



Holy Return

Financial Freedom Series
Solid Rock Church
Pastor Elliott Anderson

Martin Luther

“There are three conversions necessary in life; the conversion of our heart to the Lord; our mind to the things above; and our purse to both. Of the three, the conversion of the purse is the most difficult.”



Most Common Significant Life Stressors

2/5 40%
Finances and
Resources

Death of a Loved One

Divorce or Marital Issues

Major Illness / Injury

Loss of Job / Income

Financial Problems

Top 5 Financial Mistakes

No budget or financial plan

Credit card debt; low credit score

Zero or little savings

Living above your means

Lack of retirement

Stewardship of Money and Resources

2,000+ verses in Bible

10% of verses in NT

16/38 (42%) of the parables of Jesus

**What the
Bible Says
About
Finances
and Money**



Prophetic Indictments from God

All 17 Prophets Mention Stewardship of Money and Resources

Amos 2: 6, ...I will not revoke their punishment because they sell the righteous for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals.

Micah 2: 2, They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them away; they oppress a man and his house and his inheritance.

Hosea 12: 7, A merchant, in whose hands are false balances, he loves to oppress.

Isaiah 2: 7, Their land is filled with silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures...

Malachi's Message

Last prophet before the 400 years of silence – prophet for Judah

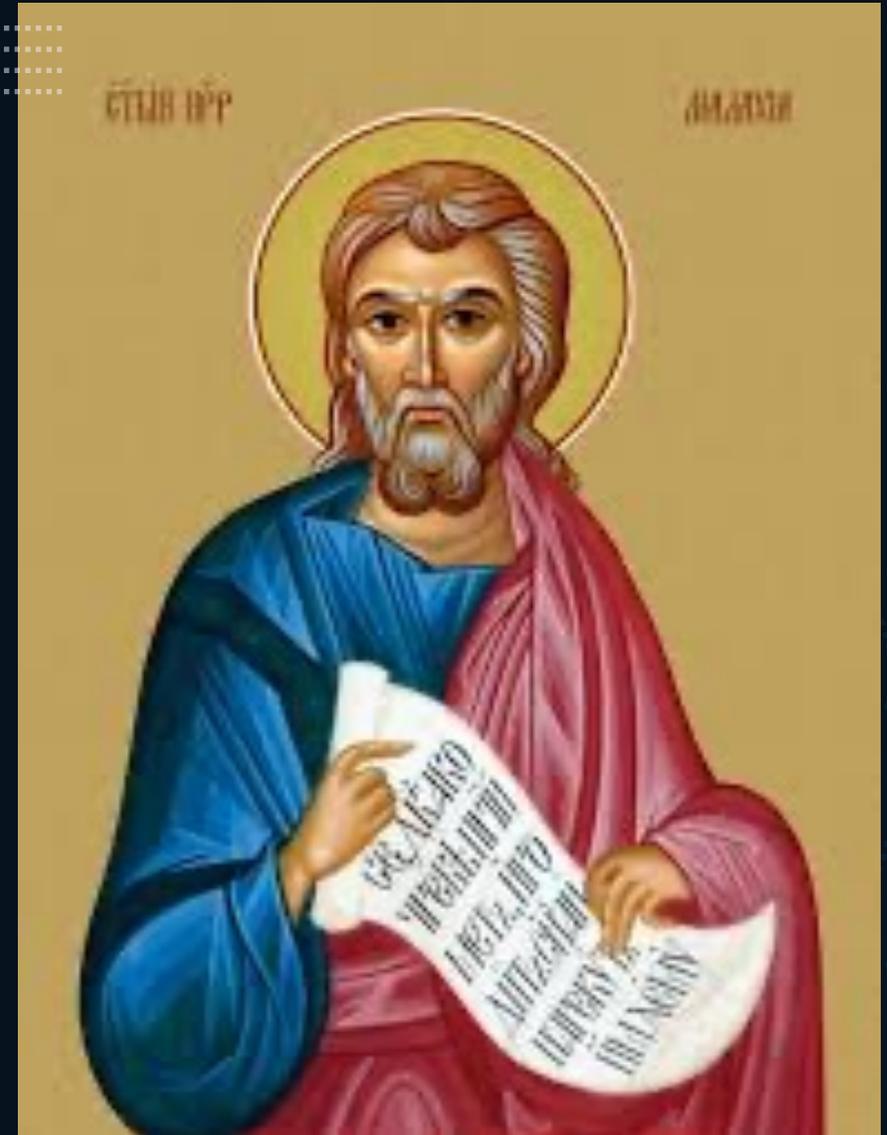
5th Century BC – contemporary of Ezra and Nehemiah – who served Israel

Malachi in Hebrew = my messenger

Malachi theme:

Day of judgement for the wicked

Day of deliverance for the righteous



Malachi Chapter Confrontations

Ch 1. Spiritual passivity and laziness

Evidence: Inappropriate and unclean sacrifices

Ch. 2. Spiritual compromise and apathy

Evidence: Rampant divorce and mixed (religion) marriages

Ch. 3. Spiritual disobedience and arrogance

***Evidence:* Tithes and offerings not being prioritized**

Ch. 4. Spiritual judgment is coming; Elijah is coming again

Malachi 3: 7

From the days of your fathers, you have turned aside from my statutes 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?”



Return to Me – Conditional Promise

“Return to me” was a phrase from Zechariah 50 years earlier

Zechariah 1: 3, Return to me, and I will return to you.

Zechariah + Malachi quoting conditional promise of Mosaic Law.

Deuteronomy 30: 2 - 3, ***And return to the Lord your God***, you and your children, and obey His voice in all that He commands you to do, with all your heart and with all your soul, ***then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you...***

10 Financial Freedom Principles

Financial Freedom Principle #1

1. Return Finances and Resources to God!

Psalm 24: 1, The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it.

Haggai 2: 8, The silver is mine and the gold is mine declares the Lord God almighty.

Leviticus 25: 23, The land is mine and you are but my tenants.

FFP #1 – Return Finances and Resources to God

Questions for Accountability:

Are we using God's money as if it is ours?

Financial integrity, honesty?

Do we surrender our financial desires to God?

Dreams and debt reflect Biblical principles?

Are we Kingdom minded with our resources?

FFP #1 – Return Finances and Resources to God

- ACE:**
1. **A**cknowledge - everything is God's, we are stewards
 2. **C**ontentment – trusting God for everything in His timing
 3. **E**ngagement – be wise stewards of His resources

1st Timothy 6: 6, But Godliness with contentment is great gain.

Hebrew 13: 5, Keep your life free from the love of money, and be content with what you have for He has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.”

FFP #1 – Return Finances and Resources to God

Practical Application:

Use appropriate ownership language.

The Lord has blessed us with this house, car, meal.

Everything we own is God's and for His kingdom.

Remember what finances + resources you take to Heaven.

Malachi 3: 8 - 9

Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, “How have we robbed you?” ***In your tithes and offerings.*** You are cursed with a curse for robbing me, the whole nation of you.



Tithes and Offerings

Tithe: *Ma'aser* = tenth

O.T. Act: immediate 10% of income/produce to the Lord

Leviticus 27: 30, Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed or the fruit of the trees is the Lord's; it is holy to the Lord.

Proverbs 3: 9, Honor the Lord from your wealth, and from the first fruit of all your produce.

Tithing Still Required?

Luke 18: 12 – 14 Parable of the Pharisee vs the Tax Collector.

Pharisee fasts twice a week and tithes but is arrogant

Tax collector is corrupt but horrified by his sin, humble.

Hebrews 7: 4 Refers to Genesis 14 and Abraham and Melchizedek

Melchizedek was King/Priest of Salem (Jerusalem)

Met Abraham after a victorious fight – Abraham tithed to him

Tithes Not Required in New Covenant But Tithing is Blessed Spiritual Discipline

Matthew 6: 33, Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6: 21, For where your treasure is, there your heart is also.

Tithing is a biblical principle that disciplines giving and devotion to God – Jesus teaches giving beyond the tithe – beyond comfort.

Tithes and Offerings

Offering: to present and contribute

O.T. Act: worshipper presented something more to God.

Special offerings in O.T. There were many

Leviticus 4 (sin: *chattat*; guilt: *asham*)

N.T. Act: offerings driven by love and opportunity

not duty and responsibility

Acts 2 (selling possessions and distributing to need)

Offering Examples in New Testament

Luke 21: 1 – 4 The Widow's offering

A rich man put a gift into the offering box

A poor widow gave all that she had in the offering box

Romans 15: 14 – 16 Paul teaching Romans

To accept the offerings of the gentiles in priestly service

Offerings are sanctified by the Holy Spirit

Financial Freedom Principle #2

2. Give Consistently / Cheerfully to God / Others (Tithes, Offerings, and Gifts)

2nd Corinthians 9: 7, Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

1st John 3: 17, But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

Luke 6: 30, Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you do not demand it back.

FFP #2 – Give Consistently / Cheerfully to God / Others

Practical Application:

Give 10% or more to Church and Kingdom Work

Solid Rock, Missionaries, Charities, Family/Friends

Give freely and from the heart (head won't always agree).

2nd Corinthians 8: 2, For in severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy in their extreme poverty has overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.

Malachi 3: 10

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby, put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.



Storehouses in O.T. Days

Tithe repositories held grain, wine, and oil to ensure sustainability during famines/droughts and to support the Priests and Levites.

Functioned as barns, towers or silos – sometimes underground
Jospeh's Granaries in Egypt (Genesis 41: 48 – 49)

By Malachi's days, *storehouse* referred to chambers attached to the Temple in Jerusalem – designed to hold the tithes and offerings

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Put God to The Test?

Malachi 3: 10 is the only place in Scripture where God tells us to test His faithfulness.

Other passages tell us NOT to test God when it comes to demanding proof of His existence, miracles, or results.

Matthew 4: 7, You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.

Conditional (If – Then) Statements in Bible

2nd Chronicles 7: 14, **If** my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, **then** I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin and will heal their land.

1st John 1: 9, **If** we confess our sins, **then** God is faithful and just to forgive our sins

Matthew 11: 25, **If** you do not forgive others as I have forgiven you, **then** neither will your Father in heaven forgive you.

Malachi 3: 10 (If – Then) Statement

If we give our tithes and offerings to God

Then He will open the windows of Heaven and pour down a blessing until there is no need!



Art by Carlos.S biblearts.blogspot.com

Financial Freedom Principle # 3

3. Godly Stewardship of Money and Resources Equals Blessing

But it's not always financial blessing!

Psalm 34: 10, Those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

Philippians 4: 19, And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus

FFP #3 – Godly Stewardship of Money and Resources Equals Blessing

Practical Application:

If we give consistently and cheerfully and from our heart
Then we will receive blessings poured down from heaven

Luke 6: 38, Give and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be out into your lap.

10 Financial Freedom Principles

1. Return Finances and Resources to God
2. Give Consistently and Cheerfully to God and Others
3. Godly Stewardship of Money and Resources Equals Blessing

