

Malachi 3:8-9

⁸ "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed Thee?' In tithes and offerings. ⁹ "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you!

It seems that one of the most difficult things for the people of God to obey is the tithe. Malachi was addressing God's people here, four hundred years before the immaculate conception of Jesus Christ. Still today, the people of God struggle immensely with this very act of obedience. I have heard some Christians claim that the tithe is Old Testament, and under the Law; today they boast, we are under Grace through our Lord Jesus. What they seem to forget is that Jesus Himself, disputed this very claim in **Matthew 5:17**, **"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.**

My next question is why the Lord speaking through Malachi the prophet; would tell the people that they are cursed with a curse? Look with me at **Deuteronomy 30:15-16**, ¹⁵ **"See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity; ¹⁶ in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it.** The reason why the Lord told them that they were cursed with a curse; is because they were! As you read the scriptures, and you see where two words are repeated, i.e. truly, truly, verily, verily, cursed with a curse. It always means that the principle is already established! It's not that people will be cursed, but that they already are. Beloved understand what is being said here. God is not cursing any believer who does not tithe; the believer himself is determining it through their own selfish choice of disobedience!! People always want to blame God for everything that's wrong or goes wrong in this life. Often more times than not, what each of us face is nothing more than the consequences of our own choices.

Our God is so amazing and wonderful that He truly gives us the truths through His Word that will set us free from death and the curse. Clearly He says in **John 14:15**, **"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.** Why is it that people can trust Him with their eternity, but not their money? Is it because their eternity was paid through His blood and death, and not their own? They recognize that salvation cost them nothing but a prayer, where tithing is something that definitely comes out of their pocket. Church, let me be very honest and frank with you, your salvation cost Jesus His life, death and was the cause of His shedding of blood. Our salvation cost Him everything!! Why is it then that only 20% of Christians obey when it comes to tithing? This is an indictment on the Body of Christ. Are we truly so immature that we can't obey, if obedience comes at a cost? The choice is yours, and beloved the consequences are as well. Yet I exhort you today by the Mercy of God, to repent and start obeying our Lord with your tithes and offerings!