

## **Malachi 3:8 (NLT)**

**“Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! “But you ask, ‘What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?’ “You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me.**

**Malachi 3:9 (NLT)**

**You are under a curse, for your whole  
nation has been cheating me.**

## **Malachi 3:10 (NLT)**

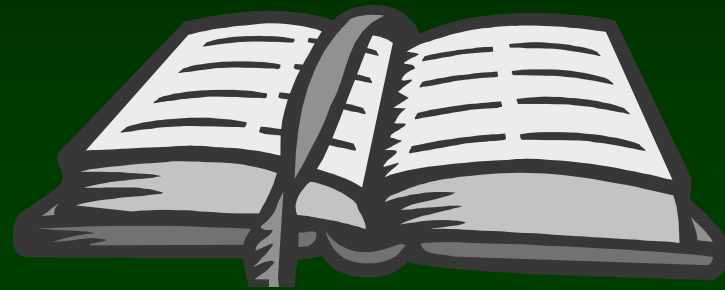
**Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple.**

**If you do,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in!**

**Try it! Put me to the test!**

**Where is your HEART?**

**Malachi 3:7-12**



## **Wrong Steps**

- turned **AWAY** from God
- refused to **OBEY** His Word

# GIVING NEEDS TO BE...

## ➤ Thoughtful, Heartfelt, Not Reluctant

**2 Cor. 9:7 (NIV) Each man should give what *he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly* or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver**

(Piper)

# GIVING NEEDS TO BE...

## ➤ Generous, Joyful, and Sacrificial

2 Cor. 8:2-4 (NLT)...*being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich GENEROSITY.* [3] For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. [4] They **begged us** again and again for the privilege of sharing

# GIVING NEEDS TO BE...

## ➤ One of our Goals in for Working

Eph. 4:28 (NIV) He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, **THAT he may have something to share with those in need.**

## Deuteronomy 30:1-2(NIV)

When all these blessings and curses I have set before you come upon you and you take them to heart wherever the Lord your God disperses you among the nations, [2] and **when you and your children RETURN to the Lord your God and obey him with ALL your heart and with ALL your soul according to everything I command you today,**

Deuteronomy 30:3 (NIV)

**THEN** the Lord your God will **RESTORE**  
**your fortunes** and have compassion on  
you and gather you again from all the  
nations where he scattered you.

## 2 Corinthians 8:1-2 (NIV)

[1] And now, brothers, we want you to know about the GRACE that God has given the Macedonian churches. [2] Out of the **most severe trial**, their **overflowing joy** and their **extreme poverty** welled up in **rich generosity**.

## 2 Corinthians 8:3-4 (NIV)

[3] For I testify that **they gave** as much as they were able, and even **beyond their ability**. Entirely on their own, [4] **they** urgently **pleaded with us** for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.

# **The Macedonian Churches...**

- **Severe TRIAL**
- **Extreme POVERTY**
- **Overflowing of JOY**
- **Rich GENEROSITY**

## 2 Corinthians 8:7 (NIV)

But just as you excel in everything -  
in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in  
complete earnestness and in your  
love for us - **see that you also  
EXCEL in this GRACE of giving.**

The issue in Malachi 3:7-12 is **NOT** tithing but apostasy. ...By keeping for themselves the tithes and other offerings they owed to God, the people showed their **idolatrous hearts in placing themselves before God...**

~ Clendenen

**Galatians 6:7 (NIV)**

**Do not be deceived: God cannot  
be mocked.**

**A man REAPS what he SOWS.**

## **2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NIV)**

**Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. [7] Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.**

## **2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (NIV)**

**[8] And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.**

## Hosea 10:12 (NLT)

I said, 'Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love. **Plow up the hard ground of your hearts**, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and shower righteousness upon you.'

# Questions

1. Why are issue about giving so hard for us to hear?
2. Why is it that God cares more about our Heart than the actual amount of our giving?
3. How does our giving reflect our heart?