

Fork Out the Cash

by Peggy Smith

Money is not an issue between God and me.

Not being rich gave me many, many firsthand opportunities as a preacher's kid to see how God takes care of His people.

The reason is the way I was raised, and, once again, I say thanks to the greatest mother in the world, who is my mama, sister, and best friend all rolled into one.

Not long ago, I was thanking Mama for a couple of things: (1) I thanked her for having me in South Carolina, because there is no other place in the world that I would have wanted to be born. (2) I also thanked her that we were not rich.

Not being rich gave me many, many firsthand opportunities as a preacher's kid to see how God takes care of His people. We never had to beg or ask for help; we just asked God to supply our needs, and that is exactly what He did.

For me, the key to settling this money issue is recognizing **Who** is doing the giving? God is the Great Giver; and, as I grew up, I saw Him working through people who I call angels of mercy. Here are a few examples.

1. When our cupboards were almost bare, He sent angels of mercy with bags and bags of groceries.
2. He supplied \$5.00 just in time to keep my parents from having to cancel our insurance.
3. He provided a friend who made our car payments until the loan was paid off.
4. When my dad was sick so many times in my young days, God provided a doctor who refused to take any money.
5. God made it possible for me to go to Trevecca Nazarene College and then helped me to pay off the total bill in just a few years.
6. During my dad's four-year, eight-month battle with cancer, there was no way to cover our bills. Daddy said, "If the bills are going to be paid, the money will have to rain down from heaven." And, boy, did it rain!
7. Daddy was in the hospital nine times, and, on one occasion, the bill was \$30,000, not including radiation and doctors' bills. When Mom and I moved to Kansas City eight years ago, we left with every bill paid in full.

So, with all of this in mind, how do I respond to the Great Giver?

1. When He wants me to give 10 percent of everything I earn to the church, **I fork out the cash.**
2. When He provides the opportunity for me to give to missions through Faith Promise, **I fork out the cash.**
3. When I feel checked by the Spirit not to make a certain major purchase and later feel led by the Spirit to give that money to the Kingdom, **I fork out the cash.**
4. When He wants me to dip into my savings and give to a special project directly related to the work of the Kingdom, **I fork out the cash.**
5. When He wants me to double my building fund pledge, **I fork out the cash.**

In closing, there are three things I want to say:

1. It's not my money; it's God's money. If He didn't give me health and strength to earn it, I wouldn't have a cent.
2. I give as He directs no matter how much, no matter how little.
3. I just watch Him supply all my needs out of the magnificence of His riches in Christ Jesus!

To you, I say, praise the Lord and **fork out the cash!**

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