

Part 4: Holding On

The Problem:

We want God to <u>bless us and protect us</u> financially without having to obey Him financially.

Proverbs 3

- ⁹ <u>Honor the Lord</u> with your <u>wealth</u>, with the <u>firstfruits</u> of all your crops;
- ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Malachi 3

- ⁶ "I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷ Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the Lord Almighty. "But you ask, 'How are we to return?' ⁸ "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' "In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me.
- ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.
- ¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the Lord Almighty. ¹² "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty.

TODAY'S TRUTH

We cannot ask God to give to us while we refuse to give back to Him.

Group Guide

Introduction

Most people want God to bless them financially. But very few people want to obey God with the money God has already given. In other words, we're asking God to give to us while we refuse to give back to Him.

Discussion

Why do you think God asks us to give 10% back to Him? Have you ever given to God and regretted it?

Read Proverbs 3:9-10

What do you think it means to honor God with your wealth? Why is it important that we give to God first?

Read Malachi 3:6-12

Why do you think that so many church-goers are robbing God? What are the consequences of robbing God? What are the benefits of tithing?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

What parts of this passage stand out to you? Why? What is verse 7 saying about our spiritual growth and giving?

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