

Circulation: Gifts, Tithes & Offerings

We teach that consciousness develops through patterns and rhythm. Not many would argue that if one prays haphazardly, one is likely to get haphazard results. Most would agree that if one meditates haphazardly, one is not likely to reap the full benefit consistent meditation offers, etc. Most spiritual communities offer opportunities for regular and consistent practice of the four spiritual practices: prayer, meditation, study and service – but what about circulation?

Other than passing the plate once-per-week, conversations about money can make clergy appear as trying to get their hands in the people's pockets. With all this secrecy and avoidance, is it any wonder that money is one of the top producers of shame and fear in people?

Among the ways we've been taught tithing, we've likely heard it described as "giving back to the source of our spiritual good." i.e. our local Church. This perspective strikes a chord of superstition and guilt because we do not believe Spirit commands us to give our money to a particular institution in order for us to prosper, nor do we believe some secret storehouse of good is unlocked depending upon to whom we write our check. Like praying: it does not bring God closer to us (God is already "nearer than breathing..."); it brings us closer to the remembrance of God.

Circulation is a simple idea: it is your nature to both give and receive – like breathing – you must both breathe in and out if you want to keep living. We believe one simply has to give money away if one wants to experience more of it; it is our nature to surrender hoarding, stop clinging, release attachment, circulate, trust God and not the dollar, etc.

In actuality, we can burn our money, make airplanes out of it, throw it away or even flush it – just let go of some of it! However, rather than burn/throw/flush it, why not give it to the community you want to see

flourish?" The idea of practicing a spiritual practice through circulation has become a growth opportunity rather than a mandate. How refreshing!

Book Recommendation: Jim Rosemergy, "Even Mystics Have Bills to Pay"