



***What's In It For Me***  
***Part 3—Promotion***  
**Malachi 3:6-12**

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*Objective Sentence: Everyone should tithe because of the promised blessings associated with giving.*

***Introduction; Humor:*** Bob & Frank crashed their private plane on a deserted island & both survived. Bob ran all over the island to see if they had any chance of survival. When he returned, he rushed up to Frank & screamed, “This island is uninhabited, there’s no food & there’s no water We’re going to die” Frank leaned back against the plane, folded his arms, & said, “We’re not going to die. I make \$250,000 a week.” Bob grabbed him & said, “There’s no food, no water & we’re going to die” Frank said, “We’re not going to do I make \$250,000 every week” Bob said, “I’m telling you we’re doomed There’s no one else on this island, there’s no food & there’s no water We’re going to die” Frank calmly said, “Don’t make me say this again. I make \$250,000 a week & I tithe 20% of my income to the church. I promise you, my pastor will find us before Sunday.”...

***Think About It:*** John Wesley believed that prosperity follows faith. He said, “I do not see how it is possible for any revival of true religion to continue long. For religion must necessarily produce both industry and frugality; and these ... produce riches. As riches increase, so will pride, anger, and love of the world.... So what way can we take that our money may not sink us....? There is one way.... If those who “gain all they can” and “save all they can,” will likewise “give all they can,” then the more they gain, the more they will grow in grace, and the more treasure they will lay up in heaven.” The way to protect yourself in times of blessing is to compensate for it by liberal giving. Honor the Lord with your money, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine (King Solomon).

- I. Promotion** (*Mal. 3:12 Amp.* And all nations shall call you happy and blessed, for you shall be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts. *Mal. 3:12 (Message):* You'll be voted 'Happiest Nation.' You'll experience what it's like to be a country of grace )
- A. Augustine:** *Where your pleasure is, there is your treasure; where your treasure is, there is your heart; where your heart is, there is your happiness.*
- 1. Happy and Blessed** (*Ps. 35:27 NKJV* Let the LORD be magnified, who has pleasure in the **prosperity** of His servant. *NIV* May the LORD be exalted, who delights in the **well-being** of his servant. *NLT* Great is the LORD, who delights in blessing his servant with **peace.** )
- a. *Pastor Dan:* As we learn to be generous with ourselves to the Lord and others, the Lord will supernaturally manifest His blessings in our lives for everyone to see. What He does in our lives will be a witness to His blessing and power. People (all nations) will call you blessed. *Matt. 5:16* You are the light of the world
  - b. *Ps. 84:11* The Lord God is our light and protection; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing with He withhold from those who walk upright.
  - c. *Victory Ps. 149:4* God takes pleasure in His people and will beautify the humble salvation (*NLT*) **victory.**
  - d. *George Mueller:* Spiritual life is characterized by generosity. Let us not forget that God judges what we give by what we keep.
  - e. *Pro. 3:5-11* Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup>In all your ways acknowledge Him, and **He shall direct your paths.** <sup>7</sup>Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil. <sup>8</sup>It will be **health to your flesh, and strength to your bones.** <sup>9</sup>**Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits** of all your increase; <sup>10</sup>So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.
  - f. *Lu. 6:38 Tan Huma; Rabbinic Literature:* God has willed that there be **two hands in the matter of love—one that gives and one that receives.** Thank God that yours is the hand that gives. Say not, "I will miss what I give." Be like the sheep who give their wool and have no less the next year because they have given.
  - f. *Source Unknown:* If you want to be rich, give; if you want to be poor, grasp; if you want abundance, scatter; and if you want to be needy, hoard.

*Note: Cirrhosis of the Giver:* 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

- 2. Privileged and Favored** (*2 Cor. 9:6-11* But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; **for God loves a cheerful giver.** <sup>8</sup>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.* <sup>9</sup> As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad, he has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.” <sup>10</sup> Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and **multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,** <sup>11</sup> while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

- a. **Is. 55:10-11** For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.
- b. **Ralph Waldo Emerson:** It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.
- c. **1 Tim. 6:17-19** Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup> Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup> In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life
- d. **Howard Dayton:** In **Luke 16:11** we read, “If therefore you have not been faithful in the use of worldly wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you?” In this verse **Jesus equates how we handle our money with the quality of our spiritual life.**  
**E. Stanley Jones: Abundant living means abundant giving ... if you are not giving out...you will go dry in spirit.**
- f. **Persian Proverb:** You and I go down to our deaths bearing in our hands only what we have given away.
- g. **Ancient Proverb:** Giving is its own reward. That statement is true; for you receive in proportion to that which you give.
- h. **Jim Elliot:** He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.

**Closing and Invitation: Oswald Chambers:** Worship is giving God the best that He has given you. Be careful what you do with the best you have. Whenever you get a blessing from God, give it back to Him as a love gift. Take time to meditate before God and offer the blessing back to Him in a deliberate act of worship. If you hoard a thing for yourself, it will turn into spiritual dry rot, as the manna did when it was hoarded. God will never let you hold a spiritual thing for yourself; it has to be given back to Him that He may make it a blessing to others.

**Exodus 16:14-24** When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. <sup>15</sup> When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat. <sup>16</sup> This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Everyone is to gather as much as they need. Take an omer (two quarts) for each person you have in your tent. <sup>17</sup> The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little. <sup>18</sup> And when they measured it by the omer (two quarts), the one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.

Everyone had gathered just as much as they needed. <sup>19</sup> Then Moses said to them, “No one is to keep any of it until morning.” <sup>20</sup> However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them.