



A Proper Perspective On Giving —Part One

The Tenth

Malachi 3:8-10

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Objective Sentence: Everyone should tithe and give to the Lord because the principles associated with giving prepare the way for supernatural living.

Introductory Statement: Giving was established in the Garden of Eden—Cain and Abel brought gifts to God. Tithing began with Abraham who gave a tithe or 10% offering to Melchizedek the priest of God—**Genesis 14:17-20; Hebrews 7:1-6**; Jacob continued his dad’s practice **Genesis 28:20-22**; it was commanded under the Law of Moses **Leviticus 27:30**. Jesus sanctioned tithing in **Matthew 23:23**)

Pastor Dan: **Read Malachi 3:6-12** For I *am* the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. ⁷ Yet from the days of your fathers you have gone away from My ordinances and have not kept *them*. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” Says the LORD of hosts. “But you said, ‘In what way shall we return?’” 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*. “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; ¹² “And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land,” Says the LORD of hosts. **Leviticus 27:30** All the tithe of the land, *whether* of the seed of the land *or* of the fruit of the tree, *is* the LORD’s

#1. Honor (*One of the most important benefits associated with tithing is the respect for God that is gained by giving to Him*) **Deut. 14:22-23** You must set aside a tithe of your crops—one-tenth of all the crops you harvest each year. ²³ Bring this tithe to the

designated place of worship—the place the LORD your God chooses for his name to be honored—and eat it there in his presence. This applies to your tithes of grain, new wine, olive oil, and the firstborn males of your flocks and herds. Doing this will teach you always to fear [*Amp: with awe –filled reverence; profound and respect*] the LORD your God)

A. *Dave Ramsey: Giving liberates the soul of the giver. You never walk away feeling badly. Whether through a tithe, a charitable contribution, or a gift to someone in need; giving not only generates good; it generates contentment.*

B. *Pastor Dan: Contention of a by-product of honoring God.*

1. **Contentment** (1 Timothy 6:3-10 Now godliness with **contentment** is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have *strayed from the faith* in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

a. *Pastor Dan:* One of the negative results of selfishness and greed in those professing to be followers of Christ is discontentment. For the average American working person who ends up head over heels in debt the real issue is not money but **discontentment**.

b. **Proverbs 11:24-25** There is *one* who scatters, yet increases more; and there is *one* who withholds more than is right, but it *leads* to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich, and he or she who waters will also be watered.

c. *Source Unknown:* If you outgo exceeds you income; then your upkeep will be your downfall.

d. *Dave Ramsey:* So why does He ask us to give 10% to Him? Tithing was created for our benefit. It is to teach us how to keep God first in our lives and how to be unselfish people. Unselfish people make better husbands, wives, friends, relatives, employees and employers. God is trying to teach us how to prosper over time.

e. **Psalm 50:7-15** [God does not need our money] O my people, listen as I speak. Here are my charges against you, O Israel: I am God, your God! ⁸ I have no complaint about your sacrifices or the burnt offerings you constantly offer. ⁹ But I do not need the bulls from your barns or the goats from your pens. ¹⁰ For all the animals of the forest are mine, and I own the cattle on a thousand hills. ¹¹ I know every bird on the mountains, and all the animals of the field are mine. ¹² If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for all the world is mine and everything in it. ¹³ Do I eat the meat of bulls? Do I drink the blood of goats? ¹⁴ Make thankfulness your sacrifice to God, and keep the vows you made to the Most High. ¹⁵ Then call on me when you are in trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory.

f. *Pastor Dan:* God does not need our money but we need to give our money to Him so that we learn to respect Him, trust Him, be content and develop self-control. The by-product of contentment is self-control.

g. **Proverbs 3:5-9** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your

paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil. ⁸ It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones. ⁹ 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. Dave Ramsey: If you cannot live off 90% of your income, then you cannot live off 100%.

Psalm 111:10 Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true wisdom.

All who obey his commandments will grow in wisdom

- h. *Hebrews 7:1-4* Abraham did not have a law in regards to tithing, the law came almost five hundred years after Abraham lived, but he was a tither. Where did he get that idea come from—it came from God.

#2. **Church** (*Matt. 16:18* And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.)

A. **Question:** *When God commanded the Israelites in the Old Testament to build the Tabernacle in the Wilderness—where did the materials come from that went into its construction? They came from the people who gave offerings from the blessings the Lord had bestowed upon them. The Tabernacle was set up in the center of the Jewish campsites, symbolizing the fact that we are to make God and His House the centerpiece of our lives. And when God had Solomon build the Temple from where did the materials come from that were used in its construction? They came from the blessings God bestowed on His people. How was the priesthood supported in the Old Testament? The priests were supported by the offerings of the people and by land grants God gave to them in the cities. The work of God is supported by the tithe.*

B. **Pastor Dan:** *One of the chief strategies through which the enemy causes the church to be impotent, weak, ineffective and insignificant is influencing the followers of Jesus not to tithe and give liberally to His cause. The propagation of the Gospel of Christ is hindered when people become self centered and selfish. *Matthew 16:18* Jesus outlines His number one priority for leaving us, His people, on this earth, “I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.*

1. **Ministry Depends on the Tithe—it Depends on You** (*Numbers 18:8-14* The LORD gave these further instructions to Aaron: “I myself have put you in charge of all the holy offerings that are brought to me by the people of Israel. I have given all these consecrated offerings to you and your sons as your permanent share. ⁹ You are allotted the portion of the most holy offerings that is not burned on the fire. This portion of all the most holy offerings—including the grain offerings, sin offerings, and guilt offerings—will be most holy, and it belongs to you and your sons. ¹⁰ You must eat it as a most holy offering. All the males may eat of it, and you must treat it as most holy. ¹¹ “All the sacred offerings and special offerings presented to me when the Israelites lift them up before the altar also belong to you. I have given them to you and to your sons and daughters as your permanent share. Any member of your family who is ceremonially clean may eat of these offerings. ¹² “I also give you the harvest gifts brought by the people as offerings to the LORD—the best of the olive oil, new wine, and grain. ¹³ All the first crops of their land that the people present to the LORD belong to you. Any member of your family who is ceremonially clean may eat this food. ¹⁴ “Everything in Israel that is specially set apart for the LORD also belongs to you.)

- a. **Malachi 3:6** I am the Lord I do not change.
- b. **Matthew 5:17-19** Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. ¹⁹ Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven
- c. **Author Unknown:** God's intent is to bless us. The law of God is that we reap what we sow. By tithing we provide God an opportunity to bless our lives and protect us from the weapons of the enemy. Tithing is an act of faith based on the law of God. Many argue against tithing and fail to recognize the law of sowing and reaping.
- d. **Leviticus 27:30-32** And all the tithe of the land, *whether* of the seed of the land *or* of the fruit of the tree, *is* the LORD's. It *is* holy to the LORD. ³² And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD.
- e. **Galatians 6:6-8** Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸ For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. ⁹ And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.
- g. **Pastor Dan:** You will lose so much more than you will gain by withholding your tithe from the Lord—financially, spiritually, emotionally, family.
- h. **Dave Ramsey:** Outrageous generosity is a character quality of people who win with money. Giving is one of the most important things you can do with your money. If you can make a habit of giving, even when you're struggling, you'll be an unbelievable giver when you've built wealth and are out of debt.
- i. **2 Corinthians 9:6-8** 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 [the full power of tithing is God in Grace and not in fear—it's something we get to do rather than something we have to do]. 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.

Closing and Invitation: Tithing is no excuse for mismanagement. Many in our day seem to be afflicted with that terrible disease known as Cirrhosis of the Giver. This terrible malady renders the afflicted person's hand incapable of moving from the wallet to the offering plate. The only known cure is to remove the sufferer from the Lord's house, where the condition seems able to cure itself. This is seen in the fact that the sufferer is more than willing and able to spend money at restaurants and in activities which he/she enjoys. If you have this disease, there is a permanent cure. It is called repentance and obedience to the Lord. If you are afflicted by Cirrhosis of the Giver then allow me to point you to Dr Jesus. He has the cure you need. **Matthew 6:21** For where your treasure is there will your heart [your wishes, your desires; that on which your life centers] be also.