

Branson Rogers (00:00):

Well, this morning we're gonna talk about how to live a life of absolute blessing. Anybody wanna live a life of blessing this morning? Well, if you, if you don't, you need to probably leave. But we're gonna teach you this morning how to live a life of absolute blessing. And many people have asked me down through the years, say, pastor, what does it mean? What, when you say we want, we want our lives to be blessed, or God's gonna bless our life. What does that mean? It means when we live a blessed life, we are having the supernatural power of God working for us and our life. Let's think about that for a minute. The same power that raised Jesus from the grave on the third day is the same power that the Bible says that you and I can have as we live our daily life.

(00:52):

That's an amazing power. We can do all things through Him that strengthens us. Amen? That's what the Bible says. And Bible says, if you wanna live a life of supernatural power, if you want to be blessed, then you're gonna have to do a few things. So in the Book of Deuteronomy, God says in four separate passages that those who honor the Lord with their life. And what I mean by that is those of us that honor the Lord, we obey the principles of His word will be mightily. Blessed. In fact, though, that book says that everything that we put our hands to will be anointed of God, will be blessed of God. So how is, how do we be blessed in life? We're blessed in life when we follow the principles of God's word. And as I've said many times, every single time in your life and my life where we have gone off track with God, we've gone off track in our life.

(01:52):

You and I can put it all back to a time where we were not following the principles of His word. It is impossible to go off track in life when you are walk. When I am walking in the principles of God's word, in order to be blessed, we need to follow His principles. If we're not following his principles, don't expect to be blessed. Somebody came to me this week and they said, pastor, pray for me. Well, I've got news for you before I pray for you. You need to get your life right with God. Amen. People are asking for God to bless their life today when their life is not being worked and lived in accordance to God's word. You're wasting your breath. Yes, sir. You are absolutely wasting your breath. You say what you mean, pastor? I'm saying this. The Bible says, if we regard iniquity in our heart, God is not going to hear us.

(02:51):

Amen. He's not going to hear our prayers. So what does he want from us? Before he hears our prayers, he wants us to tell him that we are sorry for the things in our life that we're not doing that are wrong. Amen. He wants our confessions. Don't go up and try to push B one, C one, D two on a vending machine of God and try to get your little things out of God when you are regarding inequity, or I'm regarding inequity in my heart. Listen, if I want the power of God upon my preaching, upon my pastoring, upon me being a father, and me being a husband that I ought to be, I have to foremost, I have to make sure that my life is clean before God. Amen. Before I came outta my office today, I said, Lord, I want you to forgive me of anything in my life right now that is not right with you. I want you to create me a clean heart, oh God. And re a right spirit in me. You know why? Because I want to be a clean channel that God can use this morning, hopefully to touch your heart with the changing word of God.

(03:58):

So I kind of got off a little tangent there,

Branson Rogers (04:02):

<Laugh>.

Branson Rogers (04:03):

In order for our life to be blessed of God, we've gotta be walking with God. The blessings of God, if we're walking with Him, is gonna permeate every single aspect of your life. It's gonna affect every single aspect of your life. If you're walking with God, he's gonna bless your relationships. He's gonna bless your marriage. He's gonna bless your family life. He's gonna bless your work, your business, your finances, your emotions, your thoughts, and you can go on and on and on. What are you saying? I'm saying, if you're walking right with God, God is going to bless your life. So goes your life choices in life. So goes your relationship with Jesus Christ. Many people say, well, I had some good luck this week. Well, guess what? There's no such thing as good luck and bad luck. There's no such thing this morning in coincidences, it's God, period in amen that gives us favor and unlocks the door for us. Amen. In every single area of our life. You may think you're smart, you may think you've gone to college and you've got your PhD. I found that some people that have a PhD, I say they're phenomenal dummies, <laugh>.

(05:24):

I've met people in and that say they've gone to college, got this degree and this degree. And I'm not talking bad about college. I've got six years myself, but I've met some folks that have gone to college and they've had this degree and this degree. I said, they're three degrees below zero <laugh>.

(05:39):

We better understand something today in our life. And that is this, every unlocked door, every blessing that we have, every amount of money that we have, our job, that we have, our marriage, our kids, our car, our microwave, our television, everything that we have in life is not because of us. It's because of favor of God in our life. Amen. Amen. And that's why we need to give him praise and honor and glory. You are not a self-made man. You are not a self-made woman. Everything that you have is because of God's favor upon your life. Amen. It is a blessing of God. You didn't get that job. No. God gave it to you. Amen. Well, pastor, I got, I bought my house. No, you didn't. That's not your house. It's God's house. He gave you the money to buy that house. Amen. Pastor, look at my new car.

(06:36):

It's not yours. It's God's. Start thinking about it. He'll start breaking down on you if you don't give God praise. What I'm saying is, it's time, folks, that we learn that our life as a Christian is based on us following the word of God and all of its principles. Now that I got you saying amen and all that kind of good stuff, see, I'm, I'm kinda, I'm kinda just kind of getting the foundation because I already know what I'm gonna talk about this morning. And all of y'all are in a good, good spirit. So you know what we need to understand? We reap exactly what we sow in life. Amen. We reap what we, I'm amazed folks come in. Sometimes they talk to me and say, pastor, I don't know why in the world I have got to this place in my life. You don't.

(07:25):

Well, I could tell you why, because you haven't been obeying what God says. Amen. You and I this morning are exactly where our choices have landed us. You. So wait a minute, I had to go through Covid. Well, guess what? Everybody else did too. Well, you don't understand. It's a tough economy. Who you talking to? Well, you don't understand Pastor things of this. Pressures of the world are, are so great and wonderful, you know, I are, are great. They're, they're more than it ever were in my whole entire life. Well, guess what they are. But guess what? We have the same God. Amen. Amen. Well, it's hard for me to keep away from doing this. What? Guess what? We have the same God. Amen. What are you trying to say, pastor? I'm trying to say that don't blame your bad choices on other people. Amen. Worry your own shoes. You and I are exactly where we are today because of the choices either right or wrong that we've made. That's right. Grow a spine.

(08:26):

We have a hard time in this society today of taking responsibility for things that are ours. Talking to a kid the other day, and he was blaming all where he was because of his mom not being done this for him and dad not doing this, and people over here laying down, people live down. I said, listen, if you are waiting for the stars to align in your life to be a success, they ain't gonna happen. Amen. I've had my share of being kicked in my life too. But you know what I've learned? Same thing that hopefully you've learned when you get down, you get back up.

Branson Rogers (08:59):

Amen.

Branson Rogers (08:59):

You don't sit there on the ground and talk about all the reasons that you're down the ground. If you got a brain, you need to get up and keep on fighting. Amen. Amen. My goodness. Oh, everybody in here that's never had been knocked, done in life, stand up. Nobody's gonna stand up. You've all been not done in life's sometimes because of the wrong decisions we've made. So what's the bottom line, pastor in living a blessed life? It's this obeying the first commandment. Yes, you shall love the Lord. Thank God with all of your heart, with all of your soul, with all of your mind. If you don't get that first commandment right, you're not gonna get anything else right in life. He must be number one, not number two, not number three. He must be number one because if he's not, number one, nothing in your life, in my life is gonna go right. We need to make sure that he is first in everything that we do in the most difficult times of our life. We've gotta make sure that he is first and one of the most difficult areas in our life to make sure that he's number one is what I'm gonna talk to you about this morning. That's about your finances in mine. You say, oh my goodness, if I knew about this, I wouldn't have come this morning. <Laugh>.

(10:15):

Guess what? If you get up and leave, everybody's gonna know you're convicted. So I I,

(10:21):

I think you need to stay in your seat. Yes. All right. You need to stay in your seat. Well, my goodness, I might have been unknown this, but listen, 500 verses. There's 500 verses in the Bible on prayer. Now, I didn't count. I'm I, I'm recent. I did a little research. All right. Whoever counted 'em, that's good for them. There's 500 verses in the Bible on faith. So we got 500 on prayer, 500 faith. Now there's 2000 verses talking about money and possessions. And that means that there is talking about money possessions in 16 of his 38 parables. It talks about money more than it does about salvation. So you don't think that God thinks that money's important. And people all the time, they say, well, I don't like to come to church. Cause all they do is talk about money. Here's what I found out in my 45 years. The people that say that are the people that don't give anyway. They wa up a dollar bill so tight. George Washington blinks,

Branson Rogers (11:30):

<Laugh>.

Branson Rogers (11:34):

They're those kind of folks that just, you know, you pass the offering plates around as we're gonna do this when we're gonna get back to that. They do this before they give. They kind of tighten it up. Take

that dollar bill, \$5 bill, they do. Like, why are they doing that whipping around? Because they want you to see what they're about, ready to give. They don't think they're so and wonderful. I mean, goodness. Hey, look. Or they take an offering envelope and they don't put nothing in it,

Branson Rogers ([12:01](#)):

<Laugh>,

Branson Rogers ([12:01](#)):

But they put in the offering. I know every time I say that, people say, oh, that don't happen. Oh yeah, it does. You ask our counters back there, sometimes we have offerings and they say, pastor, we got three blank envelopes. How dare you? You say, well, I'm gonna put that envelope in there. And they even lick it.

Branson Rogers ([12:23](#)):

<Laugh>.

Branson Rogers ([12:26](#)):

I hope it makes you sick,

Branson Rogers ([12:28](#)):

<Laugh>.

Branson Rogers ([12:30](#)):

You know, but you do that. Who are you fooling? You don't think God saw you do that?

([12:38](#)):

And you're sitting here and saying, oh, everybody's gonna think I'm faithful this morning. I lick my envelope. Blank envelope. Good gracious man. Do you have audacity? Woo. But he talks about money in so many places in the word of God. Now, that's all introduction. Let's get into the messages this morning following your notes. The very first principle you must and I must grasp if we're to understand giving, is the principle of first fruits. Now, I'm gonna share a few, I'm gonna teach you a few things this morning, okay? It's not gonna be just laying down and talking about finances. I'm gonna talk to you about how finances are supposed to work. All right? Listen. It's called the principle of first fruits. To understand this, we've gotta understand that the firstborn or the ties back all the way through the word of God is called first fruits.

([13:29](#)):

A lot of people are very confused about this. I want you to listen very, very attentively as we go through this this morning. Look at we will, at Exodus chapter 13, verse two says, consecrate or honor me with all the firstborn, whatever opens a womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast. It is who is mine, right there in Exodus. God says, listen, the firstborn is mine, and you need to consecrate that to me. You need to give it to me. It's not yours, okay? It's not yours, it's mine. You need to honor me with the firstborn. You need to understand that is mine. 16 times in scripture, God emphatically says that the firstborn is his, is his. And according to the Old Testament law, the first born firstborn were either to be sacrificed or redeemed. And let's think about it like this livestock, when they delivered the firstborn, it was either to be sacrificed or if it was clean or if it was unclean, you had to redeem that sacrifice with a clean animal.

[\(14:44\):](#)

In other words, God says, I want you to give me your firstborn. The firstborn, first thing they look for is if the firstborn was clean, if it was clean, without spot, without blemish, without disease, they sacrificed that to the Lord. If that firstborn was diseased or had some things going on with it, they said, okay, I'm not gonna sacrifice that one. I'm gonna give God this one over here. What is God trying to say? God's trying to say, I'm the one that blessed you with these births. Amen. Your cattle or your sheep, whatever, they're not yours. They're mine. So right away, God's trying to get us to understand that every blessing that we have that comes our life is not because of us, has nothing to do with that. It's because what God is blessing us according to obedience does have something to do with us as far as that's concerned.

[\(15:42\):](#)

But they had to redeem it. When John met Jesus back in the gospels, he said, behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Now, many people pass by that phrase, and they don't really understand what John's saying. John, in that little, that little those lines is saying this, he's defining, Jesus had come to the earth to fulfill the mission that his father had sent him to do. Jesus. Hold on. Now, listen. Jesus was God's firstborn. He was clean. Amen. He was unblemished. We, on the other hand, are born not clean, but we're born unclean. The Bible says, for all have sinned and all come short of the glory of God, we're all born the same way. Just because I'm a pastor doesn't mean I'm any better than you. In fact, I may be worse than you. I may have sinned more than you've sinned this week.

[\(16:48\):](#)

What have you done, pastors? None of your business. Listen. Listen. We're all sinners. We're all sinners. We're all born unclean. We're all born with a God-sized hole in our heart that nothing can satisfy other than salvation that comes through Jesus Christ. Amen. So don't miss this. The principle of the firstborn, if the firstborn, it was clean, it had to be sacrificed. If it was unclean, it had to be redeemed with a clean animal. So Jesus was God's firstborn. He was clean, he was spotless. We, on the other hand, were unclean. So Jesus was the one that needed to be redeemed, was the one that needed to be sacrificed in order for us to be who we are. Are we getting that? Yes. Jesus, as it says in your notes, was God's tithe given in faith when we were sinners. Look at Romans chapter five, verse eight.

[\(17:52\):](#)

But God demonstrates his love towards us, and that while we were yet sinners, still sinners, Christ died for us. And look at Romans 8 29 for whom he, he already knew everything about us. He also predestined to be conformed to the image of his son, that he might be their firstborn among the brethren. In other words, God and don't miss this, God gave Jesus to be sacrificed for us before any of us ever believed in Him as our Lord and our savior. This is a big deal right here in this sense. Jesus was God's ties. How was He given? He was given before we even accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior. So what does that mean, pastor? There's a principle here. The principle is before we see God's blessings, we give our tithe and faith.

[\(18:55\):](#)

He was sacrificed on the cross before any of us came to know him as Lord and Savior. Why was he sacrificed? Because God, the Father could look all the way down in time, and he knew. He knew that we were gonna be redeemed through the sacrifice of his son. Amen. So the principle here is before we even see God's blessings, we tithe in faith. God didn't wait around to see who would receive salvation through his son. He knew the principle. The principles were first things first. Folks, many of us, we don't have a problem to forget to give to God as long as we can connect all the dots. I mean, my goodness, if you pay all of your bills and everything, you say, well, ha ha. Hey pastor, I, I can give today. Well guess why You are giving. You're giving because you don't cost you anything to give. There's a big difference,

folks, between giving and faith and not giving and faith. Amen. Amen. Bible says that our first fruits are God's. What does that mean? If you earn \$800 a week, \$80, 10% of that right off the top is God's. That's not yours.

(20:12):

It's not yours. Yours isn't to figure out how you can not do with that \$80. Yours in mine is to trust God with that \$80 and give it to him anyway. Amen.

Branson Rogers (20:24):

Amen.

Branson Rogers (20:24):

Well, it doesn't make sense. If I gave that \$80, I wouldn't be able to pay for my power Bill. I wouldn't be able to get Twinkies. Is it Publix or Starbucks or Dunking Donuts for the week? Man, that's a, that's a tragedy right there. Amen.

Branson Rogers (20:40):

<Laugh>,

Branson Rogers (20:42):

We don't have a problem given when we know it's not gonna hurt us, it's not gonna hurt our, it is not gonna be a sacrifice. We try to figure it all out and then we say, God, we act like we're doing something big. Then we say, God, you know what I'm gonna do today? I'm gonna give you 20 bucks, or I'm gonna give you whatever. But it hasn't cost us anything because we've already done everything else. The very, that's a powerful principle. Need to understand that the first always belongs to God says in your notes, what we give to God we don't lose. And I want to understand this. What we give to God, we don't lose because God redeems it for us. What does that mean? Look at Matthew chapter 16, verse 25. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it. But whoever loses his life, for my sake, will find it. Any first thing that we give to God is never, ever lost. But listen to me, any first thing that we don't give to God is always lost. You need to remember, I need to remember that the first, it always belongs to God, the first of our love. What did I say about the first commandment? That we should love the Lord thy God above everything else in life. I love my wife. I better love my wife. We're coming up on 44 years of marriage is coming Thursday. Amen. Yeah.

(22:12):

But I'm supposed to love God more than I love my wife. And guess what? If I don't love God in the right way, I can't love her in the right way. Amen. You see how that works? God says, wait a minute, I'm supposed to be first. If I'm not first, everything else in your life is not gonna be synchronized the right way. Amen. If you're not loving God the right way, it's impossible for you to love your husband and wife the way you ought to do. It's impossible for you to raise your children the way they ought to be raised. Why? Because you're not walking with God. If you're not tithing. If you're not giving to the God, you're, you may think your life is great and wonderful, but you have no idea what it could be if you would just stop and walk in faith and give God what is rightfully his.

(22:53):

Amen. We don't understand how our life can unbelievably be blessed if we would just follow this principle. Because God says, if you just have faith enough to give me what is mine, I'm gonna open up the windows of heaven and I'm gonna bless you so much that your barns will not even be able to

contain it. Amen. That's what the Bible says. Now, is he a liar? No. No. We trust him. We're going to heaven for all eternity, but we can't trust him to meet our bills. What's wrong with us? And we can't trust him to keep our car running or our TV going, or our microwave going. You pastor, are you trying to say that God puts his hands on things before they break? Yes. Yes. Absolutely. Are you trying to say that God prevents things from happening that would cost me money if I'm tithing, if I'm doing right? Yes. What am I trying to say? He redeems it. Yes. He redeems it. He redeems. Hey, he redeems a water pipe. Hey, that water pipe's ready to bust. God puts his hands on it and says, no, not today, Jose, because they're tithing

Branson Rogers ([24:11](#)):

<Laugh>.

Branson Rogers ([24:13](#)):

He redeems your water pipe and your car, your car. He redeems your car. It's about ready to break down. He said, not today, Jose. Boom. Pastor, are you real? Absolutely. I think I am. Yeah. That's what he does. That's what he says. If you give me your love, I'll redeem your love. I'm gonna make it sweeter than you ever thought it could be in your life.

Branson Rogers ([24:44](#)):

Amen,

Branson Rogers ([24:44](#)):

Brent. Amen. Amen. Yeah. You love God. He's gonna make your life sweet. Yes. You love God. Your marriage is gonna be sweeter. Yes. Why? You're walking with God. Everything folks. Listen. Boy, listen. If your life is not synced up with Jesus, you ain't walking straight. You ever seen a drunk try to walk

Branson Rogers ([25:08](#)):

<Laugh>?

Branson Rogers ([25:11](#)):

They're unstable in all their ways. Yes. They don't even know what world they're in. And they look, they get 'em out of the car and they say, you walk line. The guy says, what line? And they stumble around and they, they go like this. And everybody starts laughing. That's how we walk. That's how a lot of Christians maybe in this audience this morning are watching. That's how you're walking. You're completely, Hey, you're drunk from the mess of this world. That's right. You're drunk from unfaithful. You don't have faith in God. Oh, I'm a Christian. Well, guess what? Good. You know, he is taking you to heaven. But as far as other faith in your life and him, you ain't got it. Well, I just don't believe God can do that. Why don't you trust him and, and, and let him show you. He can do it. And you want, you're, you're unstable in all your way. Pastor, why is this going on? Why is this going wrong? Why should it go right?

Branson Rogers ([26:09](#)):

No problem

Branson Rogers ([26:10](#)):

Now folks, I ain't the sharpest tool in the box. But I will tell you this, if my mama, she told me this when I was a long, long time, I can remember that I was trying out light sockets at my grandmama's house, at my grandmama, and my mama told me not to put my finger in that light socket

Branson Rogers ([26:32](#)):

<Laugh>.

Branson Rogers ([26:35](#)):

That was like telling me to put my finger in the light socket

Branson Rogers ([26:38](#)):

<Laugh>.

Branson Rogers ([26:40](#)):

I was out to prove him wrong. So what I did was I licked my finger. I don't know what told me to lick it. Probably the devil. Amen.

Branson Rogers ([26:50](#)):

Amen.

Branson Rogers ([26:51](#)):

The devil. See, he didn't, he didn't want me preaching this morning. He wanted me shot to death at a young age, but I licked my finger. Oh yeah. I put a good slobber on. Y'all ever had a goods slobber going? Yeah. And, and I took yeah, put it in there. I started yelling, screaming, my mama come flying around the corner. Grandma and Mama come flying around the corner.

Branson Rogers ([27:20](#)):

What's wrong happened?

Branson Rogers ([27:24](#)):

You stupid idiot

Branson Rogers ([27:26](#)):

<Laugh>.

Branson Rogers ([27:29](#)):

They ain't have no compassion on me. I'll sit there. I'm have no compassion on me. First thing she said to me, you stupid idiot. I was expecting her to put me up in her tender loving arms and give me a pat on the back and, and give me a Reese's Cup or something. I was in shock

Branson Rogers ([27:53](#)):

<Laugh>.

Branson Rogers ([27:54](#)):

I was Listen, come my mama and say you stupid idiot.

Branson Rogers ([28:00](#)):

<Laugh>,

Branson Rogers ([28:01](#)):

I won't forget that because you know what mom was trying to tell me? If you follow the rules, you ain't gonna get shocked. But if you don't follow the rules, you're a stupid idiot.

Branson Rogers ([28:16](#)):

<Laugh>.

Branson Rogers ([28:17](#)):

And you're gonna get shocked. Now, I'm not calling y'all stupid idiots this morning. I walk outta here and say, I wanted to come to church to be encouraged and Pastor Prince and call me a stupid idiot. No I'm not. Listen, you can call yourself one. I get through saying this. You want to, but listen, can you imagine what God says? Yeah, he's in heaven. You're down here. You may not put be putting your finger in a light socket, but what you are doing is you are not having faith in God. You're not giving, things aren't going right in your life. You're unstable in all your ways. Not only in giving, but a lot of other ways cuz you're not following his principles. And God's just sitting up there saying, I don't get you. How in the world can you be living like that? I've given you the prescription for a blessed favorite supernatural life. What is wrong with you? And if he could say, stupid idiot, he'd probably say it.

Branson Rogers ([29:16](#)):

<Laugh>

Branson Rogers ([29:17](#)):

Listen. That's what I'm saying folks, listen, people say they don't want to hear about tithing, but God says more times than than talking about salvation. I want you to hear about tithing because if you trust me enough to give me what you ought to give me, I'm gonna blow the doors outta your life and I'm gonna bless you. Does that mean that everything's gonna always go right? No. But what it does mean is God's gonna bless your life so much more. Yes. So much more. My goodness. He's gonna make your dollars go further. When you ties and you say you, you give God your, your love and you give God your time, you give God your finances, you come to you, come to the Lord this morning here at church, you could be anywhere. But you know what? You're spending an hour and a half here, maybe three hours is, I'm going pretty good this morning.

([30:14](#)):

Listen, God's gonna redeem it. You're not gonna, you're not gonna lose. You will not lose. Well I can't come to church and serve on that thing. Well, I'm gonna tell you something. If you don't do what God told you to do and get yourself in here and serve, you're gonna have maybe something else happen during that day. Amen. And you gonna wish you had served. See, God says, if you give to me first and foremost, you ain't gonna ever lose. Amen. You will never ever lose if you give to me the way you need to because I am gonna redeem the rest. Giving and faith goes together. Now listen to me. If you're not giving the way God told you to give, you're not having faith. You said, well Pastor, I'm walking in faith. No you're not pastor. I believe that God could do. No you don't.

([31:07](#)):

You absolutely don't. As the Indians used to say, you're speaking with forced tongue, that's you're talking outta both sides of your mouth. Don't come in here and wave your hands on Sunday morning and say, Hey God, I'm here here faith in you and you're not giving. God says, you don't have faith in me folks, listen, if we have faith in him, we give because we know he can take care of it. He could take care of every single thing, faith and giving go together. God uses finances more than anything else in our life. Listen uses finances more than anything in house in our life to test our faith. He does more. More than anything else in your life. I need to save this money cuz I'm gonna buy this car. So I'm just gonna take God's money and I'm gonna pull it over here so I can buy that car. God ain't gonna bless that. He ain't gonna bless that. He's gonna make sure you get ripped off at the end. Folks. Listen, I remember one time, and I'm not trying to act like Vicky and I are super saints, we're not. But I remember one time that we got ready to ti at church and Vicky comes to me and she's our my financeer cuz she's better with numbers than I am. I had a hard time passing general math, but that's alright. I'm an eloquent speaker.

Branson Rogers ([32:27](#)):

<Laugh>.

Branson Rogers ([32:31](#)):

So she's taking care of the books. She comes to me on Saturday and says, honey, we got a problem. I said, what's the problem? Well, we got enough money tomorrow to give our check to the church. What we gonna do? I said, well, I don't know what you think we ought to do. See, I'll pass it back to her. And she said, well I think we ought to tithe anyway. I said, sounds good to me. You know what? We wrote a check. I never prayed so hard on that check. Wasn't that offering plate that somehow some way the banks will be closed the next day?

Branson Rogers ([33:07](#)):

<Laugh>.

Branson Rogers ([33:10](#)):

But they weren't. They were open and you something. Here's what happened. Perfect synchronization. Why don't you love how God does things? I couldn't have done that better. If I scripted it

Branson Rogers ([33:30](#)):

<Laugh>,

Branson Rogers ([33:33](#)):

That means, hey, God's going to take care of it. Rock above Branson and the yeah. See how that works.

Branson Rogers ([33:43](#)):

<Laugh>,

Branson Rogers ([33:44](#)):

We gave our, we gave our tithe anyway it was gonna bounce. We knew it when we gave it <laugh>. Everybody said, well wait a minute. You're a rich pastor man. The first job I had and pastor and I made 150 bucks a week. I mean I was an all-star salary we gave, pulled up in our driveway on Monday

afternoon after church. We saw something put there on our, on our mailbox with a closed pen. Y'all don't know what closed pens are today. <Laugh>. Some of y'all do. Young folks are looking at me like a what?

Branson Rogers ([34:20](#)):

<Laugh>

Branson Rogers ([34:21](#)):

Got a closed pen. One of 'em are wooden ones. You know them good ones. We went up there and all it said was to pastor and Vicky. We opened up the envelope and it said in there, the Lord told me that you had this need. That's all it said. Didn't even say who it was from. It was a check for double or maybe it was even triple of our ti.

Branson Rogers ([34:51](#)):

Amen.

Branson Rogers ([34:52](#)):

Now Folsome would tell you something. Do I think that that envelope would've been on my mailbox? Had we not tithed? No. Do I thank God, put it there because we had faith in God and we gave anyway. Yes, because you know what it took to write the check that we knew was gonna bounce. It took faith. Now, I'm not trying to say that I woke up that morning and said I'm going to give anyway. I'm trying to say that that took a while for me to understand that principle. And you know what? I could not afford not to give? Because I knew that if I gave God somehow, someway, I don't know. Hal was gonna redeem that tithe and he was gonna bless him.

Branson Rogers ([35:34](#)):

Amen.

Branson Rogers ([35:35](#)):

Not only did he redeem the tithe, he redeemed it either two times or three times. I forget. But he redeemed it. Why? Because of faith. There's a lady in our church that is so excited about next week's. I love my church offering. She's so excited. She let me know this this week as she didn't say it to brag. She just said, I love my church because you know what folks have found Jesus so much. Church. I love my church. Pastor, you don't know where I was before. I found the point, pastor. I was in a mess. God's blessed me in this church. I love this church. And here's what God laid on my heart. I'm not a wealthy person. Far from it, far from it. But here's what I did. I went and I found, and I'm not telling y'all to do this, but I'm just telling you this because this is what this lady said.

([36:36](#)):

She went in her bedroom and she found a bunch of jewelry she wasn't using anymore. And she looked around and found one of the highest shops she could go to that would give her the best value. She went and she gave that shop, that jewelry and that shop gave her, gave her, gave her \$60 over what she told God that she wanted to give to our church. She was so excited that she called me and she said, pastor, I know that you don't know what people giving that church, but I just couldn't be quiet about it. I had to be excited cause God bless my faith. Amen. Man. I said, I mean that's, that's good stuff. Amen. Good stuff. What does that mean? That person's walking with God so tight. So tight. They coulda used that

money for anything. Amen. Amen. They could have used it for anything but they said, no, this is what I want to do for God.

(37:46):

God I can't do it on my own. I need your help. See, he gave 'em the wisdom to be able to do what they need to do. And he knew that if he gave her the wisdom that that person was not gonna use that money for anything else. They were gonna be loyal and faithful to what God wanted them to do and they did it. Amen Folks, you're talking about sacrificial giving. That's sacrificial giving. That's giving even when it hurts. Tithing's a test of our love to the Lord. We love the Lord. You say you love the Lord. How much do you love God? Do you love God enough to to tithe? If you don't, you don't love God the way you ought to. And do you know this? Listen to pastor, I'm gonna be very plain with you. If you're not tithing this morning, you're sinning.

(38:33):

If you are not giving at least percent of your total income that God gives you on a weekly, biweekly, or a monthly basis, you are sinning. You're sinning. You say, pastor, are you serious? Listen, don't you get mad at me if you got a beef, you take it up with God because that's what God says. I'm just a channel. I'm just bringing it home to you this morning. But you're not, Hey, you're not walking with God. You're sinning. That's the way it is. You say, well I don't think I am. Well you think whatever you want to think. Well I don't believe that. That's the Old Testament pastor. No, that's his New Testament as it gets. If you really want to give testament way, you can do that too. Amen. You know what the New Testament said? They gave all they had

Branson Rogers (39:26):

<Laugh>.

Branson Rogers (39:28):

Any of y'all want to give it all <laugh> that gum? We'll, we'll pass. Replace 10 times around here this morning. Go ahead. Check for everything you've got in the back. That's what you feel had to do Pastor. I'll just think I'll be settled with the 10%. That's what I thought.

Branson Rogers (39:44):

<Laugh>.

Branson Rogers (39:46):

There's two ways that we give one time. One of the ways is we give by reason. And that is there's no other needs. This is what I've got left. I might as well give it to God and pat myself on the back when I go outta church and act like I've done something big. You know how much faith that takes? Zero. Zero. Faith. It don't take no faith for you to do that. Nothing at all. Don't go around, act like you some big stuff. No, you're little stuff and there's another way of giving that's the right way. And that's giving by revelation. And what that means is God tells you what you give. You give it and you trust him.

Branson Rogers (40:32):

Amen.

Branson Rogers (40:34):

We got unveiled to our church A a building that we feel God is leading us to build next year. Family life building. We had somebody down from our convention yesterday morning, hold on just a second to explain to us all about it. And gonna be probably about 3.3 million once it's all done, that's gonna incorporate our present debt and the cost of the building. And everybody says, well how are you gonna get there? Have no idea. But I do know this, if it's gonna get built, it's gonna take the faithful people. Thank you for that, those two amens. I appreciate that. No problem.

Branson Rogers ([41:20](#)):

Good.

Branson Rogers ([41:22](#)):

And I know there's people that say pastor's gone off his rocker, the finance team doesn't know what they're doing. They've bit off more than they could chew. Oh, keep on talking. Come on, bring on, bring it on. Do you really think that when we thought about this idea that everybody would say hippy, we know we've made it Pastor. No because we know we got some folks in here that have zero faith. All you want to do is talk about how it's not gonna get built. Why don't you shut your mouth?

Branson Rogers ([41:53](#)):

Yes.

Branson Rogers ([41:55](#)):

You ain't got nothing good to say. Shut your mouth. Or why don't you try to do this? Probably the ones of you that are saying that you don't give anyhow,

Branson Rogers ([42:04](#)):

<Laugh>,

Branson Rogers ([42:06](#)):

It's the same folks that talk about our toilet paper quality around here.

Branson Rogers ([42:09](#)):

<Laugh>.

Branson Rogers ([42:13](#)):

Well pastor, I have to put a whole wad in my hand and I went down here to a Calvary Baptist and I only used a little bit. Well guess what? We ain't calvary. And number two, if you give more, we get fire ply. We're all about pleasing folks. But sometimes it takes more in your hand to get the job done if folks ain't given right now you say Pastor, today is a terrible example, but it's true. Somebody on a Sunday morning was so spiritual. So spiritual. I'm serious. They were all about worshipping God until they needed toilet paper

Branson Rogers ([42:58](#)):

<Laugh>,

Branson Rogers ([42:59](#)):

Then God changed. And God the devil changed their worship mood because of one ply. Guess what? Wash your hands. I don't know what you're gonna do. Well I ain't getting any more of that stuff. But anyway, says in the notes, the first belongs to God and it always requires faith to give the best tithing is giving to God before you see, you're gonna have to have enough for your bills. Amen. That's what tithing is all about. Amen. Tithing is first fruits. What does that mean? That means right off the top, right off the top thousand dollars you earned last week. A hundred bucks goes to God. Amen. And I'll be sitting there and saying, now wait a minute Pastor, is that before taxes, after deductions? Well how you want God to bless you after taxes, after deductions? Do you gonna get that fine? Just stay in prayer a little bit longer. First thing right off the bat, you need to give it to Jesus. Well I made \$2,000 last week, pastor. Well guess what? You better have 200 bucks in the offering plate this morning. Cause that's where it needs to go. Well Pastor, I can't afford it. Let me tell you something, you can't afford not to.

[\(44:22\)](#):

God's gonna let all kinds of stuff bust loose. Oh, you think he's holding it now? Whoa. He takes his hand off. Woo. Boom. Shazam,

[\(44:34\)](#):

Things are gonna happen. You know where you need to give. You know what the Bible says where you need to give. I'll show you Pastor. Wait a minute, I don't know where I need to give my money. Well, God says, I knew you were gonna have that question. So let me give you the answer. Proverbs chapter three verses nine and 10. Honor the Lord with your possessions and with the first fruits, that means the first 10%. Or you know what? If you really wanna stretch your face, give 'em 11%. Or if you really wanna do like this church, give 15%. It just depends on how much you want to be blessed. You wanna be get blessed. 20% give 20%. Yes. I have a friend of mine, good friend of mine, good friend of mine, and I wish he was here this morning because as I said in the country by cracky, he'd stand up here and he'd tell you how to tithe. He gives 40% of his income every single time he gets income and has been doing it for years. And do you know something? He has a zero money issues in his life, completely debt free. And people would look at that and they'd say, no way. God says yes way.

[\(45:44\)](#):

So it just depends on how much you wanna get blessed. First fruits of your increase. So your barns will be filled with plenty and your VAs will overflow like new wine. And then look at Malachi chapter three. And for those of y'all that aren't tithing, this is something Y ought to plaster on your front of your head. Will a man rob God? If you're not tithing, you're robbing. It's just like you going to P N C and holding them up. You're holding up God. You're literally holding up God. You're saying, I'm gonna take your money. What right do you have to God's money? Zero. Because everything you have is because of him. Are you trying to tell me that you won't give him \$90? Excuse me. That you won't give him \$10 and he gives you 90. If anybody would give you that investment down at the bank, you'd be down there pounding on their door. Give some. But when God says it, whoa. Starbucks is more worthy. You're more concerned about your machiato,

[\(46:59\)](#):

Then you are about God winning some souls here in this church. And that's what happens. By the way, when you don't tithe, we're not able to do what we need to do here at this church. And you know something, you know I feel so good this morning. You know something? One day you and I are gonna be held accountable for us not giving. He's gonna say, you look at all these people right here that that church could have reached if you would've just been faithful in tithing, they weren't able to do those ministries because of you. You greedy person.

[\(47:30\)](#):

You see that ain't gonna happen to me. Oh yeah it is. Will a man rob God? Or you can put a woman in there too. And by the way, there's men and women. That's another sermon <laugh>. Some of y'all have just now got that <laugh>. I could tell I need to move that sermon up on the blank lip. Yet you have robbed me. You held me up, you stuck me up. Come on. But you say in what way? Here you go. Try just face up. Why? What way, dear Jesus, what way, dear Lord, did I rob you? I wouldn't rob you. He said, yeah, you did. In tithes and offerings, you are cursed. Whoa, whoa. Who's saying that? God's saying that to you. You're cursed with a curse for you have robbed me and buddy, I don't take it lightly. If there's one thing God don't take lightly, that's the unfaithfulness of anybody not giving to God what they should be giving to God. Amen. You know, we got some folks in our church, church, not many, some folks in our church that didn't give anything last year. This is zero. We got, I don't know how many percent of our church gave less than, I don't know, thousand dollars last year, Billy, something like that. A thousand dollars. That means if you're tithing plus your sweetheart, bless your sweetheart. You only made \$10,000 last year. How are you living bunch of van camps going on? <Laugh>?

[\(49:18\)](#):

Listen, listen. You say, well Pastor, no, God says you. What's the matter with you? What's the matter with you? I'm not gonna get through all this sermon this morning, I'ma stop. But listen folks, you've got a letter coming to you. If you hadn't gotten it already, it's about next Sunday. It's about, I love my church. Now this is not a one and done deal. So don't come in here acting super spiritual next week and say, well I'm gonna give my 10%. Well, it's not about just doing it one time. It's about doing it every single week. Amen. Every single week so far this year, we have fallen off the rails considerably in our giving. And folks, I'll tell you this, we will not n o t not be able to continue our ministries the way we want to continue or build that building if our folks do not come and rally and give as we should give. If everybody in this congregation gave as they should, we would never have a money need in this church. But sad to say, you want to know where you spend your money. Go pull up your bank account when you get home and now you can do it online.

[\(50:53\)](#):

See where your money's going. I had somebody tell me the other day, you know, I like this restaurant. I've been there 83 times last year. Look how many times you've gone to Starbucks and Dunking Donuts, crispy kreme and ice cream shops. And now look, there's nothing wrong with Starbucks. There's nothing wrong with crispy kreme and dunking donuts. But there is a problem when you have given more to those places than you've even given to your own God.

Branson Rogers [\(51:27\)](#):

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Branson Rogers [\(51:29\)](#):

Some of y'all tip more to a waitress and waiter. Now they're worthy of it. I'm not saying they're not. But you tip more than you give to God. You think nothing about going to Longhorn and getting the outlaw rib ah

Branson Rogers [\(51:44\)](#):

<Laugh>.

Branson Rogers [\(51:46\)](#):

And if you want to gift one of those to this pastor, I'm ready anytime, <laugh>.

(51:52):

But you think nothing of going there and it's a good dad gum steak, I love him. But if you're giving more to Longhorn and you are given to God, you got issues. You really wanna see where you are with God. Look at your checkbook. My dad used to say that. Say this and I'm closing with this. My daddy was pretty wise, man. He said to me, son, he said, always remember this son. I said, all right daddy, what is it? Lay it on me. He said, when God gets hold of your wallet, he gets hold of you. And until get, God gets a hold of your wallet, he ain't really got a hold of you. Why you say that, daddy? Because son, listen, the wallet is the last thing that a Christian will ever give over to God. God you control all my life except from a wallet. That's mine. But yet people say that when they don't really fully grasp that. Everything in your wallet, everything in your bank, everything in your 401k, your retirements, mutual funds, every single penny has been given to you by God.

Branson Rogers (53:18):

Amen. Amen.

Branson Rogers (53:20):

And you and I, sometime we have audacity to say that he can't bless us if we just give him this 10% Are you out of your mind? So I pray today, if there's any people here today, listen, I know people say I don't like go church cuz all we talk about money, you know me, you know me. I rarely speak on money. Amen. But if you know, if I spoke on money every single Sunday, I would be biblical. None of y'all would be here, but I would be biblical <laugh>. I love you too much. Not to preach this sermon today on money. Cuz if there's anything this pastor wants two things. I want you, first of all to be saved. I want you to go to heaven with me. And number two, I want you to be blessed. Yes. You're not gonna be blessed if you don't do what God tells you to do.

(54:17):

And tithing is a big issue. Now, don't go outta here and have all kinds of excuses. Well, I can't do this, can't do it. No, no, and no you can, but it's gonna take faith. And next Sunday, when you come in here, we want everybody in this congregation, if you haven't been tithing, we want you to give 10% if you haven't been tithing. If you have been tithing, we're gonna ask you to give a double tithe. And if you really wanna stretch your faith, give a real sacrificial gift next Sunday and let the Lord know how much you love this place. Some of y'all, your lives have been radically changed right here. Some of you have gotten married here, some of your family members have had funerals here. Your kids have been saved here. They've had radical life change. This is where you bring your ties. You don't give your ties to Billy Graham, you don't give 'em to Jimmy Swaggart. You don't give 'em to save a pet. If you got any money left over, you give it to them. But the tithes come to the storehouse first. Amen. Amen. I'm not saying Billy Graham ain't important. I'm not saying stray cats and dolls ain't important. They get into my heart too. But my tithes goes where God tells me to put it. And that's right here. Amen. Let's stand.