

# CRISIS, WHAT CRISIS? Doing Money God's Way

## Part 4 – To Tithe or Not to Tithe

Tithing is not about EMOTIONAL MANIPULATION or OLD TESTAMENT LEGALISM.

Tithing is a GATEWAY God has put in place as a means to His BLESSING. It's there to open the door to ABUNDANCE, provide for us financial FREEDOM and break the stranglehold of MATERIALISM.

→ *When you hear the word 'tithe,' what is your instinctive reaction? What have you been taught in the past? Are you in the 'finished with the OT' or 'still applies today' camp?*

→ *What was the purpose of tithing (actually it was tithes, plural) in the Old Testament? How did it work? Where did it go and how was it used?*

### THE CLASSIC BIBLE PASSAGE – MALACHI 3:8-12

ACCUSATION: You've LOST your WAY ... Forgotten where all this COMES from ... You've been CHEATING Me.

CURSE: Because you've been WITHHOLDING, you've placed yourselves under a CURSE.

COMMAND: Bring ALL the TITHES into the STOREHOUSE.

PROMISE: I will open the WINDOWS of HEAVEN and pour out a blessing SO GREAT you won't have room enough for it.

KICKER: TEST me!

LOGICAL CONCLUSION: The risk isn't DECIDING to tithe; the risk is CHOOSING NOT to!

→ *Why does this passage suggest the tithe 'belongs' to God? What is the difference between tithes and offerings?*

→ *Is there a demonic agenda against your money and what role does this passage suggest the tithing principle plays in that?*

→ *When God says, 'Try it; Put me to the test,' what does He mean?*

→ *Should the church go to your local church or can you give it anywhere you like?*

Tithing is not so much a matter of LEGAL COMPLIANCE, but FAITH, WORSHIP & WISDOM.

### FAITH

\* Who (or what) do you consider to be your SOURCE & SUPPLY?

\* Do you believe God can do more with our surrendered 90% than we can ourselves with the full 100%?

\* God loves it when we TRUST Him. In fact, He DEMANDS that we do. And the Christian will only really WORK if we DO (Hebrews 11:6).

\* One of the lies the Enemy would love to MISDIRECT you with is that you can REAP without SOWING.

\* The great news is that, if there is SEED being SOWN God is personally WATCHING over it & will use it to bring INCREASE.

→ *Why is tithing a matter of faith?*

→ *Do you believe God can do more with your 90% than you can with 100%?*

→ *"One of the lies the Enemy would love to misdirect you with is that you can reap without sowing." How does he misdirect us and why? How do you 'sow seed?'*

### WORSHIP

\* Tithing is about RELATIONSHIP: I give because I LOVE YOU, LORD.

\* Tithing is about SURRENDER: If there's any INKLING you've said it, I'm IN.

\* Tithing is about SUBMISSION: YOUR way, not MINE or THEIRS.

\* You'll only be at PEACE in any specific area of your life once you've TRULY SUBMITTED it to God (Job 22:21-28).

→ *How is tithing a matter of worship? What does your attitude to God, money and the way you give say about your relationship with Him?*

→ *Why should you submit your finances to the Lord? How do you submit your finances to the Lord? What happens if you do or, indeed, if you don't?*

→ *Read Job 22:21-28 & see what else of relevance you can deduce from it.*

### WISDOM

\* Having made the assumption God is CLEVERER than me, if that means I need to BOW lower, SUBMIT further, CLING harder, FOLLOW closer, I'm GOOD with that.

\* Tithing comes down simply to being the WISE thing to do.

→ *If wisdom is doing what the Lord has said in His Word and by His Spirit, where do tithes & offerings fit into being wise stewards? Has your view changed over the years? Has this message altered your perception at all?*

→ *How does tithing work if you are married to a non-Christian or someone who is opposed to the principle? What does wisdom look like there?*

\* "You can't OUTGIVE God" ... God is BOUND to His Word and His promises ... He's WATCHING over His Word to perform it ... There's dripping ANOINTING over the promises of His Word.

\* God said, Luke 6:37, Phil 4:19, Deut 15:10, Psalm 112:5, 2 Cor 9:6.

\* Overall message of this series is, operate in the PRINCIPLES of God's WORD and you POSITION yourself to receive His FAVOUR & BLESSING.

→ *What is your testimony/experience in this area? How has God been good to you? Have you seen people 'surprisingly blessed?' Do you believe that if you were to change your practice you might change your results? If so, how?*