

FEASTING ON THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

Faithful to Bless the Tithe

Malachi 3:8-11

INTRODUCTION:

- WELCOME, new ones, ONLINE
- Next Sunday, 9/20 RECONNECT SUNDAY. LCG's for every age meeting.
- Tomorrow – D R TEAM to LA. – Commission at close of service
- This week INFORMATION MEETINGS Tuesday at 3 and 6 in FH, Thursday at 6 in SC.
- I am officially calling special Church Conferences for the consideration of the B4GTC recommendations for Tuesday, 9/22 at 3 pm and 6 pm in FH, and Thursday 9/24 at 6 pm in the SC.
- Next Sunday morning, I am going to continue preaching on the faithfulness of God, but I am going to shift the emphasis to the New Testament and the Faithfulness of the Lord Jesus.

So, this morning I am completing this part of the series on the faithfulness of God described in the Old Testament by going to the very last book of Old testament Scripture, the Book of Malachi.

Malachi 3:8-11 NKJV

8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. 9 You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, *Even* this whole nation.

10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house,

And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you *such* blessing That *there will not be room enough to receive it.*

11 "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the LORD of hosts;

Folks, I know that this text and this subject are not popular with some. If that is your immediate reaction, I beg you this morning to hang in there with me for just a little while.

My motive today is not to do a budget catch up nor raise building funds.

My motive is to bless you and help you discover one of the joyous ways you can experience the faithfulness of God in your life.

FIRST, REMEMBER THAT THIS PROMISE IS PART OF THE WORD OF GOD.

- God's Word is always true! Jesus said, "Thy Word is truth!" "Forever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in Heaven."
- **The tithe is not God's way of raising money.**
- **The tithe is God's way of raising believers.**
 - When I tithe, I am saying, "I know God owns it all."
 - What I have is by His permission and with His blessing.
 - Even through my work, because He gives me the power to get wealth.
 - When I tithe, I am saying, "I accept the position of stewardship God has given me."
 - Stewardship is the work God gave mankind in the beginning – dominion, subdue
 - House manager
 - We are given the job of caring for God's property.
 - Giving the tithe is the beginning point of faithful stewardship.
 - When I tithe, I have the joy of both obedience and faith.
 - Obedience in that I am doing what God says to do. Bring the tithe into the storehouse, temple, church.
 - Faith in that I am actively depending on God by giving money now in my control back to Him and trusting He will take care of my needs and even my desires. Tithe says I can do better with 90% and God's blessing than 100% without it.
 - When I tithe, I have the joy of being a part of many, many, ministries.
 - God said, "that there may be food in my house"
 - Having food in the temple was a part of the ministries of God at the time.
 - When I give my tithe, I become a part of every ministry of this church – preschool, children, youth, adults, ... MUSIC! Missions, COH, Medical, A Sheltering Tree – does not replace my service, but extends it.
 - When I give my tithe, I become a part of ministries beyond this church – FL Baptists in Haiti and among Brazilians in Miami; Thompsons in Brazil, others in Cambodia and other parts of E Asia, Muss in W Africa, Glen and Luiz in MX, and a host of missionaries I don't know.

And listen my friend to this!

- When I tithe, I have confidence that God is going to bless and care for me in a special way.
 - Open the windows of heaven – Not room to receive
 - My own testimony is that God is always faithful to keep this promise.
 - ❖ Began tithing as a child
 - ❖ Continued as a teen
 - ❖ Karen also, and when we married, we lived in a 2 room apartment with no wall between kitchen, sofa area, and bed. Only wall separated the bathroom. But we tithed on every dollar we made. And God took care of us!
 - ❖ College, 18 & 19, self-supporting. Both had jobs and full-time school. If God had not kept His windows open, we'd have never made it.
 - ❖ Seminary same way. We never had much but we always had enough. In seminary we learned how to give by faith beyond the tithe because God had been so faithful to keep His promise as we tithed.
 - Rebuke the devourer
 - ❖ Does not mean nothing ever breaks if you tithe.
 - ❖ Everything is still subject to 2nd law of thermodynamics.
 - ❖ But Satan has a demon, at least one, working for him whose job is to destroy.
 - ❖ If you tithe, God promises to keep the destroying demon away from your stuff.

FOLKS, LISTEN. GOD IS FAITHFUL TO KEEP THIS PROMISE AS HE DOES EVERY OTHER PROMISE IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.

If you don't tithe, you are the one who is missing out on great blessings God has for you.

You don't have to just take my word for it. Find a tither or a tithing couple. Ask them what their experience is. I have never talked with a person who tithed faithfully that did not share my testimony about God's faithfulness to bless the tithe.

In addition

JESUS AFFIRMED THE PRACTICE OF TITHING.

Matthew 23:23 NKJV "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier *matters* of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

Is the tithe the most important of all Spiritual disciplines? No. Justice, mercy, faith are more important but why miss the blessing of God's faithfulness?

Furthermore,

JESUS TAUGHT THE LAW OF THE HARVEST.

Luke 6:38 NKJV Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

- **The law of the harvest is that we receive in the same way we give.**

The law is detailed in

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 NKJV 6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

- **If we sow little in our giving, we reap little.**
- **If we sow generously, we reap generously.**
- **God is able to supply our needs and more so that we can give.**

Folks, God is faithful. God is faithful to bless our tithe and our giving to Him.

You can be a part of receiving the abundant, overflowing blessings of God if you will just take Him at His Word.