

### Key Text: Malachi 3:10

“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.”

### WHY DO WE NEED TO FOCUS SPECIFICALLY ON MONEY?

For starters, the gospels contain more warnings about money and its misuse than any other subject. One in every four verses in Matthew, Mark, and Luke deals with money. Not just in the Gospels but in the rest of the New Testament, one in every six verses deals with or makes reference to money in some way. Almost half of the parables of Jesus refer to money in one way or another.

Jesus even gives special warnings against greed. Greed, the love of money was at the root of some much evil in the New Testament. Judas betrayed Jesus for thirty silver coins which he never got to spend. (Matthew 26:14-16, 27:3-10 John 12:4-8, 13:27) The first sin in the early church concerned greed over money. (Acts 5:1-10) There was even the sin of “Simony” which is seeking to buy the gifts of God with money. (Acts 8:14-24) So it is good to remember that money is not evil but it is the LOVE of money that is so evil. (1 Timothy 6:7-10)

Then He said to them, “Beware, and be on your guard against **every form of greed**; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.”  
Luke 12:15

#### GREED

*“pleonexia”*

A Greek word that means, “**receiving more,**” and “**wanting more,**” with a reference to **power** as well as **property** and especially at the expense of another person.

### WHAT IS A TITHE AND AN OFFERING?

#### TITHES = A TENTH

Ten percent of our money is to be considered a tithe. This percentage of the money we manage should be considered as already belonging to God. Tithing is how we bring it back to God in worship. We are to bring the tithe and offerings to God’s storehouse. The “storehouse” is that place where the people of God are fed spiritually and relationally. This is literally the “local” Church where believers gather for worship and Biblical teaching. (Proverbs 3:9,10; Malachi 3:7-12; Matt. 18:20; Exodus 20:24)

#### OFFERING = VOLUNTARY GIFT

A gift that is voluntarily given to God is considered an offering. The Hebrew mind pictured these gifts being consumed and rising up to God in the same way that smoke from burnt offerings ascended into heaven. Offerings are in addition to a tithe and may be given only once or repeated often but they are important for the work of the ministry. While our gifts should be brought to the “Storehouse” they may also be given to the larger “Body of Christ”. Regardless these offerings are given freely as if they are given to God. (Acts 10:1-4; Exodus 36:3)



## CRUCIFY GREED AND BECOME A GIVER

“It is more blessed to Give than to Receive.” Acts 20:35

**Discover ways to act out these following principles in your life. Start applying them a little bit at a time and you will see more of the blessing of God poured out in your life.**

- Give yourself to the Lord First. (Rom. 12:1,2; 2 Corinthians 8:5)
- Give “Willingly.” (2 Corinthians 8:3, 12)
- Give “Cheerfully or hilariously.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)
- Give in proportionate to your income and ability. (2 Corinthians 8:2; 9:13)
- Give regularly and with consistency. (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
- Give systematically and with structure. (2 Corinthians 9:7)
- Give Lovingly. (2 Corinthians 8:24)
- Give thankfully or with thankfulness. (2 Corinthians 9:11-12)
- Give as serving the Lord and His Saints. (2 Corinthians 9:12-13)

### WHAT ARE SOME CONSEQUENCES FROM NOT BRINGING THE WHOLE TITHE TO GOD?

The greatest consequence is...THERE WILL BE A LACK IN THE HOUSE OF GOD. Yes, God technically owns all things and miraculously does supply our needs in any way He desires. But He has chosen to partner with your obedience to provide for the practical things needed in the body of Christ. When Malachi 3:10 gives the reason for tithing...“So there may be food in my house” it’s not because God is hungry. It is so the needs of the people will be met. These needs include both Spiritual Needs and Practical needs. A Christian must remain faithful to do three things with the money they receive and manage. First, TITHE, second, GIVE voluntary gifts, and third, SHARE. If we choose to ignore these three actions we will experience great lack in the house of God. Here are three of the ways we will experience “Lack”:

- NO MINISTERS - Nehemiah 13:10-12 shows when tithe is withheld even ministers must leave the spiritual tasks unfinished and provide for their own families in other ways.
- NO PLACE - Without Tithes and offerings Church buildings will fall into disrepair or never even be built.
- NO POWER - When tithe is withheld from God, the church cannot help those who are in great need and the Gospel will be hindered in the world. (Reference Acts 6:1-6; Romans 12:13 & 2 Corinthians 9:9-13)
- NO BLESSING - We will miss out on the divine blessing that is contingent on our obedience and our generosity. (Malachi 3:8-10)

## IS TITHING REALY FOR TODAY?

**Yes! The Old and the New Testaments confirm the truth that believers are to give a tithe of their income to God.**

- Abraham and Jacob confirmed that tithing was instituted before the law of Moses. (Genesis 14:18-20 & 28:22) Both of these instances confirmed a “Covenant” relationship with God that is still applicable to believers today.
- The Mosaic Covenant relationship also contained tithing as a law for Israel. (Leviticus 27:30-33 and Numbers 18:20-32) This was a dramatic way of distinguishing God’s people from all other people on the earth.
- Tithing under the Covenant of Grace is confirmed by Jesus. This is important because tithing did not start with the law or end because Christ was born. (Matthew 23:23; Luke 11:42, 18:12; Hebrews 7:1-21)

Some people might object to tithe and use the idea that it is no longer valid because it was part of the “Old Testament Laws”. That is just an excuse for not tithing. Jesus never voided tithe and tithe was started prior to and continued after the law. If a person does not tithe then they are actually robbing God. Also, if a person only gives the tithe and never gives offerings, they are only giving what already belongs to God. **Generosity starts after the tithe has been given.** God challenges us to give both tithes and offerings. (Malachi 3:8-10)