

May 7, 2022. Local Church Budget

He Empowers!

Appeal: Deuteronomy 8:18

“But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.”

We worship God with our resources because He has placed something valuable in each of our pockets. Some of you are not convinced by these words because you are thinking of how thin your purse is or about the bank account that you don't have. Sometimes, we search thoroughly and still fail to see the value in things that we have received. Hence, we are tempted even to doubt these words or take comfort by spiritualizing the meaning of the word “wealth.” Is it possible that we focus too much on the end product while not appreciating the “ability to produce wealth” that God has given us?

One day a man was asked about the difference between himself and his wife. Listen to his answer: “When I am hungry, I behave differently from my wife.” “After my day of work at the office, I will drop my bag, rush to the kitchen, remove the lid from over the pot and look for my favorite dish.” “In contrast, my wife, when she is hungry, will open the cupboard and the fridge, get the raw materials and prepare a delicious meal.” Two different strategies to address the same need: one is seeking desperately for the end product and the other using the available raw materials.

Instead of being frustrated and discouraged about the absence or limitation of the end product, it is more efficient to acknowledge and use God's raw materials. They comprise, among other things of the health, energy, talents, and gifts that He has provided. And God promises to empower us as we diligently use these raw materials. Do you know that one of the most thrilling experiences is to partner with God to produce resources for our subsistence? This week, through our participation in tithe and regular offerings we can praise God for assisting us in transforming the raw materials He provides.

Prayer: Lord, we are thankful for both the raw materials and the ability to produce wealth. You are indeed the Provider of everything.