

LAYMAN'S SCHOOL OF TRAINING
COURSE/HOLE 1 - CHRISTIAN GROWTH SEMINAR
LECTURE 6 - GOD IS INTERESTED IN YOUR FINANCIAL SUCCESS - PART 1

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1. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT MONEY?

- i) The Gospels contain more warnings against money and its misuse than any other subject.
- ii) One in every four verses in Matthew, Mark and Luke deals with money.
- iii) One in every six verses in the New Testament as a whole, deals with or makes a reference to money in some way.
- iv) Almost half of the parables of Jesus refer to money in one way or another, particularly warnings against covetousness.
- v) The first apostle to fall was **Judas**. It was because of the love of money. He sold Jesus for money he never lived to spend. In fact Judas sold his soul for thirty pieces of silver. (*John 12:4-8; John 13:26-27; Matt 26:14-16* Read at home).
- vi) The first recorded sin in the early church concerned the giving of money to the Lord. **Ananias and Sapphira** lied to the Holy Spirit about a percentage of capital given to the Lord. Note how satan entered the scene of the early church through money, when the spirit of giving was on people (*Acts 4:32-37; Acts 5:1-11* Read at home).
- vii) The **sin of simony** concerns money and seeking to buy the gifts of God with it (*Acts 8:14-24* Read at home).
- viii) It's worth noting that two New Testament words whose Greek numerical value equals **666** are **wealth** and **tradition**.

This is the number of the **beast** or the **anti-Christ**, who is a man empowered by satan to defy God in the last days (*Rev 13:16-18* Read at home). The power to **buy and sell** is connected with this number.

Many people feel that finances should not be mentioned in church; but it is the **responsibility of the 5 fold ministry** to proclaim the **full gospel** - to speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where it is silent. Therefore churches should not preach politics, but the gospel of Jesus Christ which includes money matters.

A basic **fundamental Bible principle** is that **God is the 'owner of everything'** (*Psalms 50:10-12*), and that we are simply **'stewards' accountable to God** of all He has entrusted to us (*Luke 12:42-48*). The more we have the greater our responsibility.

Money is where we are living at everyday. It **represents all our gifts and talents** given to us by God (*1 Chron 29:8-14; 16-17* Read at home).

2. WHAT IS THE LAW OF SOWING AND REAPING?

Gen 8:22 (NAS) "While the earth remains, **seedtime and harvest ... shall not cease.**"

Gal 6:7,9 (NAS) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for **whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.** And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time **we shall reap** if we do not grow weary. "

Mark 4:14 (NAS) "The sower sows the word."

James 1:22 (NAS) "But prove yourselves **doers** of the word, and not merely hearers who delude (or deceive - KJV) themselves."

You sow the word by believing it, confessing it, **DOING IT** and praising God in advance for the results it will produce.

You obviously **cannot reap** before you've made the **sacrifice of sowing** and **patiently waited** for the harvest.

Heb 6:12b (NAS) "...be imitators of those who through **faith and patience** inherit the promises. "

3. WHAT IS THE BIBLE PORTION THAT GOD REQUIRES ME TO SOW?

Mal 3:7-12 (NAS) "'From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes (laws), 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?**'

8 'Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, '**How have we robbed Thee?**' **In tithes and offerings.**

9 You are **cursed with a curse**, for you are robbing Me, the **whole nation** of you!

10 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.**

11 Then I will **rebuke the devourer** (the devil) 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.

12 And all the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a **delightful lands.**' says the Lord of hosts."

God says the **first** area we're to **return to Him** is in paying our **tithes** and giving offerings.

A tithe is 10% of all our income.

Why does the tithe belong to God?

By virtue of **covenant agreement.**

When we **made Jesus Christ the Lord** of our lives we were **entitled to all covenant blessings**, which include health, prosperity, divine knowledge and wisdom, protection, supernatural ability, all heavenly blessings etc. But a covenant is an **agreement between two parties**. God will always be faithful to keep His side of the covenant, but man must be tested because he has been known to be unfaithful.

So **God tests us** in a most sensitive area in our lives - our money. (God tested **Abraham** in an even more sensitive area: the sacrificing of his only long waited for and promised son - Isaac).

While we're paying our tithes and giving offerings all heaven's blessings will be available to us, provided we fulfill other scriptural conditions like walking in love and praying in faith for these blessing.

If we **stop paying** our tithes and giving offerings, then we've **broken covenant** with God and no longer have His divine blessings and protection.

We've **opened the door for the devil** to come in and steal from us, and that's why the bible says we are cursed with a curse.

Deut 8:18 (NAS) "**But you shall REMEMBER the Lord your God, for it is He who is giving you power (or ability) to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.**"

God will keep His side of the covenant if we will keep ours.

The **storehouse** is the place where you get your spiritual food (*Matt 4:4*), just like we get our natural food from a **pantry**.

You would never not eat at **The Steakery**, and then go and pay at **Steers**: so in the same way we **must pay our tithes where we get our spiritual food.**

This ministry tithes 10% of all its income to support the evangelism of the lost. The other 90% is used to run the ministry and you cannot imagine the **exorbitant costs** involved in running an operation of this magnitude.

Here **God challenges us to test or prove Him**. He says if we will tithe He will go so far as to '**empty out**' (literal Hebrew) heaven's treasury, if it could be done, in order to abundantly bless us in return.

Another blessing is that He offers us **divine protection** from the devourer (or the devil). People who have **refused to tithe** have **lost many times more than the 10%** they should have paid to God through the **devil robbing and stealing** their health, job, causing them to miss a promotion, lose their homes, or make wrong and costly decisions (*John 10:10*). If they would have tithed, God would have abundantly blessed them, kept them in health and improved their financial standing.

If we tithe God will bless the 90% so that it will go further.

Prov 3:9-10 (NAS) *"Honor the Lord from your wealth, and from the **FIRST** of **ALL** your produce (income); **10** So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine."*

We're to honour God with the first portion of **all our income**, before anyone else gets one cent of our money. We should tithe on **all profits** we make.

When we **tithe** we are **giving 10%** of our **working time, abilities, talents, life and energy** to the Lord, or we could say we're **working 3 days a month full time** for God.

4. ISN'T TITHING AN OLD TESTAMENT TEACHING THAT DOESN'T APPLY TO US TODAY?

No. Tithing was ordained by God long before Law, adopted as part of the Law, and then sanctioned by Christ under the New Covenant.

i) Tithing before the law.

If we want **Abraham's** blessings (*Gen 13:2,6*) we're going to first have to become a tither as he was.

Gen 14:18-20 (NAS) *"And Melchizedek king of Salem (Peace) brought out **bread and wine** (symbols of the covenant meal); now he was a priest of God Most High.*

19 *And he blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;*

20 *And blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand.' And **he (Abram) gave him (Melchizedek) a tenth of ALL.**"*

Obviously **Jacob** learned the tithing principle from his father Isaac and his grandfather Abraham. Jacob was also mightily blessed by God.

Gen 28:20-22 (NAS) *"Then Jacob made a vow, saying, 'If God will be with me and will keep me on this journey that I take, and will give me food to eat and garments to wear,*

21 *and I return to my father's house in safety, then the Lord will be my God.*

22 *And this stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be God's house; and of **ALL that Thou dost give me I will surely give a tenth to Thee.**"*

ii) Tithing under the law.

The **tithe is the Lord's**: it is **HOLY** unto the Lord.

Lev 27:30-31 (NAS) *"Thus **ALL the tithe** of the land, of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, **is the Lord's**; it is **HOLY** to the Lord.*

31 *If, therefore, a man wishes to redeem part of his tithe, he shall add to it one-fifth of it."*

iii) Tithing under the New Covenant.

Heb 7:1-10 Read at home from the Living Bible. **Melchizedek** was the pre-incarnate Christ. He came before the law, outside of the Old Testament Levitical priesthood, and received tithes from **Abraham** who is the **father** of all those who have a **covenant with God through faith** in Jesus Christ.

As we pay our tithes on earth today, **Jesus Christ receives them in heaven** and counts it to our credit (*vs 8*).

Tithing is not only for the Jewish people, but for all **true Jews**, who are those who have a covenant with God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (*Rom 2:28-29; Rom 9:6-8*)

Matt 23:23 (TLB) *"Yes, woe upon you, Pharisees, and you other religious leaders - hypocrites! For you tithe down to the last mint leaf in your garden, but ignore the important things - justice, mercy and faith. **Yes, you should tithe**, but you shouldn't leave the more important things undone."*

While **Jesus** was on earth He could have taught that tithing was only under the law and now a thing of the past; but instead He **reinforced the tithing principle**, with the provision not to neglect weightier matters such as justice, mercy and faith.

HOMWORK FOR LECTURE 6

1. Spend 10 minutes a day meditating on your notes until these truths register on your spirit man.
2. Memorize **Deut 8:18** which will count for 5% towards your test result.
3. **NB.** Keep these notes handy in your bible and on **every payday for the rest of your life** read through them again carefully, so that you can make any **attitude adjustments** necessary and give to God in faith, with pure motives and a thankful heart.
*Heb 4:12 (NAS) "For the **word of God** is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and **able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the hearts.**"*
NB. Every Christian has been tempted by the devil through circumstantial pressure at some stage of his life to stop tithing. We need to **know the word** of God in order to **be able to resist** these temptations in Jesus name.
By reading over these notes again at the end of every month, you will build up your faith and be able to believe God for the maximum return on your tithes and offerings.
4. If you have not yet started tithing and giving offerings, determine to start this Sunday to walk in obedience and give according to biblical principles.