



Bits of Hope from 10/22/2006

Pastor Cynthia L. Hale

Gen. 14:17-20

All of us will agree that things are not the way they used to be. There are very few people today who will do anything without asking why. Today if you ask anyone to do anything they will ask, why? When I was growing up I did whatever my parents asked me to do. If I didn't there were repercussions. Asking why was a sign of disrespect. But things have changed and that's good. We shouldn't take anything at face value. God asks us to walk by faith and not by sight. When we ask questions about the lifestyle of a Christian, God is not offended.

Why should we tithe? Every one of us has asked that question at one time or another. You are asking why should you tithe because you are saved and not surrendered. It's a question of trust. We tithe and struggle; we are not consistent. You heard the word in Mal 3:10 but God didn't do what he said he would do so you say, why should I tithe? What difference is it making in my life? You want to see immediate results.

We ask, "What's in it for me?" God has been waiting for you to be honest with yourself and him by asking the questions. The real question is, can you handle the answer? Tithing is about establishing God's kingdom in the earth. When God says bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, if you live it out every day, it will manifest itself in your life. Faithful living and giving in your life will bring the blessings of God.

When you understand that God is serious, it will literally change your whole life. You can't be afraid to give him what he's asking for.

Why should we tithe?

- **It's biblical.** The word produces faith and obedience in us. You can depend on the word. Being in the word and having the word in you puts you in position to have all that God has for you. 2 Tim 3:14
- **It's an act of worship.** Gen 14:20 Abraham just had a major victory. Abram tithed to the priest. He wasn't commanded to tithe; it was a voluntary and spontaneous act of thanksgiving for the victory. It was an act of worship. When we look at the example of Abram, saying thank you was not enough. He wanted to give a tangible offering for the victory. There was nothing but love that prompted him to give. We give tips to waiters for good service. Sometimes we give 15-20%, but we struggle with tithing when God gives good service to us every day.
- **It's an admission of God's sovereignty.** It is submission to his will. Tithing became part of the law that God gave to his people through Moses it was a tithe of everything, Lev 27:30. It was holy, or set apart for him. If you don't use it in the way that God expects for you to use it, it is fit for destruction. God asks for the ten percent but we are greedy. We want the whole 100%. But we wouldn't even have the 90%, if God didn't give it to us.

- **It comes off the top.** 2 Cor 16:1-2 some of us pay all of our bills first. We don't set God's money aside. Some of us are in a financial rut and you think you can't afford to tithe, but you cannot afford not to tithe. It's about management. When you take his off the top the other matters get worked out. It is a matter of living by faith. The people of Israel lost faith; they got slack and failed to maintain consistency. It will take more than one offering to get the cycle flowing.

God is faithful Mal 3:6. You have been unfaithful, but you are still here. It's not that the windows are not open; it's that you have moved out of the flow. There are some faithful people that keep the windows open and the blessings flowing. God rarely punishes us, he doesn't have to. He allows us to suffer the consequences of our poor decisions. When God told the people of Israel to bring the whole tithe, they knew what he was talking about. They had three different tithes. The celebration tithe, in celebration of the goodness of God and the harvest, Deut 14:22. Then there was charity tithe, Deut 14:28 this tithe was for the poor and the widows. There was the temple tithe Num 18:21. It was for the upkeep of the temple. When you call the church you want someone to answer.

Whenever God gives a principle, he gives a promise. Prov 11: 25, Luke 6:38, God is faithful to keep the promise.

Peace.

Volunteers are always welcome 770-696-5100