

Alive Church on tithing

Introduction/Background

This message focuses on the real meaning of tithing. The Lord wants us released into His resource fullness. Tithing is a life principle that has to do with us entering into a trust principle with God and acknowledging that everything we have belongs to Him. Tithing is for our protection and blessing. God desires that we partner with Him in this principle so we can walk in all He has for us.

Malachi 3:10-12 NLT ¹⁰ Bring all the tithes into the **storehouse** so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! ¹¹ Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease.^[a] Your grapes will not fall from the vine before they are ripe," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies. ¹² "Then all nations will call you blessed, for your land will be such a delight," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

Definition of storehouse: the temple or the house of God.

Key Points

1. **Tithing as a Life Principle** – Tithing is not a religious act; it's a life principle. God's objective is that His resources become our resources. He wants us to get beyond our own resources. To do this we have to learn a certain point of understanding in the things He's already given us. God's inviting us into all He has, but He's not going to partner with someone who hasn't learned this principle about tithing.
2. **Tithing as Worship** – In 2 Chronicles 31:1-5, Israel tore down all the images and alters that they were idolatrously worshipping. This act was a purification of evil, as Hezekiah reinstated worship of the One True God. In this, the Israelites brought their first fruits to the Lord.
3. **Tithing in and Before Scripture** – The theme of tithing is introduced early in the Scriptures. In Genesis 14, Abraham gave his tithe on occasion of his victory. Abraham is our model of faith. He identified himself with the One who created all things. He gave God a tenth because he realized everything he had came from the Lord. The tithe predates Moses, so we must understand it's a pre-Law principle. Although tithing was a part of Old Testament Law, it was done before the Law was given.
4. **Jesus' Heart in Tithing** – In Matthew 23:23, Jesus reinforces tithing. He criticizes the Pharisees for their self-righteousness. He told them that they tithed to the littlest detail, but they omitted the weightier matters of the Law. They were omitting justice, faith, and mercy. The Lord said the Pharisees should have given attention to the spirit of the Law-justice, mercy, and faith.

There's something about our mind that has difficulty tying together the spiritual and the material. Jesus was telling the Pharisees they were all tied up in the

mechanics and needed to understand the heart of tithing. Spiritual life and material responsibility, in regards to God's directive in our resources, are one package. It's unwise to think that we can separate our finances from God's ways.

5. **What Tithing Really Is** – Tithing isn't trying to improve our status with God. He doesn't love us more when we tithe. Things in life just don't work right when we neglect it. When we obey God through tithing it is our response to the love of God, showing that we are putting Him first in our life. Through tithing we are positioning our lives to receive all the blessings that He desires to give us.
 1. **The Father's Heart in Tithing** – In Leviticus 27:28-34, God gives a pronouncement of holding the tithe in priority. In Malachi 3:8-9 we learn that we rob God if we don't give him a tenth of our income. How does this rob God since He doesn't need anything? The Father heart of God is robbed of the fulfillment of seeing us fulfilled. He doesn't get the joy as our Heavenly Father to see what can be released to us.
 2. **Blessing and Protection** – He wants to bless and protect us. He tells us to bring Him the tithe and prove Him in this. God believes in us that we can do it. A lot of times, we get caught up in the world's order of finance, instead of walking by faith. God wants us to walk in this way, so He can release us into His abundance. He wants us to see what He has for us.
 3. **A New Dimension of Life** – In tithing, He also rebukes the devourer for our sakes. He tells us that everything we touch will become productive and blessed in an orderly way. If we obey Him in this, there's a dimension of life that opens up to us. We must get the spiritual principle of tithing lined up in our lives so we see the physical aspect of it take place. God wants us to receive the full fruition of tithing. There's real life in this.
6. **Revival in Tithing** – There's a revival flow principle in tithing. In 2 Chronicles 31, we learn that a revival happened that's directly related to tithing and certain principles. Through this revival we see that where the Spirit of the Lord is there's release. He's working new dimensions and possibilities in all of us. It's His life flowing in us, and tithing allows us to operate in partnership with Him.

Conclusion

The Lord wants to bless and protect us as we partner with Him in tithing. As we do this, greater possibilities and more Spirit-life open up to us. We also see there's possibility for revival as we worship God in this way.