



SABBATH 7—FEBRUARY 17, 2024

What Should I Do When I Don't Trust?

Psalm 74:22—"Arise, O God, plead Your own cause."

Some people argue that they do not return tithes and offerings because they cannot agree with the way that the church uses its resources and because they do not perceive transparency in the use of church funds.

How should we act when we don't agree with the way things are conducted in the church? This question is so important that I would like to answer it with a quote from Ellen G. White. She says:

Some have been dissatisfied, and have said, "I will not longer pay my tithe; for I have no confidence in the way things are managed at the heart of the work." But will you rob God because you think the management of the work is not right? Make your complaint, plainly and openly, in the right spirit, to the proper ones. Send in your petitions for things to be adjusted and set in order; but do not withdraw from the work of God, and prove unfaithful, because others are not doing right. —*Gospel Workers*, p. 226.

This quote teaches us three profound truths:

1. When you choose to be unfaithful because, in your perception, the church leaders are not managing the resources properly, you are robbing God.
2. Inquiries should be presented to competent persons who manage God's church. Do not follow the revolutionary spirit of our age that teaches that exposure is the only way to solve problems.
3. Present your doubts in a proper Christian spirit. Ask God to put love in your words and give you wisdom as you submit your questions. Act as someone who wants to help and not destroy.

The quote concludes by stating, "But do not withdraw from the work of God, and prove unfaithful, because others are not doing right." Do not withdraw from the work of God. He has work to do on this earth and invites you to join Him.

Appeal: Maybe you have lost confidence in the way God's work has been carried out. If that is the case, I want to invite you to pray right now and ask God for wisdom to act according to prophetic guidance, and especially to stay involved with the cause of truth by being faithful.

