

Tithe

- **(Two weeks ago) Self-Discipline** – The word **tithe** is based on the Hebrew number ten. The symbol for the number is called YOD. Looks like an apostrophe. YOD is a Hebrew symbol of what exists in a steady state, continually.
 - **Ten is a perfect number**, and signifies the perfection and completeness of Divine order. It implies that nothing is wanting; that the number and order are perfect; that the whole cycle is complete.
 - In the midst of a generation that's not godly, in a society rapidly moving further away from the principles of the Word of God, **We must discipline ourselves daily to live Godly.**

John 14:23 Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will **obey my teaching**. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

- **(Last Week) What do You Treasure** – God owns it all! Game Over! - So stop playing games with God and His Stuff.

Malachi 3:3-15

Malachi 3:3 ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness,

Breaking Covenant by Withholding Tithes

⁶“I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷ Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty.

“But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’ ⁸“Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.

“But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’

“In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me.

Israel Speaks Arrogantly Against God

¹³“You have spoken arrogantly against me,” says the LORD.

“Yet you ask, ‘What have we said against you?’

¹⁴“You have said, ‘It is futile to serve God. What do we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the LORD Almighty? ¹⁵ But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly evildoers prosper, and even when they put God to the test, they get away with it.’”

Explanation:

Leviticus 27:30 ³⁰““A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.

Deuteronomy 14:22 ²² Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year.

4 Clarifying Points:

The Command

The Purpose

The Promises

The Penalties

The command is clear.

1. When we tithe, it should come from our first fruits,
2. We are to bring it to the storehouse

1. When we tithe, it should come from our first fruits, not our leftovers
Prov. 3:9-10 The Message (MSG) Can't get any plainer than this.

⁵⁻¹² Trust GOD from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for GOD's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track.

Don't assume that you know it all. Run to GOD! Run from evil! Your body will glow with health, your very bones will vibrate with life! Honor GOD with everything you own; give him the first and the best.

Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over. But don't, dear friend, resent GOD's discipline; don't sulk under his loving correction. It's the child he loves that GOD corrects; a father's delight is behind all this.

2. We are to bring it to the storehouse.

Malachi 3:10 ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

ALSO: 1 Corinthians 16:2 ² On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

The purpose is clear.

Tithing allows for three important things:

- 1. To provide for the work of God.**
- 2. To prove the faithfulness of God.**
- 3. To properly honor God.**

1. To provide for the work of God. Our tithes provide for the ministry of the church in its day-to-day operations and to assist those in need both physically and spiritually.

Acts 2:44-47 ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The Message (MSG)

⁴³⁻⁴⁵ Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met.

⁴⁶⁻⁴⁷ They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

2. To prove the faithfulness of God. When you and I tithe, the Lord promises to bless us for our faithfulness. He tells us “Test Me now in this. . . I will. . . pour out for you a blessing until it overflows”. Anyone want to live with that kind of blessings or favor?

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will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

3. To properly honor God. Tithing allows us to express reverence for the Lord, because he is the source of all good things in our lives.

James 1:17¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

The Message (MSG) James 1:16-18

¹⁶⁻¹⁸ So, my very dear friends, don't get thrown off course. Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven. The gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Father of Light. There is nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle. He brought us to life using the true Word, showing us off as the crown of all his creatures.

God is saying two things to you . . .

Obey Me and Trust Me

Now in **Luke 6:38**, Jesus said, "Give and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over". We simply cannot out give God!

Consider the promises.

When you tithe, God promises:

- **"I will . . . open you the windows of heaven" Mal. 3:10.** In other words, you will experience the Lord's provision directly.
- **"I will . . . pour out for you a blessing until it overflows" (v. 10).** As you honor God, He increases the blessings in your life in wonderful ways you could never imagine.

- **“I will rebuke the devourer” (v. 11).** The Father will protect you, your family, your job, and all your possessions.
- **“All the nations will call you blessed” (v. 12).** The Lord will give you a powerful testimony among your friends and loved ones. Many will come to know Him through your obedience. Even if your example is late in life - your children and grandchildren will learn from your example and testimony.

Consider the penalties.

What really happens when we chose to rob God?

First of all understand this is rebellion, unbelief in God and who he is and being unthankful. Because of your rebellion, unbelief, and ingratitude . . .

- You miss out on God’s awesome provision and blessing.
- You experience the effects of disobedience in other areas of your life.
- You are outside of Gods protection.
- You damage your testimony because of your unbelief.