



APRIL-JUNE 2019 | VOL. 1

The Newsletter of Faith Temple Church

# Beacon

Letting our light shine!

**FTBeacon.org**



## Financial Masquerade

by John E. Perez

My wife and I are preparing to launch the Financial Peace University (FPU) training by Dave Ramsey at our church. As I listened to the videos, I saw all the mistakes that I made during my life: maxing out credit cards, taking second mortgages to pay off the credit cards, taking trips to Disney World with kids, borrowing from Peter to pay Paul.

Our family and friends thought we were well off. We were the envy of our neighborhood, because we were "living the dream". After all, we built a new home, had two cars, our kids had all the latest toys and cell phones, but we were drowning in debt! This was the masquerade. We put on the mask of deceit and hid behind the foolishness of our misery.

**FEAR IS THE ENEMY OF HOPE!**

FTBeacon.org

FINANCIAL *Peace* UNIVERSITY

**FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY**

Tuesdays: 7 – 8:30 PM

During months of June & July

**\$109**

Per household

## This Month's Roundup of Stories

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I knew this ship was sinking. My world crashed: house was foreclosed on--not once, TWICE! My car was repossessed, credit card debts went to collections, we filed bankruptcy and lost it all. The masquerade was over!

I found out that God has the answer in His Word. He said, "give and it shall be given unto you". I went back to basics: paying my tithes and offerings, and (listen to this) I started giving God His FIRST! Little by little, I got my house back in order. This was a financial journey back to wholeness. I was forgiven and set free from my mistakes. I'm living proof that if you implement the FPU principles God will give you back what you've lost. More importantly, you can have financial peace!

Go to our website and sign-up for our upcoming FPU Class. It starts June 4th.

# Tithing: The Gift that Keeps Giving!

by Melinda Velez

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV) says, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

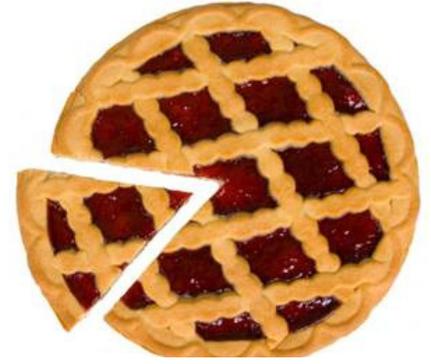
What is tithing? Basically, tithing is setting aside the first 10% of your income (first fruits) to God (your church). Tithing is an act of obedience and should be given freely with pure motives. Giving and helping others go hand in hand. We should want to give and or help without expecting anything in return. According to Mathew 6:2-3, giving should be done without boasting and expecting accolades, God will see what was done and reward us. Living unselfishly is what God is trying to teach us and to always keep God first.

Sunday, November 11, 2018, Pastor Perez spoke about Tithing. That service touched me in a way that I knew I needed to make financial changes. I felt, with great conviction, that my finances needed to be in order, and I should obey the word of God. Obedience to God demonstrates our faithfulness and opens up avenues of blessings for us (John 13:17).

Monday, November 12, 2018, I opened up a separate savings account through my employer to set aside my earnings so I can tithe. A few months passes and as I watched my savings account grow, I recalled what Pastor said in church, "If you can't live on 90%, you weren't going to live on 100% anyway".

On my way home from work one evening, I did my normal routine of checking my mailbox before driving up the driveway. As I sifted through all the junk-mail, I saw an

Will you  
give your  
first & BEST  
slice?



envelope from New York State. My initial thoughts were, "this would be great if this is a check". To my surprise, that letter from New York State WAS a check. The check was one dollar shy of the exact amount of my tithes for the past two months. God will truly bless us on the overflow for faithfully tithing (Malachi 3:10).

Matthew 6:21 says "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." When we are able to tithe instead of either spending recklessly or just holding on to it for ourselves, it shows that our heart isn't tied to our money. We need to love God more than our money.

Many people find themselves in a financial crisis during some point throughout life. We need to stop, think and ask God if we are spending our money wisely before we just go all willy-nilly with it. We need to realize that all we have is because of Him. Most of us work for our money, but it is God that gives us the ability to perform our jobs. God can easily take away what he has given (Job 1:21)

  
**NY SHOPPING TRIP**

**SAT., APRIL 6**

**8:30 AM - 5:00 PM**

**PRE-PAY**

**\$28**

# Try It...You'll Like It

by Paula C. Perez

About a month ago, I was introduced to a shopping app called ShopKick. You use the app in a store, mall or while shopping online to browse specials and collect points towards real-money rewards or gift certificates. Some stores even give "kicks" or points for just walking (or driving) by their entrance.

One of my family members took me around and showed me how to use the app. They bragged about the benefits. They have earned enough kicks to purchase groceries and other merchandise. Even though I'm not a shopper, I was hooked. Like so many others, I told EVERYONE I came into contact with about this app (including random strangers in the store and a Lyft driver). Then it hit me, as if Jesus was whispering in my ear:

Why didn't you tell them about me? I thought I was the best thing that ever happened to you. Why aren't you just as enthusiastic to tell them what I've done for you?

## Financial Peace Scramble

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**Romans 1:16 says "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile."**

Then I thought of a story about a woman from Samaria. She was despised, and as a result, she tried to avoid the crowds. Instead of getting her water from the local watering hole early in the morning, she went the hottest time of the day when most women were home. On one of her routine runs to get water, she met a Jewish man. Despite the fact that she was a woman and a Samaritan, this man struck up a conversation with her. He told her everything about her past and current situation. This man was Jesus. Her personal encounter with him changed her life forever and made her a Christ follower. This woman could not contain her enthusiasm. She immediately started sharing with everyone, "Come see a man who told me everything I ever did... Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him [Jesus] because of the woman's testimony".

Dear Lord, help us ALL to enthusiastically share our personal testimony of how you make the difference in our life.... Just like with the app, if we tell them and compel them, many will try Him, and like Him. Then they too will say, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man [Jesus] really is the Savior of the world."

Scriptural Reference: John 4:1-42



**Faith Temple**  
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

**Weekly Services:**

Sundays - 10 AM Sunday School & Kids Church /11 AM Service  
Tuesdays - 7:30 PM - Call Conf. Line (712) 770-5505,,,,,996706#  
**Weekdays: 7:30 AM Prayer** (712) 770-5505,,,,,996706#

**April 2019**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Notes:
	1	2	3	4	5 Youth Night	6	Apr 5: Youth Night - 6:15 PM Apr 6: Spring Shopping Trip to NY - 8:30 AM - \$28
7	8	9	10	11	12 Reh.	13	Apr 7: Bettie Brown / Melinda Perez Apr 12: Rehearsal - 6:15 PM
14 Palm Sun	15	16	17	18	19 Good Friday	20	Apr 19: Good Friday - Speaks at Beulah Baptist Apr 21: Easter Service - 11 AM - Kids share
21 Easter	22	23	24	25	26	27	Apr 23: Shirley Cumberbatch Apr 27: Bishop Gaylord Empowerment Conf. 10 AM
28 Men's Day	29	30					Apr 28: Men's Day - 4PM / Dorothy Childs

**May 2019**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Notes:
			1	2	3 Youth Night	4	May 3: Youth Night - 6:15 PM May 4: Jordan Childs
5	6	7	8	9	10 Reh.	11	May 5: To Holy Spirit (Ossining) 4PM / James Childs May 6: Brittney Mason / Kaitlynn Perez
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15	16	17	18	May 8: Ralphine Childs May 12: Mother's Day
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	May 15: Fran Butler May 21: Joyce Miller
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31		May 22: Gloria Singleton May 23: Edward Perez
							May 25: Bishop Gaylord Empowerment Conf. 10 AM May 27: Memorial Day

**June 2019**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Notes:
						1	<b>Notes:</b> Financial Peace (FP) - Tuesdays 7-8:30 PM Jun 7: Youth Night - 6:15 PM
2	3	FP 4	5	6	7 Youth Night	8	Jun 9: Women's Day - 11AM & 4PM - Dr. Tracey Johnson Jun 14: Rehearsal - 6:15 PM
9 Women Day	10	FP 11	12	13	14 Reh.	15	Jun 16: Dads & Grads Day - 11 AM Fill Up the House! Jun 22: Bishop Gaylord Empowerment Conf. 10 AM
16 Father's Day	17	FP 18	19	20	21	22	Jun 23: Codi Childs / Claudetter Gerald Jun 26: Tim Childs
23	24	FP 25	26	27	28	29	Jun 28: Jocelyn's Graduation
30							

For more info, email us at [info@FTBeacon.org](mailto:info@FTBeacon.org) and visit our website: FTBeacon.org