

Kingdom Economics III

Acts 2:42-45 - ***42And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. 44And all that believed were together, and had all things common; 45And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.***

A major cause for the disparities that we continue to see among believers today is the absence of the fear of the Lord. The word fear in verse 43 is phobos, from a primary phobomai (to be put in fear); *alarm* or *fright*:—be afraid, exceedingly, fear, terror. It is this fear that causes believers to recognize that they do not own the things they have, they merely possess them. To say that I own something means that it belongs to me. To say that I possess it means that it is merely under my temporary control. In the economics of the Kingdom, believers recognize that the things they have are simply in their possession for an appointed period of time. When believers have the fear of the Lord, they will be sensitive to the direction that the Holy Spirit gives them, so that when it is time to transfer a particular possession, they will do so without hesitation. Where there is no fear or respect for the Lord, the mentality among people will be that things belong to them. The believer that says “I own this thing” will dispose of that thing on his terms. More than likely, he will try to get the maximum value that he can for the thing in a couple of ways:

1. He will seek the greatest monetary value that he can for the thing; or
2. He will give it away in return for a reduced tax liability, seeking the maximum deduction value he can obtain

There are other possibilities in which the item is transferred for a reduced value, but even in those cases there is usually a motivating factor that will cause the person to accept a lesser value, such as the benefit of obtaining cash for immediate use. The ultimate objective is to derive a benefit from the transaction. In other words, the purpose of the transaction is generally to promote self interest. The emphasis on self interest becomes the driving force for the world's economy. In contrast, the driving force in the economy of the Kingdom is obedience. This is because the person that is a citizen of the Kingdom has already obtained all of the benefits of the Kingdom.

Acts 5:1-11 - ***1But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, 2And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? 4Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. 5And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. 6And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. 7And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. 8And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. 9Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. 10Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. 11And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.***

Ananias and Sapphira did not respect the power of the Holy Spirit. Their attitude that they had a right to retain a portion of the money they received would have been like a cancer to the body. The Holy Spirit would not allow that to occur in the body of Christ, so the Spirit convicted them, and consequently, they died. Notice, however, that when each of them died, great fear fell upon all of them that witnessed what occurred. Without a fear of the Lord, we too can and will be susceptible to the same temptation to think that what we have belongs to us.

Proverbs 1:7 (KJV) ***7The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.***

Fear - H3374

yir'ah

yir-aw'

Feminine of [H3373](#); *fear* (also used as infinitive); morally *reverence*:— X dreadful, X exceedingly, fear (-fulness).

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Knowledge - H1847

da'ath

dah'-ath

From [H3045](#); *knowledge*:—cunning, [ig-] norantly, know(-ledge), [un-] awares (wittingly).

Our reverence for the Lord Jesus Christ brings about an awareness within us that compels us to obey Him. We are compelled to obey Him in both Word and Spirit. Fools, however, have no reverence for the Lord. They despise wisdom and instruction. What is wisdom? Wisdom is learning, then applying the learning. It means to both learn and do. What other word means to both learn and do? It is the Greek word *mathetes*, which means to disciple. A disciple is one who learns and does. A fool, then, is someone who refuses to receive wisdom and/or instruction.

Proverbs 9:10 (KJV) ***¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.***

The distinction between knowledge and wisdom is that wisdom requires doing something with the knowledge you have obtained. Wisdom is gained through the experience of doing. Knowledge without action can lead to pride or haughtiness.

1 Corinthians 8:1 (KJV) ***¹Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.***

G5448

phusioō

foo-see-o'-o

From [G5449](#) in the primary sense of *blowing*; to *inflate*, that is, (figuratively) *make proud (haughty)*:—puff up.

The origin of the word comes from the root word *phuō (foo'-o)*, which is a primary verb; probably originally to “puff” or *blow*, that is, to *swell* up; but only used in the implied sense, to *germinate* or *grow (sprout, produce)*, literally or figuratively:—spring (up).

In the economics of the Kingdom, it is important to understand that we are expected to be ready to share those things which are in our possession as the Holy Spirit directs us. Paul makes it very clear that we own nothing in his letter to Timothy:

1 Tim. 6:6-8 - ***⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.***

The word *contentment* in Greek is *autarkeia*, which means *self satisfaction*, that is, (abstractly) *contentedness*, or (concretely) a *competence*:—*contentment, sufficiency*. The word *content* in Greek is *arkeō*, which means to *ward off*, that is, (by implication) to *avail (figuratively be satisfactory)*:—*be content, be enough, suffice, be sufficient*. For the believer, food and clothing should be sufficient for living. The reason so many believers cannot be content with these things is because they want to live according to the world's economy rather than God's Kingdom economy. In the world, food and clothing are not enough. Many believers want to use Biblical principles in order to benefit in the world's economy. This cannot happen, because the principle in the world's economy is to gain benefit, while the principle in the Kingdom economy is to give in order that others may benefit.

Matt. 10:7-8 - ***⁷And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. ⁸Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.***

The Gospel was not given to us to obtain monetary profit; rather, it was given to us that we may give it to others. This is Kingdom economics in action. It is distributed to us, that we may further distribute, or dispense, the Gospel of the Kingdom.

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