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The Blessing of Tithing

by Bill Faith

In this day and age, when it seems to require both spouses working to support a family, people sometimes have to closely watch their budget. Unfortunately, in looking for ways to save money, they probably would not consider the principle of tithing. Perhaps they believe that they cannot afford to tithe. However, they may not realize that by not tithing they are turning away a blessing from God.

God, by His Son Jesus, created all things both in heaven and in earth (Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:15-16). In fact, He is not only the creator but also the sustainer of all things continuing to provide for our needs. But, in return, He expects us to recognize Him as such.

In Eph. 2:10 we find it written that, "...We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Part of those good works requires that we give Him a tithe (tenth) of our increase. Jesus verified this when speaking to the Pharisees and scribes. He told them, "...You pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law; justice and mercy and faith." Then He continued, "These you ought to have done (the weightier matters), without leaving the others undone (tithing of mint, anise and cumin)" (Mt. 23:23).

In the book of Malachi, we find God asking, "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed you?'" God answers, "In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation" (Mal. 3:8-9). Notice that God considers the holding back of tithes and offerings as stealing from Him. Further, He says that we are under a curse for not giving Him His dues.

But notice also the challenge that God presents us with. Continuing in verse 10 He says, "'Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And prove 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 such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.'" God challenges us to try Him and see if He won't return to us a great blessing.

Solomon, whom God blessed with great wisdom, confirms this by stating, "Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine" (Prov. 3:9-10).

In Ecc. 11:4 we read, "He who observes the wind will not sow..." Unfortunately, this can also apply to some who believe that they cannot afford to tithe. When they look at their job and their financial situation, they come to the conclusion that they cannot afford to tithe. This is just like the farmer who observes the wind and decides that he cannot afford to sow for fear of losing what seed that he has to plant. However, they need to step out on faith. They need to not only believe in God, but also, to trust that He will fulfill the promises that He makes such as the one previously quoted in Malachi 3:10.

Jesus stated, "Give and it shall be given to you...For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you" (Lk. 6:38). The apostle Paul also elaborated on this subject when he wrote, "But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully" (2 Cor. 9:6). It appears that God, who

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believes in an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, gives to us in the same measure that we are willing to give to Him. Again, in Prov. 22:9 it says, “He who has a bountiful eye will be blessed...”

As we search through the scriptures on the subject of tithing we find that Jacob, who’s name God changed to Israel, made a vow saying, “If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, so that I come back to my fathers house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God...And of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You” (Gen. 28:20-22). This scripture is a fine example for us to follow. If the Lord is to be our God, then we should be willing to give Him a tenth of all our increase. Notice, also, that Jacob gave God the credit for providing him with any increase that he might receive.

The attitude that Jacob had is the attitude that we should all have. So instead of coming to the conclusion that you cannot afford to tithe, stop and consider the blessings that God promises for tithing. And come to the conclusion that you cannot afford to not tithe.

(All Scripture references are KJV unless otherwise noted. [pp:paraphrased])

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