

## **A Life in Balance - Financial Health Devotion**

"With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God?" (Micah 6:6)

A heart that loves is a heart that loves to give. That certainly applies to God, He's got the greatest, deepest love, and He gives the most extravagant, sacrificial gifts—with joy. But what do we long to give? From what passions do our sacrifices flow? Do they flow toward God?

It's a penetrating series of questions, isn't it? Our treasures will always flow naturally in the direction of our loves. We might be able to divert them sometimes in the direction of our "supposed tos", but whatever discretionary valuables we hold will go toward what we're most passionate about. When Micah wonders what he'll bring to God, he's expressing a natural desire in light of God's tremendous favor. The past deliverances and compassions of our Lord should captivate our hearts and leave us wishing we could give Him more.

When we find ourselves completely captivated by an interest, a relationship, a project, or a possession, and simultaneously find ourselves reluctantly giving to God—not just money, but time and talents and energy—we're making a major statement about our love. Our heart is betraying the confidence of our mouth, acting as a true barometer of our deepest feelings. If our energy and resources flow naturally in the direction of something other than God and His kingdom, we're in a disappointing relationship with our Father. He wants so much more than lip service and tithes. He wants our love for Him to flow freely and genuinely.

In what direction do your choices point? Are you looking for more that you can offer to God, or are you fulfilling an obligation toward Him so you can enthusiastically pursue your real interests? Every human being wrestles with authenticity toward God. Few recognize the counterfeits.

If you just diagnosed a cold heart toward the warmth of His love, dwell on His extravagance. Let it soften you. Let yourself be captivated by your God.