



"TEST ME IN THIS," says the LORD.

The Enduring Principle of The Tithe *Malachi 3:8-12*

Christian Life Center, A Foursquare Church | DiscipleshipDevelopment.org | 951-689-6785

Revival, or renewal of the Church, is a spontaneous spiritual awakening by the Holy Spirit among God's people. It results when people *passionately* seek God's face in prayer and repent (turning from and to God) for forgiveness of their sins. The result is a deep intimacy with God, expressive passion, and a changed life style.

Introduction

1. The word revival means to bring the Church back to life. Here are examples of churches in need of revival in Revelation 2-3...
 - The Church of Ephesus had left/exchanged their First Love. (Revelation 2:1-7)
 - The Church in Sardis was dead but was told to strengthen what they had. (Revelation 3:1-6)
 - The Church in Laodicea was lukewarm and told to open their door to Christ. (Revelation 3:14-22)
2. When we are in a state of revival, the things of God and of His Kingdom are **FIRST** and of primary importance in every area of life. We experience very real physical, emotional, and spiritual blessings when Christ is honored. (Acts 2:42-47)
 - Read Deuteronomy 28:1-14 and Proverbs 3:5-10.
3. The principle of The First can be seen in many Bible stories. Here are only two examples...
 - In Genesis 2:15-17 God said to Adam that he could eat of all the trees in the garden but not to eat from the one tree in the middle of the garden. He also told them the consequence for disobedience would be death.
 - In Joshua 6-7 Israel was to conquer Jericho but dedicate all the wealth to God as the first-fruit of God's Promised Land. To touch the devoted things would result in their destruction.

The blessing of the Tithe

God has given us a powerful principle by which to govern our lives and experience His Divine abundance. Read Malachi 3:10-12.

1. **The tithe existed before the Law was given through Moses.**
 - The ONE tree in the middle of the Garden. (Genesis 2:16-17)
 - Abraham and Jacob tithed. (Genesis 14:18-20, 28:20-22)

Key Scriptures

Deuteronomy 28:1-14

Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God:...

Proverbs 3:5-10

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.

Malachi 3:10-12

"Bring the whole Tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the flood-gates of heaven and ►

- Jesus endorsed it as an enduring principle. (Matthew 23:23)
2. **Basic principles of the Tithe.** The word “tithe” means a tenth. Less than ten percent is not a tithe and anything over and above ten percent is an offering. The principles include...
 - Who’s in charge? God is the Owner of all things and I’m the manager over what He has given me. Stewardship deals with the person, not the purse. (1 Chronicles 29:10-12; Psalm 24:1, 50:10; Luke 12:42-44)
 - Who’s number One? When we give the first ten percent, we are honoring Him and declaring that He is the Source of everything. (Deuteronomy 8; Proverbs 3:9-10; Malachi 1:6)
 - Are we a “river” or a “reservoir?” God will continue to give to us what He knows will flow through us. (Proverbs 11:25, 22:9)
 3. **The tithe is that portion which already belongs to God.** (Leviticus 27:30; Malachi 3:8-9). When we tithe we are giving back to Him that which is already His.
 - The Lord makes a strong statement in Malachi 3:8, saying that to hold back the tithe is actually “robbing” Him. (John 10:1, 10; 12:6) The consequence of this behavior was illustrated in the account of Achan as he kept back a portion of the spoils from Jericho in Joshua 7.
 4. **God uses our obedience to the Tithe (Malachi 3:8-12) as a means to bless us in three ways...**
 - Provision | God will open for you the windows of Heaven and pour out such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it! (QR code: Wilderness Provision)
 - Protection | God will rebuke the devourer so that it will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit in the field.
 - Position | All nations will call you a blessed and delightful land. Our obedience influences lives far beyond our own.

pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit,” says the LORD Almighty. “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty.

Luke 12:42-44

And the Lord said, “Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has.

Let’s memorize...

Proverbs 3:9-10 Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.

Summary | The principle of the First far surpasses the giving of a tenth of our income! It is bringing every area of our life into His governance and leadership. (Galatians 2:20) By doing this we experience abundant blessing in all aspects of life. The giving of the Tithe is simply a physical expression of a deeper, internal Principle. However, its importance must never be underestimated! God actually tells us to test Him in this!

✞ MY PRAYER ✞

Lord, I renew my covenant with You. I want to follow You and to keep Your commands with all my heart. I receive Your Holy Spirit power to live a life of eternal purpose and meaning! I want to know You in a deeper way. Make me a blessing to others beyond my own life. Amen!

GOD'S MIRACULOUS PROVISION



When Moses brought Israel out of Egypt, they were led to the edge of the Red Sea. As they stood there, three million people (two-thirds the size of Rhode Island or about 750 square miles), God performed a mighty miracle of deliverance!

Even though they were ultimately rejected from entering the Promised Land because of rebellion, there was still a tremendous demonstration of God's power in the actual day-to-day activities of the people as they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years! Their clothes never wore out and ALL their food and water was provided! (Deuteronomy 8:2-4)

Food | God sent food from heaven in the form of Manna ("What is it?") each day to feed the people. If they ate as much as we do, it would have been 1,500 tons of food *each day* just to keep them from starvation and would have taken one freight train two miles long costing over 6 million dollars a day!

Water | Moses struck the rock and water gushed out. To sustain the people and animals, it took at least 11 million gallons of water per day. Hauling it would have taken one freight train with tank cars 1,800 miles long each day!

God took care of them 40 years or 14,600 days. The total amount would have been 58,400,000 tons of food and 160 billion gallons of water! *Our God is a mighty God!* (Psalms 95:3-7; Ephesians 3:20-21)

God ALWAYS provides. In fact, God provided all of the food and water mentioned above for Israel in the wilderness *after* He had rejected them from going into Canaan! Not only is He a God who is capable of supernatural miracles, He is a Loving and Gracious God as well!

A few scriptures about God's provision...

- Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Psalm 24:1; Proverbs 3:9, 11:25, 22:9; Malachi 1:6; Matthew 6:33, 25:19-23; Luke 6:46-49, 17:5-6; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Romans 12:1.
- Go to [DiscipleshipDevelopment](#) for more information.



Scan the QR code to watch the video,
"The Search For the Real Mt. Sinai."

