

CrossRoads Baptist Church  
February 24, 2008 10:00 a.m.

## **“A Church of a New Wineskin” Matthew 9:16-17**

I want to share some things today about the beginnings of this church and how we handle finances. I do this for two reasons: 1. To obey Paul’s teaching to Timothy in I Timothy 4:6 “to put the brethren in remembrance of these things.” 2. For new people that God has brought to us in order that you might more fully know what God has done and is doing.

God raises up “new wineskins” so He can pour in the new wine. If you try to pour new wine into old wineskins, it breaks. God raised up CrossRoads Baptist Church as a new wineskin. Let me give you seven principles that characterize this “new wineskin.”

1. This church honors Biblical authority with corresponding actions.

We don’t want to compromise the Word of God for popularity, finances or numbers. And we don’t want to just “be hears of the Word, but doers of the Word.” We must respond with appropriate actions when God shows us in His Word or else we will become a “stale wineskin” that can no longer accept new wine.

2. This church seeks the Word of God to be our guide in practice and programming.

Our number one source for programming is not the Southern Baptist Convention although they are a great resource. But our direction for programming in a church comes from the Word of God and all resources used must honor the Word and clearly and accurately present the Word of God.

3. This church honors Biblical preaching.

In our society, we don’t need less preaching, we need more preaching. We will honor and expect Biblical preaching. Not preaching that is shallow or compromising to appease a few. Whether the text is from Nahum, Judges or John, all we demand is that it be Biblical.

The pulpit is a free pulpit that the pastor is free to preach the Word of God without demand or dictatorship from the pew.

4. This church encourages Biblical worship with freedom of Biblical expression.

The Word of God gives us some very clear expressions that are expected and accepted in worship. We wish to extend freedom to everyone to worship in a Biblical way. The only expression of worship that is not accepted is that which does not come from the heart.

And we wish to have a church that when you express your love to God in a Biblical way you are not considered weird or non-Baptist. Instead, if you don’t praise Him then something is wrong.

5. This church honors the Biblical teaching of pastoral authority.

We honor the man of God called to be the pastor. He is the leader God has appointed. This leadership is confirmed by other godly men in spiritual leadership. But the direction comes from the pastor.

This church will not tolerate “running down the pastor or running off the pastor.”

6. This church exercises Biblical church discipline.

It grieves us when this has to happen, but it is a part of living in covenant with one another and with love toward one another.

7. This church promotes Biblical church membership.

The idea of Biblical church membership involves fellowship. If you

are not fellowship with the body, then your membership will be in jeopardy.

Another aspect that I want to share about is “The Offerings.” Money

Some general thoughts about “the Offerings.”

1. We believe the tithe is the beginning place for everyone. The tithe was pre-law, prescribed in the law and affirmed by Jesus. We don't believe in progressive obedience in this matter but total obedience.
2. We don't receive offerings because we need money, but instead to give you the opportunity more easily to be obedient. Even if you are absent or we don't receive an offering, you will be faithful to give because it is a principle of obedience.
3. Our goal with offerings is to make disciples. We are not a fund raising organization and when we do take special offerings or emphasis the tithe it is in order for you to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.
4. We believe offerings are above the tithe and are for special projects (like a building) and missions.

How do you determine how much you are to give in a special offering such as we are receiving in “Fueling the Vision” for the building of our new building?

Four words I want to build around:

1. Relationship
2. Request
3. Revelation
4. Resources

In Acts 11: 26-30 and II Corinthians 8 and 9, I want you to see these four principles.

1. Relationship

In Acts 11: 26, 29 they were called disciples which means they were in a relationship as a follower of Jesus Christ.

II Corinthians 8:1 they were called brethren. If we “are brothers,” then that means we have the same father and are closely related.

II Corinthians 9: 5 Paul said you need to first give yourself to the Lord. That is where the idea of offerings begin is entering into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord.

## 2. Request

Since you are in a relationship with God as Father, then simply go into His presence and ask Him “how much should I give in this special offering?”

## 3. Revelation

Then we give by revelation of how God the Father responds to us and not according to how much we think we can give.

Acts 11:28 the prophet shared with them about the need and they responded by “giving according to their ability.”

II Corinthians 8:2-3 says they gave according to their ability and beyond.

Also they gave out of their poverty.

When you ask God how much He wants you to give, most of the time (ok – all of the time) it will be more than you are thinking. But you are asking how much he wants you to give instead of how much you can afford. Thus when he tells us then it is his responsibility to provide the resources.

We give by revelation not by records of our checking account or portfolio.

#### 4. Resources

As I have just said, since it is God's idea of how much you should give and normally it is more than you can afford, then it is God's responsibility to provide the resources in order to do what he has asked you to do.

That is called "grace!"

Acts 11:29  
II Corinthians 9:7-9

Paul says you are to give willingly, freely and cheerfully. When you are acting in obedience to the Father and the Father is pleased with your gifts, it will cause a cheerful heart.

And God has promised for "grace to abound" when you give.

My friend Bobby Atkins described three resources of grace:

##### 1. The Grace of New Opportunities

God may open the doors for more income, a second job, a raise, a bonus, or better returns on your investments.

##### 2. The Grace of Discipline

God will help you to find items in your budget that you can reduce freeing money.

##### 3. The Grace of the Unusual

God loves to do "the unusual."

- Elijah and the widow's oil and handful of flour
- Elijah at the Brook of Cherith
- 5 loaves and 2 fishes
- 5 talents, 2 talents and 1 talent

God has just done a miracle right before your eyes. Just a few days ago the Democrats and the Republicans got together and decided you are getting a tax check from them delivered to your mailbox this spring. Now I know that had to be God for those two warring parties to come together on anything!!

God will do supernatural things in order to accomplish what He has asked you to do.

Two closing thoughts:

1. This gift is promised before you actually give it. 9:5

You promise it not on the basis of what you have in the bank but what God has promised He would do. That is more secure than the bank.

2. This gift results in great glory to God. 9:8, 12-15

When you give this way and God supplies, then God receives much thanksgiving and glory.