

# THE GENEROUS LIFE



PART 7: The Test of Generosity | Sunday, June 26, 2016

## CAIN AND ABEL

Genesis 4:3-5 In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. 4 And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, 5 but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

## THE GENEROSITY TEST

Exodus 23:19a Bring the best of the first fruits of your soil to the house of the LORD your God.

Proverbs 3:9-10 (NLT) Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. 10 Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.

❖ I will give God my \_\_\_\_\_ and my \_\_\_\_\_ so He can \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.

Leviticus 27:30 A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.

Malachi 3:6-12 “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.

## THE BLESSINGS OF THE TITHE

1. Tithing provides for God’s \_\_\_\_\_ through His church.

Malachi 3:10a Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.

2. Tithing teaches me to put God \_\_\_\_\_.

Exodus 20:2-3 “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery 3 You shall have no other gods before me.”

Deuteronomy 14:23 (TLB) Bring this tithe to eat before the Lord your God at the place he shall choose as his sanctuary; this applies to your tithes of grain, new wine, olive oil, and the firstborn of your flocks and herds. The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.

3. Tithing increases my \_\_\_\_\_ in God.

Malachi 3:10b “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 you will not have room enough for it.”

❖ It requires faith to give \_\_\_\_\_. If we give \_\_\_\_\_, it doesn’t require faith.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Philippians 4:15b -19 When I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; 16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. 17 Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. 18 I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. 19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 16:1-3 Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. 2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. 3 Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem.

*\*All scriptures are from the NIV translation unless otherwise noted.*