

The Key... to everything else!

Introduction!

Slide Notations

"Be sure you make your money work for you. Use it so that when you get to heaven there will be many people there because of you! If you are faithful with money you will be faithful with what is valuable. If you are unjust handling money you won't handle real valuables... If you are not faithful handling money who would be so foolish to give you what is truly valuable to handle? If you aren't faithful in what you steward, who will give you riches that are your own? Pick your master, God or money, you can't love and serve both!" **Lk 16.9-13**

All called to share the gospel but not all capable of receiving it's fullness!

What else has stopped more believers than the issue of money?

More people willingly, knowingly sin, with their money than any other issue!

Jesus says it's the key that unlocks everything else!

Is it true? "A person who can't deal w/the issues of money can't/won't be given the rights to handle eternal richness..." **T / F**

Let's See! What if I wasn't a tither? (Forget the obvious hypocrisy issue...)

How could I be a fit spiritual mentor if I couldn't do the "smallest thing" God asked?

And what richness would I have to offer you if I wasn't faithful in "the very least?"

What if I wasn't a tither?

If we believe the Word – and people who withhold the tithe – for any reason – are called thieves... What kind of trust would you put in me? "A thief will lie, a liar will kill..."
Would you disqualify me as your influencer?

But this isn't about me! About "Looking for the right stuff!" (Selecting new Church Council)

15 pgs. *Givers* - 2 pgs. *tithers* (narrowed field)

Some tithers not interested/available

Some can't bec of "relative/staff" rules

Some not mature enough... "yet"

Some too new to the church

Left us with seven! (in a church of 600!)

Something's wrong!

We say "God is my provider" with our lips... But if we say "no" when He asks for 10% back... What does that make us? Ingrates? "Refusing to honor God" **R1.21** Liars? "No other gods before Me" **X20.3 1C4** Thieves? "Robbers of God" **Mal 3.8-12**

Every believer has to deal with the issue of the tithe... And I've never known one that didn't struggle at first... But the ones who want everything else... do it!

The Tithe! Is the minimum response to God's supply!

Withholding it is consequential theft! "Don't be deceived, God is not mocked!" **G6**
"Tithe is cursed for human consumption" **Lev 27** We give the tenth, it sanctifies the
rest... *Live in assurance of our insurance with God!*

The Tithe! Is it an OT practice done away with in NT times?

Nothing in scripture done away with other than the sacrificial offerings of blood... "I
have not come to destroy the law but to fulfill it!" **Mt 5.17** OT law superseded by
higher law of love! But in absence of higher law, OT law rules!

The Tithe! NT everything we have is God's, He loves a cheerful giver, prospers them! **2Co**
9.7-9

NT Church understood that, sold their stuff, brought proceeds to apostles **Acts 4** And
the ones who "acted," died! **Acts 5** But if we will not give "cheer-willingly"... OT law
legislates financial covenant **Mal 3**

*I may never win this battle with the believers in my charge... But you will
never serve the Lord in fullness until you believe His words... And unlock the
glory of His kingdom through your faithful giving!*

The Tithe! Is not the "necessary conspiracy" to fund the church!

This has to be the worst kingdom idea of all; to fund it's advance on the obedience of
generally self-ish people to give, willingly!

The Tithe! Is not the concoction of devious Pastors to shake down the members of the
church!

It is this pastor's message to get you into the "pleroma" of God!

The Tithe! Is not about covering our church needs/being needy!

It's about opening the way for us... To do the job for Him! To experience the more set
before us!

This Year! Finish the bus/vans! Transport more warriors for God! Finish the Life Kids
building! Add a building for STR8-UP! Train up our children in the way! Add parking! (For
the parents/adults!) \$485,000!!! That's a lot of money out of this years budget!

But last year we came up \$800,000 short on our potential

If we had given faithfully we would have \$315,000 in the storehouse!

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