

The Gift of Giving

I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten. —**Joel 2:25**

Perhaps you feel you cannot tithe at the moment, but the ability to handle money (when you give God all of His) may be a gift you are given that you weren't expecting to have. It is just like Jesus multiplying the loaves and the fish; it doesn't have a natural explanation. It doesn't add up that 90 percent can go as far as 100 percent.

I will never forget one day coming home shortly after Louise and I were married. God had hidden His face from me for days and weeks. I hadn't made any sales. I thought, Will I ever get to be in ministry? Whatever happened to those visions that God was going to use me? I walked over to a Bible my Grandmother Curley had given me, and, I promise you, my eyes fell right on these words: "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' In tithes and offerings" (Mal. 3:8). I abruptly closed that Bible, walked over, and turned on the television that we still owed for, and I thought, I certainly didn't want a word like that.

Perhaps you feel this way at the moment.

But you know what happened? As a result of not tithing because I was paying my bills, I owed more a year later than I did when I made the decision not to tithe. And a year after that, I owed more. One day I said, "I will start tithing now!" In eighteen months, we were out of debt.

Tithing is a part of worshiping God. Abraham was the first tither. That's in the Old Testament. But look at what the New Testament says: "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously" (2 Cor. 9:6).

You should not give necessarily because a church needs it, although sometimes that is the case, but you should give because it is the right thing to do.

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