

## A Lifestyle That Gives

### Why The Tithe?

So many ask this question: Why the tithe?

- I have seen people battling a **curse** in their lives. They don't relate it to **not tithing** and struggle in life.

The Bible clearly tells us of a **blessing** and a **curse**.

Again: Right from the start, I am going to try to convince you tithing is a valuable key to creating **prosperity**.

Church family – please **tithe**; it will **cure** you from this awful curse.

Malachi 3 – let's start with verse 6

### **Malachi 3:6**

- God is saying this to **Israel**.
  - \* The reason I haven't killed you yet is that "I am the Lord" – I am **good** and I do not **change**.

Here is the reason:

1. Theologically, it is called the immutability of God or an **attribute** of God – things we attribute as God's **being**.

It is a character of God – to never **change**.

2. The reason God cannot change is because He is totally perfect.

Here it is: If God could change it, then that means He could get better and He can't get better because He is already perfect.

So God can't change.

- What if He said 3,000 years ago, the tithe belongs to Me?

Does it still belong to Him?

Yes, He can't change.

3. God makes some statements in the Bible that cannot change because they are related to Him, His character, and His person.

Last week, we looked at the principle of firstfruits of the firstborn.

- Firstfruits began 2,500 years ago before the law.

Why – because it's a principle of God that He only will be first, never second.

4. The tithe falls under this principle and the Bible calls it an ordinance.
5. An ordinance is a principle that we follow for ordinary behavior.

Ordinance – comes from the word – order – which is also ordinary.

- Tithing is ordinary behavior.
  - It is an ordinance and the tithe belongs to God.
  - Because it's a principle, it was before the law and after the law.

## **Malachi 3:6**

### **Malachi 3:7a**

<sup>7</sup> Yet from the days of your fathers you have gone away from My ordinances...

### **Malachi 3:7b**

<sup>7</sup> ...And have not kept *them*. Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the Lord of hosts. "But you said, 'In what way shall we return?'

Notice though – the context of verse 6 & 7.

"In what way shall we return"

### **Malachi 3:8**

<sup>8</sup> "Will a man rob God? ...

### **Malachi 3:8b**

<sup>8</sup> ... Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.

### **Malachi 3:9**

<sup>9</sup> You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation.

### **Malachi 3:10a**

<sup>10</sup> Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try (or test) Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts (God is talking)...

### Malachi 3:10b

<sup>10</sup>...“If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you *such* blessing that *there will not be room enough to receive it*.

- \* By the way – to a faithful tither, the windows of Heaven never closes.

### Malachi 3:11-12

Who is talking – God – He can't change.

He says – some are under a curse and to change that, God doesn't need to change, they do.

Produce a lifestyle of tithing and giving.

6. The reason they are under a curse is God says they are stealing from Him because He is asking for ten percent.
  - Father God, as I teach this, some will rise up in argument and disagreement saying this is Old Testament.

Church – this principle was put in scripture in the proper place.

A. Tithing is a test.

7. Tithing is a test of our hearts.

By the way, there are scriptures in the New Testament regarding tithing.

Question: Why would we argue about a principle that will bless you? To rebuke the devourer? Who do you think put these disagreements in your head?

## Matthew 6:21

- God ties your treasure with your **heart**.

## Matthew 15:8

- If you would like to treasure your church and those around you, put your treasure **here**.
- \* This is why tithing is a **test**.

The word tithe – a **tenth** part.

- Also the number ten through scripture represents **testing**.

Here are some examples:

- How many plagues were there in Egypt?

Answer: **ten**

I could of said, how many times did God test Pharaoh's **heart**?

Here is the second:

- How many commandments are there?

Answer: **ten**

Here is the third:

- How many times did God test Israel in the wilderness?

Answer: **ten**

Here is the fourth example:

- How many times were Jacob's wages changed?

Answer: ten times his heart was tested.

Here is the fifth example:

- How many days was Daniel tested?

Answer: ten times

### **Daniel 1:8-14**

Here is the sixth example:

- How many virgins were tested in Matthew 25?

Answer: ten – five wise and five foolish

Here is the seventh example:

- How many days of testing is mentioned in Revelation 2:10?

### **Revelation 2:10**

Answer: ten days

- How many disciples were there?

Answer: not ten – there were twelve

The number ten represents testing in scripture so God is testing our hearts regarding the tithe.