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TO GIVE AND BE GIVEN – LESSON 6

TITHE – PART 4

GOD HIMSELF SPEAKS

The scripture clearly and plainly teaches us to tithe, to give ten percent of everything into God's storehouse from which we are spiritually fed. Over the years, people ceased to do it; in fact, they tended to ignore all of God's instructions. They suffered consequences for disobedience and probably did not understand why such negative consequences occurred.

Human nature does not change without divine intervention. People today still are disobedient to God's word just like they were in the Bible. If, however, we are a true child of God (saved, born again) then it is imperative that we obey all that God asks of us.

Let me ask you a question. Are you a *thief*? "No," you say. That's good. But...if you are not tithing, then you ARE A THIEF. You are stealing from God, Himself, the great eternal judge. Why would you steal from the very judge that will someday determine your "just rewards" of this temporal life?

Let us study the words God spoke to His prophet Malachi. We read it in Chapter three, verses 8-11 (KJV).

"⁸ Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, 'Wherein have we robbed Thee (God)?' In tithes and offerings." Notice that it says, we, the thieves, have a double fault; we have stolen from Him in both tithes and offerings.

"⁹ Ye are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed me..." Yes, you open the gate to a curse, a window of opportunity for Satan to come against you.

"¹⁰ Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse (of God)" Do not skimp; do not delay; do not "hold it" until all your bills are paid (called "redeeming" it) ***...that there may be meat (provision) in mine house (the church, the ministry)"***.

The tithe is God's way of "funding" the work of the ministry. "Money moves everything" and without it, God's work does not advance.

V 10 (continued): ***"¹⁰...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."*** Obedience brings God's blessings. When you obey God, His hand (Spirit) will be working in your favor. We must be His obedient children.

What about the disobedient children? We will address that tomorrow.

