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Flat Broke #3

Prosperity - Tithing

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There seems to be confusion in the church regarding tithing, how it works, the importance of the tithe, and the lack of knowledge about tithing. Tithing started in the Old Testament and is mentioned all through the scriptures at various times. God is not trying to get something from us, but He is trying to put us in a position where the power of the tithe will work on our behalf, that the "windows of heaven may be open". It is a key that we operate on in obedience.

Offering or a form of offering is mentioned over 14 times in the book of Malachi. Malachi begins to prophesy to the children of Israel concerning why they are not receiving the blessings they thought that were coming to them. He explains that because they are robbing God by withholding tithes and offerings, they have been cursed.

The same applies to us if we are withholding tithes; it is a form of correction, not because God is upset at us, but that He loves us and wants to be able to bless us. It is one thing to be disobedient because of a lack of knowledge and is quite another thing to be willfully disobedient when knowledge has come to us.

The children of Israel knew the importance of bringing the tithe to the Lord; they knew that the tithe belonged to the Lord.

Mal 3:7-10 "Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? 8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. 9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. 10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." KJV

If we know that we have been disobedient in robbing God of our tithes and repent and turn around, the Lord will be able to bless us. The power of the tithe means to bring the entire tithe into the storehouse. The tithe is based on the increase or profit and is a total of 10 per cent of that amount. God's purpose and plan for us is to have increase.

Pro 3:9-10 "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: 10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine." KJV

v. 10 is the power of the tithe, bringing the tithe into the storehouse, or local church where we are receiving from God. Offerings can be given in other places, but the tithe needs to come to

the church that we are attending, not sent somewhere else.

Prove means to trust, to expect, to believe or to anticipate. God will open the windows and pour out the blessings to us that will overflow. Overflow means to empty out in abundance, such as in flood stage.

In order for us to increase in the biblical principles and prosper Gods way, many times our mind must be renewed to the power of the word of God. We will have to delve into the scriptures to see what is said in order for us to walk in the light and knowledge of what we desire; healing, finances or relationships. Looking at the scriptures must be done on a regular basis.

It takes 3 weeks to break habits; 21 days to break the habit, 21 days to form a new mentality and 21 days to begin to walk in the light of it. It takes us 63 days to begin to just react, not really thinking about what we are doing, just doing.

Examples of men who were tithers: Rockefeller had a mother who taught him the importance of tithing and he decided to become a tither, he began with a small amount but later was able to give large amounts.

The founder of Quaker Oats Co. was a sickly child not able to attend school, but ask the Lord to help him make money and he would give to others, eventually he was giving 50% of his income. He bought an old factory and began to make oatmeal.

Colgate left home when he was 16 years old because of family conditions, was ready to start working on a boat, but the captain recognized something in Colgate, asked him if he knew how to do anything at all, his father had taught him how to make soap, the captain prayed for him asking the Lord to bless him and told him that New York City was going to be needing soap and that making soap was a place to start, but to always give his best, an honest measure, later he began to make toothpaste.

LaTerneau was a man who was the inventor and builder of farm equipment. After making a substantial amount the first year, he decided to reinvest the tithe into the business instead of giving it to the Lord. His next year was not good, he lost a very large amount, he then realized his mistake. He asked forgiveness and pledged to give a large amount over and above the tithe, the following year, he was able during his life to give 90%, living on 10% and at the time of his death had several patents. He was given knowledge of many inventions.

Poverty is a spirit and natural wisdom will tell you that if something like poverty isn't broken by the third generation in a family, that the possibilities of it being broken will more than likely not happen. The Bible tells us that there is a position that must be taken regarding poverty; it is not up to the government to supply all the needs of the people, we all have a part to play in helping them in this situation.

Pro 11:24-25 "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. 25 The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself" KJV

The above scripture has the law of poverty and the law of abundance in it. The benefits are

almost like the law of sowing and reaping. Gods plan for each of us is increase, giving will bring about the increase, withholding because of greed will bring poverty. The power of the tithe brings about increase.

1 Tim 6:17 "As for the rich in this world, charge them not to be proud *and* arrogant *and* contemptuous of others, nor to set their hopes on uncertain riches, but on God, Who richly *and* ceaselessly provides us with everything for [our] enjoyment." AMP

The church and the world on the whole, is afraid of wealth for the church, individuals within the church, however, are all trying to make money and bringing it into the church can cause problems. God must be our priority; there can be a deception in regards to people having wealth. Money in itself is not the evil; the love of money is the evil.

Phil 4:15-19 "Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. 16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. 17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. 18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. 19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." KJV

This passage of scripture is referring to money, the giving and receiving of it. We put ourselves in a place now, that we can receive from God the blessings that He wants to bestow on us.

v. 17 "Not that I seek *or* am eager for [your] gift, but I do seek *and* am eager for the fruit which increases to your credit [the harvest of blessing that is accumulating to your account]." AMP

v.17 "I am not trying to get something from you, but I want you to receive the blessings that come from giving." CEV

v.17 "You Philippians well know, and you can be sure I'll never forget it, that when I first left Macedonia province, venturing out with the Message, not one church helped out in the give-and-take of this work except you. You were the only one. Even while I was in Thessalonica, you helped out—and not only once, but twice. Not that I'm looking for handouts, but I do want you to experience the blessing that issues from generosity." MSG

v. 17 "I don't say this because I want a gift from you. Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness." NLT

v. 17 "I'm not hoping for a gift, but I am hoping for a profit that accumulates in your account." CEB

When we become benevolent and generous it is pleasing to God, "for God so loved that He gave".

Gen 8:22 "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." KJV

Seed time and harvest is a law of the kingdom. When we sow or plant God has destined or purposed that there would be a harvest also in our life. A liberal man shall be watered.

Chapters 8 and 9 of Corinthians speak totally to the giving of money and can show how to take up an offering. The churches in Macedonia had taken up an offering out of their poverty that was to be given to other churches in need.

2 Cor 8:9 "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." KJV

Because of what Jesus did for us, we are not only redeemed from sin, but from poverty as well. He delivered us from darkness and translated us into the kingdom making all provision for us. To partake of the blessings of God, the currency in the kingdom is called faith. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God, faith perceives what is real fact that is promised by God. Helping people to become whole, and letting go of baggage from their past.

Col 1:13 "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:" KJV

Gods language is faith, that it is His will that we all should prosper and have increase in our finances. Kingdom language is prosperity in all areas of our lives.

Paul was teaching the benefits of what the church in Macedonia had done, giving out of their need in order to help others and they had done it with a cheerful heart.

2 Cor 9:6-8 "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:" KJV

Finances are probably one of the biggest needs in the body of Christ, in addition to the ministering to people for healing and wholeness, but God is not limited to any of their needs.