His mind, because Christ Jesus is still away preparing a place for us, that where He goes we will know, and guess what; He's coming again to receive us unto Himself! So stop paying for what you believe will bring you closer to Him you are as close as you can be at this point, until He draws you closer. The closer you get, the more you'll realize that your nasty legal tendency (money) means nothing to Him!