

## Malachi 3:10

**"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.**

Tithing, though one of the most elementary of Christian principles; is also one of the most difficult to obey for many believers. So much so, that many pastors avoid teaching on it; because they are afraid that it will offend someone in their congregation, and that person will leave. The church has also watered down the truth of God's Word for so long that no one wants to offend anyone. Yet when you speak the truth, often the truth itself will offend. So what do we do? Do we keep back the truth so that we can feel assured that no one will be offended, or do we speak the truth so that people can have an opportunity to be set free? For me, speaking the truth is the only option.

So what exactly is the tithe? The word tithe is an old English word for tenth, or ten percent. Here the Lord is telling the people to bring the whole tithe into His house. So what is the whole tithe? Anything that comes into your possession that is an increase is to be tithed. Most Christians understand that their check from work is to be tithed on; yet how about when they receive a bonus, receive an inheritance or sell a possession such as a car, home or anything else that you make a profit on? I am convinced that the whole tithe is just that, a tenth of all of our increase. Make no mistake about it, we all want God to bless us thirty, sixty even a hundred fold. Why then is it so difficult for us to honor Him with a tithe in return? I believe that it is an accurate reflection of our heart!! One of the greatest joys in my life is tithing; because when I tithe, I get to reflect on just how much that the Lord has blessed me that week. To be honest, I am often amazed when I see just how much that He does bless His people.

Let's also talk for a moment where the Lord says to test Him on this. Do you understand that this is the only time in the scriptures where the Lord not only allows, but invites each one of us to do this? Throughout the Word of God, people were destroyed for testing the Lord; yet here He encourages us to do it. Because He understands that if we will obey Him, that the promise of His Word will become evident in each of our lives. Personally, I have seen many believers lives changed, because they chose to obey God in this one area. But this is not an insurance policy against having any financial struggles in your life; though struggles are an excellent tool that our Lord uses to teach and strengthen His people. So you may ask, "Why should we even bother to tithe, if we could still have to face struggles or loss?" We do it, because our Lord has commanded us to, and because He promises to bless those who do! God has placed within each church the income or revenue to meet the needs of that body. Yet, so many churches struggle, because their people choose not to obey. Church we need to grow up!! If we are to ever have an impact on our generation, let alone our world; we first must learn that this life is not about us, but our Lord! If we will do our part and obey, He promises to do more for us than we can ever do for ourselves. Beloved, I exhort you in the name that is above every name, the name of Jesus Christ to obey your God! Start honoring Him with your tithe, and ask Him to forgive when you've disobeyed. It will change your life!!