

PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS

Malachi 3:7-12

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“From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes, and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD of hosts. “But you say, ‘How shall we return?’” Malachi 3:7

Q. What is involved with returning to God?

A. Giving God first place in your finances.

No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. Matthew 6:24 NIV

1. God has commanded that His people tithe.

*...and of all that you give me I will surely give a tenth to You.
Genesis 28:22*

A. The tithe belongs to God.

One tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD and must be set apart to Him as holy. If you want to buy back the LORD's tenth of the grain or fruit, you must pay its value, plus 20 percent. Count off every tenth animal from your herds and flocks and set them apart for the LORD as holy.

You may not pick and choose between good and bad animals, and you may not substitute one for another. But if you do exchange one animal for another, then both the original animal and its substitute will be considered holy and cannot be bought back.

Leviticus 27:30-33 NLT

B. You don't give the tithe, you bring the tithe.

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse ... Malachi 3:10

C. Failing to tithe is a serious, heart-revealing sin.

Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, “How have we robbed You?” In tithes and offerings. Malachi 3:8

2. God has promised to bless us as we tithe.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test 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 a blessing until it overflows." Malachi 3:10

A. Failing to tithe is robbing yourself.

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD gives grace and glory; no good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly. Psalm 84:11

B. Tithing is not God's way of raising money, but raising you.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5

But My righteous one shall live by faith; and if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him. Hebrews 10:38

3. God has promised to protect us as we tithe.

"Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it may not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the LORD of hosts. Malachi 3:11

"You look for much, but behold, it comes to little; when you bring it home, I blow it away. Why?" declares the LORD of hosts, "Because of My house which lies desolate, while each of you runs to his own house. Haggai 1:9

4. God has promised to use us as we tithe.

"And all the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land," says the LORD of hosts. Malachi 3:12

Will you return to God?