

RUSSELL SANDERS

1-30-2021

TO GIVE AND BE GIVEN – LESSON 8

THE TITHE PART 6

BLESSING TO BE GIVEN

Lesson 6 showed from Malachi 3:8-9 that every believer who fails to tithe is a thief and are cursed. Lesson 7 spoke of the consequences of that curse. Lesson 8, today, will focus on the benefits of tithing and obedience to God.

In Malachi 8:10 God challenges us to put Him to the test. When you are truly obedient to Him and willingly (not grudgingly) give your tithes (plus offerings), He says that He will ***“...open (to) you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing (abundantly)...”***.

Verse 11 says, ***“I will rebuke the devourer (Satan) for your sakes, and he shall not destroy (steal) the fruits (of your labor) ...”***.

A man I personally knew told of an incident in his former church where the Pastor had preached on tithing. A man in that church told the Pastor that he could not afford to tithe because he did not have enough money each month to even pay all his bills and his needs. Nevertheless, under conviction of the Holy Spirit, he decided to put God to the test (prove God) by tithing for the next six months, regardless of what might happen to him, and he did it.

At the end of that six months, all of his bills were paid, all of his needs were met, and he had extra left over. It had defied logic, but God was faithful in “opening the windows of heaven” to him.

I also remember a period of time when my obligations were about one thousand dollars a month more than my income, but each month my bills all got paid. I tithed, and God provided in many different ways, in fact, a different way each month. I never knew month to month how it was going to happen, often in the most unexpected ways. Sometimes even a “bad” circumstance led to a financial provision, such as a settlement from a car accident, a thing normally considered “bad” that God allowed for “good.”

God rewards obedience. You will “be given” blessings which you could not even have anticipated when you tithe.

God loves us. When we also love Him, we reciprocate to His love by obedience to His will, Word, and way.