

## The Key... to everything else!

### Part 2

#### *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

Does it surprise you that money is the number one stumbling block to believers?  
70-90% of believers will be kept from the fullness we have in Jesus because of it!

***70-90% of Christians in church today will willfully, knowingly sin by withholding their tithes!***

**It's not surprising that Believers say, "I want all God has for me!"**

Want to grow spiritually... Want to operate in God's gifts/Spirit... Want to have wisdom of the ages...  
Want \$\$\$ to care for our needs/others

**It's not surprising that we say, "I want life to be better this year than last..."**

Thinking in terms of health, happiness, relationships and finances!

**It's not surprising to hear, "I would like to know my future is safe and secure!"**

No one wants to get to the "end" to find they haven't planned well, don't have enough, can't turn around!

**Add to those desires the realities of our times...**

Mounting mental/physical stress... Not knowing how to combat the influences coming at us... unsure that we will have the power to overcome them... Shaky financial times/jobs/rising costs

***Recipe for true hunger for God or a really bad case of stomach acid!***

**Does it amaze you** that people want the best and do the exact opposite of what's in their best interest? They keep doing what hasn't worked expecting something to change for the better!

**Does it amaze you** that people cut off the possibility of being able to grow spiritually, having the freedom, security, wisdom or power to navigate the future... Because they can't get past the issues of their money!

**Let's take some real thought for the future...** Wanting every good thing, but asking ourselves... *What will it take on my part to have all that God has for me? Am I willing to change what is not working?*

**The Key!**

The "key" is the "small thing" that opens my house for my enjoyment! w/o the key I am locked out!

The "tithe" is the "smallest thing" that unlocks the door to the fullness of blessing...

**The tithe!**

God asks for a faithful giving of the "tithe" according to the wealth He gives you the power to obtain. **Deut 8.17,18**

**The "tenth" is the Lord's, it is devoted to Him, it is holy to Him...**

"Every dedicated thing (cherem) is most holy (qodesh) to the Lord. It cannot be bought, sold or used for any other thing. Nothing which is to be set apart by men can be used for any other purpose. All of the tithe... "is holy to the Lord. If a man wants to redeem what he has devoted and hasn't been able to complete, let him add a fifth (20%) to it's value. The tithe is holy to the Lord." Lev 27.28-32 (Jo 20.23)

## **The tithe, the "tenth" is the Lord's!**

*Abraham worshipped* – and God liked it! (Way before the OT law established!)

He has the right to ask for it... *and did*... (Legislated right behavior/response)

But He made it a matter of obedience!

*Consequences for disobedience... blessing/protection for willingness...*

## **Consequences!**

"From the beginning you have tried to change My ordinances, living out your life your own way. Return to Me and I will return to you! You ask, "In what way do we need to return?" Is it a light thing that you have robbed God? You are stealing from Me the tithes and offerings... You are cursed with a curse for robbing Me... even your whole nation! **Mal 3.7-9**

### **Consequences?**

Separation from God/ways/blessing... Blindness to transgenerational sin/holiness... Self inflicted curse... Spreading the infection!

## **Blessings!**

"Bring all the tithes into the *storehouse* so that there's supply for My house, and prove Me *now* with your obedience to see if I don't open to you the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing that you can't contain, and I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes and he will not destroy your fruit... "your plantings will come to harvest, and all nations will see you and call you blessed for you will be delightful says the Lord of Hosts!" **Mal 3.10-12** *"The Word tells me I can give God 10% of the income He provides and prosper on the 90% I steward!"*

### **Blessings?**

A storehouse for times of struggle... Restoration/Interaction/Intimacy w/God... Open windows/overflowing blessing... Rebuked enemy... Protected fields of planting and harvest... A glorifying testimony of God's goodness!

## **The tithe!**

Is integral to God's purposes for our life... w/o it or "more" not Godly prosperity!

Is 10% of your gross "incoming..." Salary, outside jobs, interest, \$\$ gifts

Is the non-negotiable minimum... Not to the penny/Not-heart healthy!

Can't be re-designated... Already designated for priests/temple/storehouse

Can't be kept/the weeks you're not here... follows the frequency of your "harvests..."

Is not your ballot! Talk to us, criticize us, walk away from us, but don't cut off your covenant to "show us!"

Cannot be given "in-kind!" Unless it's something we can "sell"/"Volunteering" doesn't count!

Sanctifies the "90%"

*Commit to living on the 90% good/bad times You'll see "bad times" as "good times!"*

## **Asides for men! Don't expose your family to suffering and the devourer for the sake of fear, greed, ignorance or pride!**

My wife will outlive me by 10-20 yrs. I am a planner but... She needs more than my plans... She needs God's blessings... Not risking her future to hold on to a few bucks!

## **Holding on says...**

God doesn't have your heart! *"Treasure" taking you wrong direction!"*

Your covenant is broken! *"You must be stronger than you look!"*

Kingdom enterprise is going to suffer! *"Plans for us" never to be fulfilled!"*

You expect others to do your part! *"They'll take care of the lights/kids/action!"*

You're up for interaction w/the devourer! *"Avarice/fear magnetizing the darkness!"*

You're not going anywhere quickly! *"Inside condition ≠ outside appearance!"*

**The Living Word says...** "If you cannot, or will not, handle your money with faith, by faith, for faith, I will not give you My richness. If you can't handle small things, why would I give to you large ones? Pick your master, God or money, you can't love and serve both!" **Lk 16.9-13**