

## Eight Basic Principles of Tithing

Mal. 3:6-12

### 1. Tithing is for today

- a. Mal. 3:6 *For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*
- b. So many claim that tithing was under the law of Moses and is no longer applicable under the New Testament. This is not true for several reasons:
  - (1) Men of God tithed centuries before the law of Moses. Abraham tithed (Gen. 14:20) and so did Jacob (Gen. 28:22)
  - (2) Jesus told the Pharisees that they should have given their tithes along with extending judgment, mercy, and faith (Matt. 23:23)
- c. While the New Testament is clear that God is against legalistic practices (such as circumcision), there is nothing whatsoever in the New Testament prohibiting the tithe for today. Whatever the New Testament does not say is done away with remains a command for God's people today.
- d. The New Testament speaks clearly on proportionate giving. A tenth helps us to give systematically according to New Testament instruction (1 Cor. 16:1-2)

### 2. Failing to tithe is moving away from the commands and rules of God.

- a. Mal. 3:7 *Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?*
- b. Ordinance – “an authoritative rule or law; a decree or command.”
- c. Notice the principle of “reciprocity” here. God says, “Return unto me, and I will return unto you”
- d. James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.
- e. God will move when we move. Furthermore, he does not leave any mystery to how He expects us to move. The Israelites asked, “Wherein shall we return?” The answer is found in the next verse.

### 3. Tithes belong to God. Withholding them is robbing Him.

- a. Mal. 3:8 *Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.*

- b. One dictionary defines “rob” as “to deprive (someone) of some right or something legally due:” God is entitled to a tenth of our income and we are depriving Him when we withhold from Him.
- c. Failure to give God a tithe demonstrates that the fear of God is lacking in us. When I fear God I would not dare to deprive Him of that which He is entitled to.
- d. Most of us would not even think that a man could actually rob God, but to withhold from Him is equivalent to robbing Him.

4. Failing to tithe keeps us from receiving God’s help.

- a. Mal. 3:9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.
- b. A “curse” is not necessarily something in which God is personally involved. Quite the contrary. It is when God has removed His hand, His blessing and His presence from a situation and allowed the natural consequences to take place. Basically, He removes His hand of protection.
  - (1) “When God pronounced the curse He was simply declaring the inevitable consequences of sin, consequences which come not from God but from that terrible separation from Him which sin causes.” Dr. Elliott O’ Douglin
  - (2) Remember when God said, “*Return unto me, and I will return unto you.*” This means that their failure to tithe removed God’s hand of blessing, which automatically left them under a curse.
- c. God has established simple and basic spiritual laws that He usually does not interfere with - Gal. 6:6-10
- d. Examples concerning the relationship of giving to our prosperity or lack thereof – 2 Cor. 6:9-11; Luke 6:38.
  - (1) Notice those who sow “sparingly” will receive in proportion to that which they sow. We should never complain that God has blessed us with little if we have sown little. If we do not sow at all, we will receive nothing at all.
  - (2) If we do the exact opposite of the instruction mentioned in these New Testament Scriptures then we will not get the results promised in them.
  - (3) *There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.* (Prov. 11:24)
- e. Failure to do God’s will mean that we actually bring upon ourselves our own problems. Disobedience to God says, “God, I do not trust you. I can handle my life on my own.”

5. Tithes should be brought to the place where you are being fed God’s Word.

- a. Mal. 3:10a Bring ye all the tithes into the **storehouse**, that there may be meat in mine house....
- b. In Scripture, a storehouse is the place where the food to feed someone was kept

(1) Luke 12:24 Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?

(2) Gen. 41:55-57

c. American Heritage Dictionary says:

(1) A place or building in which goods are stored; a warehouse.

(2) An abundant source or supply: a storehouse of knowledge.

d. Another definition:

(1) magazine - Considered a "storehouse" for articles; the word comes from Arabic makhzan, "storehouse," and was first used in book titles presenting a "store" of information about specific topics.

e. It is from this house that your spiritual food" is stored up, awaiting for you to come and be fed. This is the place where you receive Biblical knowledge to live a life of victory in Christ. We teach you a number of specific Biblical topics. Therefore, this is your storehouse.

f. One should not receive spiritual food; the knowledge and info from *this* storehouse but send the payment to another storehouse.

## 6. Tithing opens the door for God to bless us abundantly

a. Mal. 3:10b Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

b. God says, "prove me now herewith." This is not a "put God to the test" statement in which we say, "Well, I will try it and see if God is telling the truth." "Prove me now herewith" is an act of faith in which one already believes God, realizes that He is telling the truth, and will put it to the test to demonstrate what they already to be true.

c. When it comes to one's money, no one wants to take any uncertain risks. However, when one recognizes that God is a God of integrity, they know that He will do as He has said and by tithing they will "prove His promises to be true" or "on the money."

d. Failure to tithe hinders God from blessing because He cannot bless rebellion and disobedience (and unbelief).

(1) Jer 5:25 Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you.

e. Tithing moves the hand of God to bless us.

- (1) 2 Cor 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:
- (2) God is only able to do this when we have met the requirements stated in the previous verses. If we do not meet the requirements then God is unable to fulfill verse 8 (Titus 1:1-2).
- (3) When God blesses, He does it with abundance and extravagance.

#### 7. Protection from the attacks of the enemy

- a. Mal 3:11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.
- b. King James Dictionary - DEVOURER, n. One who devours; he or that which eats, consumes or destroys; he that preys on.
  - (1) Does this not describe Satan? (John 10:10; 1 Pet. 5:8-9).
- c. The physical literal understanding of this passage concerns Israel's crops and the insects that would seek to devour them before they could enjoy them. In our day, pesticides are used to keep this from happening. But God was offering something better than poisonous pesticides: He offered His personal divine protection over these crops.
  - (1) From a spiritual application, the devil is sometimes likened to an insect. In Matt. 12:24-26, Satan is referred to as "Beelzebub," which means "Lord of the flies."
  - (2) Also, in Rev. 9:3-7, some of the demon spirits are likened unto locusts which eat the crops and the fruit of the ground (Ex. 10:14-15). However, God's intervention will drive them away (Ex. 10:18-19).
- d. As we stated earlier, the curse that comes from lack of tithing is not necessarily God directly bringing negative things in our lives.
  - (1) Rejection of God and His ways open the door for the devil. This is the curse. Eph 4:27 says, "Don't give the devil any opportunity to work." (God's Word Translation)
  - (2) On the other hand, when we submit to God, we can expect His protection over the devil's attacks on our finances (James 4:7).

#### 8. The blessings that God gives will be visible, tangible and noticeable

- a. Mal 3:12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.
- b. Sometimes theologians want to limit God's blessings to "spiritual" blessings. Not too many people notice one whose blessings have been limited to the "spiritual."

- c. When all nations (“all people”) call us blessed it will be due to the fact that they actually see that God has blessed us in a visible, tangible way.

(1) Matt. 6:3-6

- d. Many people will be won to the Lord as they see how God is blessing you. Many non-tithing Christians will see that your financial sacrifices pay off in major dividends.