

"THE REASON WHY I GIVE"



MALACHI 3:8-12

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INTRODUCTION

AS I PRAYED AND PREPARED TO DELIVER THIS MESSAGE, I FOUND THIS TO BE ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT SUBJECTS OF MY PREACHING CAREER.

I WOULD HAVE YOU KNOW THAT IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE FEAR OF CONGREGATIONAL DISAPPROVAL, NOR WAS IT THE FRUSTRATION THAT WOULD COME FROM THE ABSENCE OF AMENS.

BUT RATHER THE REASON WHY THIS SUBJECT IS SUCH A CHALLENGE FOR ME AS A PASTOR, IS BECAUSE GIVING IS SO OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD, AND SOME PREACHERS ARE TO BLAME FOR THE CONGREGATIONAL CONFUSION.

HOW MANY SCRIPTURES HAVE WE HEARD ABOUT GIVING?

BUT FAR TOO OFTEN WE FIND THAT THE BIBLE IS BEING BENT TOWARD A SELFISH AND FLESH DRIVEN AGENDA. AND WITH ALL THESE GOSPEL GIMMICKS,

AND IN LIEU OF THESE HOLY GHOST HUSTLES, THE ONLY ONE WHO ENDS UP RICH IN THE END, IS THE ONE WHO MANIPULATED THE MANUSCRIPT OF THE MASTER.

NAME IT AND CLAIM IT.

- **BLAB IT AND GRAB IT**
- **CALL IT AND HAUL IT**
- **50 DOLLAR MIRACLES**
- **100 DOLLAR BREAKTHROUGHS**

- A SPECIAL LINE FOR HEALING
- DOLLARS FOR YOUR DELIVERANCE

THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN PREACH THAT TYPE OF DOCTRINE, AND STILL BE ABLE TO LOOK GOD OR HIS PEOPLE IN THE FACE EVERY SUNDAY.

I GUESS I NEED TO GO AHEAD AND TELL YOU UPFRONT, THAT THIS IS *NOT* GOING TO BE A SERMON ABOUT PERSONAL PROSPERITY.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I CAME TO DO. AND THAT'S NOT WHAT THIS IS KNOWN FOR. BUT THERE IS A LEGITIMATE CASE TO BE MADE, AS TO THE REASONS WHY A CHRISTIAN OUGHT TO GIVE.

ARE YOU ALL WITH ME ON THIS?

NOW THAT THE INTRODUCTION HAS BEEN LAID OUT, LET'S GET INTO THE FIRST BIBLICAL REASON WHY THOSE WHO CALL THEMSELVES CHRISTIANS, OUGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRINCIPLE OF GIVING.

I. THE FIRST REASON WHY WE GIVE, IS BECAUSE EVERYTHING WE HAVE, AND EVERYTHING WE ARE, IT CAN ONLY BE CREDITED TO THE LORD AND NOBODY ELSE.

A. [GENESIS 1:1] SAYS IN THE BEGINNING, GOD *CREATED*, THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH.

- 1. FROM DAY ONE, ALL THE WAY THROUGH TO DAY 6, EVERYTHING FROM THE A-T-O-M TO THE A-D-A-M, WAS CREATED BY THE HAND OF THE ALMIGHTY GOD.**
- 2. THAT'S WHY [PSALM 24] DECLARES THAT THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S AND THE FULLNESS THEREOF, THE WORLD AND THEY THAT DWELL THEREIN.”**

3. **NOT ONLY THAT, BUT EVERY TIME WE GATHER HERE, WE VERIFY THE SENTIMENT OF [PSALM 24]: “PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW...” THE DOXOLOGY IS A DECLARATION, THAT EVERYTHING BELONGS TO GOD!**
4. **THE FACT ABOUT IT, WHAT YOU THINK ON YOUR DAY OFF TOMORROW, EVEN THAT BELONGS TO THE LORD.**
5. **WHEN YOU WAKE UP IN THE MORNING, I DARE YOU TO GO READ [PSALM 118:24]. BECAUSE EVEN ON A FRIDAY, THIS IS THE DAY, THAT THE LORD HAS MADE.**
6. **YOU MAY HAVE OFF, BUT THANK GOD HE'S STILL WORKING. HE'S STILL: MAKING A WAY:**
 - **OPENING DOORS**
 - **KEEPING THE SUN HOT**
 - **KEEPING THE SKY BLUE**
 - **HOLDING THE STARS UP**
 - **KEEPING THE MOON LIT**
 - **HE'S NEVER OFF DUTY.**
 - **HE NEVER TAKES A DAY OFF.**
 - **HE NEVER SLEEPS.**
 - **HE NEVER SLUMBERS, BECAUSECAUSE EVERYTHING GOD MADE, I'M A WITNESS HE'S ABLE TO MAINTAIN.**

- NOT ONLY IS THE EARTH HIS, AND EVERYTHING IN IT, BUT EVEN YOU AND I WHO WALK THIS EARTH, HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE BELONG TO THE LORD.

B. [1 CORINTHIANS 6:19] SAYS; “WHAT? KNOW YE NOT THAT YOUR BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY GHOST WHICH IS IN YOU, WHICH YE HAVE OF GOD, AND YE ARE NOT YOUR OWN? ²⁰FOR YE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE: THEREFORE GLORIFY GOD IN YOUR BODY, AND IN YOUR SPIRIT, WHICH ARE GOD’S.”

1. G-O-D APOSTROPHE S, WHICH DENOTES OWNERSHIP.
2. SO NOT ONLY DOES THE HOUSE, AND THE CAR, AND THE CASH BELONG TO GOD, BUT YOU AND I ARE PAID OFF PROPERTY OF THE LORD...

- I. SO THEN THE FIRST REASON WHY WE GIVE, IS BECAUSE EVERYTHING BELONGS TO GOD.
- II. BUT THE SECOND REASON WHY WE GIVE, WHICH IS TIED TO THE FIRST, IS THAT GIVING UPHOLDS THE LAW OF THE LORD...

- A. THE TEXT WE FIND IN MALACHI, IS ONE OF THE MOST NOTED PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE, WHEN IT COMES TO THE SUBJECT OF GIVING.
 1. AND ONE OF THE ARGUMENTS THAT PEOPLE OFTEN MAKE *AGAINST* TITHING, IS THAT [MALACHI 3:10] IS AN OLD TESTAMENT STANDARD.
 2. IN OTHER WORDS, THE LAW WAS FOR THE JEWS. BUT AS CHRISTIANS, WE ARE UNDER GRACE, BECAUSE CHRIST DID AWAY WITH THE LAW.

3. BUT CAN I HURRY TO TELL YOU THAT EVEN BEFORE THE LAW OF MOSES, [GENESIS 14:20] SAYS THAT ABRAM GAVE ALL THE TITHES TO MELCHIZEDEK.
4. AGAIN NOW, THIS WAS BEFORE THE 10 COMMANDMENTS, AND BEFORE THE LAW OF THE PROPHETS.
5. BUT YET ABRAM WAS A TITHER, NOT BECAUSE OF THE LAW, BUT BECAUSE OF LOVE.
6. YES, ABRAM LOVED THE LORD, AND THE LORD LOVED HIM. AND THE BEST WAY ABRAM COULD SHOW HIS LOVE, WAS BY HIS LIVING AND HIS GIVING.

B. IF YOU LOVE THE LORD, NOBODY SHOULD HAVE TO GUILT TRIP YOU INTO ACKNOWLEDGING WHO HE IS.

1. AND THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN ASK FOR HIS POWER HIS PROVISIONS AND HIS PROMISES, WITHOUT SUBMITTING OURSELVES TO THE PRECEPTS THAT GO ALONG WITH IT...
2. THAT'S WHY GOD WAS SO ANGRY WITH CAIN. BECAUSE CAIN BROUGHT AN OFFERING, BUT IT OBVIOUSLY WASN'T THE ONE GOD WAS LOOKING FOR.
3. HE AND HIS BROTHER MUST HAVE KNOWN THE PRECEPT, BUT IT WAS CAIN WHO TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO GIVE GOD WHAT HE WANTED GOD TO HAVE...
4. AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THAT'S WHAT A LOT OF US DO TODAY.
5. WE KNOW WHAT GOD REQUIRES, BUT SOME OF US HAVE ALREADY DECIDED THAT WHAT GOD WANTS IS MORE THAN WHAT WE'RE WILLING TO GIVE.

6. THAT'S WHERE THESE ARGUMENTS COME FROM ABOUT OLD TESTAMENT AND NEW TESTAMENT, BECAUSE IF JESUS GOT RID OF TITHING, THAT MEANS HE ALSO GOT RID OF THOU SHALT NOT KILL.
7. ARE YOU COMFORTABLE WITH THAT REVELATION? I WOULD HOPE NOT.
8. BUT YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE START PICKING AND CHOOSING WHAT WE WANT TO ADHERE TO.

C. NOW I WILL AGREE THAT THE LAW WAS A PLACEHOLDER FOR JESUS, BUT ANYTHING THAT GIVES HONOR TO GOD AND PUTS HIM FIRST, THERE IS NOBODY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH THAT SHOULD BE TRYING TO GET RID OF IT.

1. SO THIS ARGUMENT ABOUT TITHING NOT BEING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, THAT'S OUT THE DOOR, BECAUSE PAUL
2. COLLECTED THE CORINTHIANS' GIFTS ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK. REMEMBER NOW, THIS WAS WHEN THEY WORSHIPPED, BECAUSE JESUS GOT UP ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK.

D. SO BY THE TIME PAUL GOT READY TO VISIT THEM, HE SAID, I WANT YOU TO LAY ALL YOUR GIFTS ASIDE, SO THEY'LL BE READY TO COLLECT WHEN WE GET THERE... [1 CORINTHIANS 16:1-2]

1. SO AGAIN, EVERYTHING WE HAVE *BELONGS* TO GOD. AND GIVING IS WHAT UPHOLDS THE *LAW* OF GOD.
2. AND WHEN YOU READ THROUGH THE WORDS OF [MALACHI CHAPTER 3], WHAT YOU FIND IS A CASE OF ECCLESIASTICAL LARCENY.

3. HE SAYS, "WILL A MAN ROB GOD? YET YE HAVE ROBBED ME. BUT YE SAY, WHEREIN HAVE WE ROBBED THEE? IN TITHES AND OFFERINGS."

4. SEE WHERE MOST ROBBERIES OCCUR FROM PEOPLE TAKING WHAT DOESN'T BELONG TO THEM, AN ECCLESIASTICAL OR CHURCH ROBBERY OCCURS WHEN YOU KEEP WHAT DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU.

5. YOU ASKED WHERE DID WE ROB GOD. HE SAYS IN TITHES AND IN OFFERINGS... I JUST GOT THROUGH TELLING YOU THAT EVERYTHING BELONGS TO GOD. SO WHEN HE GIVES IT, AND YOU KEEP IT, THAT'S ROBBERY BECAUSE A PORTION WAS SUPPOSED TO COME BACK...

E. WELL PASTOR, HOW DO I CALCULATE THE PORTION?

1. GOD DOES HALF OF THE WORK FOR YOU. ONE IS TIED TO THE LAW, AND THE OTHER IS TIED TO LOVE.

2. A TITHE IS A TENTH, AND THIS IS THE PORTION THAT CLEARLY SPELLS OUT IN THE TEXT. BUT THE NEXT PART WHICH IS AN OFFERING, THAT HAS LITTLE TO DO WITH LAW, AND MORE TO DO WITH LOVE.

3. IN OTHER WORDS, THE TITHE REPRESENTS WHAT YOU OWE ME. BUT THE OFFERING REPRESENTS HOW MUCH YOU LOVE ME.

4. ALMOST LIKE THE STUFF YOU ORDER OFF THE MENU HAS A PRICE ATTACHED TO IT, AND YOU DON'T HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO PAY THAT.

5. BUT THE AFFECTION YOU SHOW TO YOUR WAITRESS OR WAITER, ALSO KNOWN AS A TIP, THEY RECOMMEND AT LEAST 15 PERCENT. BUT YOU CAN GIVE MORE DEPENDING ON THE LEVEL OF SERVICE YOU'VE RECEIVED...

- OFFER A PRAISE TO HIM
- RENDER MY SERVICE TO HIM

- I. SO, THEN THE FIRST REASON WHY WE GIVE, IS BECAUSE EVERYTHING BELONGS TO GOD.
- II. BUT THE SECOND REASON WHY WE GIVE, WHICH IS TIED TO THE FIRST, IS THAT GIVING UPHOLDS THE LAW OF THE LORD...
- III. YOUR TITHE IS OUT OF OBEDIENCE. BUT THE THIRD REASON WHY WE GIVE OUR OFFERING IS OUT OF LOVE...
 - A. YOU SEE, THE REAL REASON WHY SOME PEOPLE CAN'T GET WITH THE GIVING PROGRAM IS BECAUSE THE BOTTOM LINE IS, EVEN AS CHRISTIANS, WE STILL DON'T LIKE TO BE TOLD WHAT TO DO.
 1. IN OTHER WORDS, WE'RE REBELLIOUS BY NATURE. AND WHEN THE PREACHER STARTS TALKING ABOUT GIVING,
 2. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SOME PEOPLE UNCOMFORTABLE REGARDLESS OF HOW YOU ANNOUNCE IT...
 3. NOW I WILL AGREE THAT SOME PREACHERS COME OFF REAL DESPERATE AND HUNGRY FOR MONEY. BUT WE WERE NEVER COMMANDED TO GUILT TRIP THE PEOPLE.
 4. WE ARE ONLY SUPPOSED TO MAKE THE APPEAL AND LET THE PEOPLE MAKE A DECISION...
 5. SO THEN WHEN IT COMES TO MALACHI CHAPTER 3, MANY OF US GET TIGHT BECAUSE

**WE LIMIT IT TO BEING A
COMMANDMENT, AND NOBODY LIKES TO BE
TOLD WHAT TO DO.**

- 6. BUT JUST LIKE ANY LAW YOU BREAK IN THE
WORLD, BREAKING GOD'S LAW HAS IT'S OWN
SET OF CONSEQUENCES.**
- 7. HE SAYS YE ARE CURSED WITH A CURSE: FOR
YE HAVE ROBBED ME, EVEN THIS WHOLE
NATION.**
- 8. I STOPPED BY TO TELL YOU THAT ISRAEL
WASN'T THE LAST NATION TO BE SELFISH.
BECAUSE IN AMERICA WE'RE GUILTY OF
ROBBING GOD TOO.**
- 9. EVERY TIME WE DENY PEOPLE THEIR MOST
BASIC HUMAN NECESSITIES, THAT'S ROBBERY.**
- 10. WHEN PEOPLE CAN'T GO TO THE DOCTOR,
THAT'S ROBBERY.**
 - WHEN POLITICIANS GET RICH OFF OF
KEEPING CERTAIN PEOPLE DOWN,
THAT'S ROBBERY.**
 - WHEN SCHOOLS ARE UNDERFUNDED.
THAT'S ROBBERY.**
 - WHEN TEACHERS CAN'T AFFORD TO BUY
A HOUSE. THAT'S ROBBERY.**
 - CORPORATIONS PAY YOU TO MAKE LAWS
MORE CONVENIENT FOR THEM. THAT'S
ROBBERY.**
 - WHEN OIL SPILLS ALL OVER THE GULF
AND NOBODY GOES TO JAIL. THAT'S
ROBBERY**

- **WHEN FEDERAL FUNDS NEVER MAKE IT TO THE LOWER 9TH WARD. THAT'S ROBBERY.**

B. YEARS AFTER KATRINA, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE WAITING ON RELIEF!...

- 1. NOW, LET ME TALK TO SOME FOLKS ON MY SIDE OF TOWN, BECAUSE SOME OF US ARE GUILTY OF ROBBERY TOO.**
- 2. WHEN YOU REFUSE TO WORK BUT EXPECT A CHECK, THAT'S ROBBERY.**
 - **WHEN YOU WOULD RATHER STAY IN THE SYSTEM THAN SEEK SOME EMPLOYMENT. THAT'S ROBBERY;**
 - **WHEN YOU SELL DRUGS TO YOUR OWN PEOPLE (THAT'S CRIMINAL.**
 - **WHEN YOU MAKE BABIES AND THEN LEAVE THEM, THAT'S SINFUL.**
 - **WHEN YOUR CHILD HAS 100 DOLLAR SHOES BUT THEIR HAIR AINT COMBED, THAT'S A SHAME.**
 - **WHEN YOU ARE SPORTING GUCCI AND LOUIS VUITTON, AND YOUR CHILDREN DON'T HAVE CLEAN CLOTHES, THAT'S ROBBERY.**
 - **SOMEBODY OUGHTA PUT YOU UNDER THE JAIL!...**
- 3. I'M JUST TRYING TO GET YOU TO SEE, THAT GIVING IS A PART OF GOD'S LAW.**
- 4. BUT INSTEAD OF LOOKING AT THE LAW AS JUST A COMMANDMENT, HERE'S WHAT'S GOING TO BLESS YOU,**

5. YOU ALSO NEED TO LOOK AT THE LAW AS A COVENANT BETWEEN YOU AND GOD.
6. SEE, THERE ARE A WHOLE LOT OF LAWS IN THIS WORLD. AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT YOU USE THEM EVERY DAY. AND THOSE LAWS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH COMMANDMENTS.
7. THEY HAVE MORE TO DO WITH A COVENANT THAT CANNOT BE COMPROMISED.

ILLUSTRATION

SEE, HERE'S WHAT I MEAN...

- A. HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF SIR ISAAC NEWTON'S LAW OF GRAVITATION? DON'T WORRY I'LL HELP YOU. IT SAYS THAT WHATEVER GOES UP, WILL EVENTUALLY COME DOWN.
 1. IN OTHER WORDS, THERE'S A CERTAIN FORCE THAT WORKS ON THIS PLANET, WHERE REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU THROW UP, EVENTUALLY IT WILL HAVE TO MAKE IT'S WAY DOWN...
 2. I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT AIRPLANES OR ROCKETS THAT WERE DESIGNED TO COMBAT GRAVITY.
 3. BUT ANY RANDOM OBJECT YOU THROW INTO THE AIR, IT WON'T JUST FLOAT THERE. IT WILL EVENTUALLY RETURN TO THE GROUND.
 4. ARE YOU WITH ME? THAT'S A LAW. IT'S A COVENANT THAT'S BEEN ACTIVE SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME.
- B. ANOTHER ONE OF NEWTON'S LAWS, IS THE LAW OF MOTION, OF WHICH THERE ARE THREE.

1. THE FIRST LAW SIMPLY SAYS THAT EVERY BODY REMAINS IN A STATE OF REST, UNLESS IT IS ACTED UPON BY AN EXTERNAL UNBALANCED FORCE.
 2. ALL THAT MEANS IS THAT WHENEVER SOMETHING IS AT REST, OR NOT IN MOTION, THE ONLY WAY IT CAN MOVE IS IF SOME OUTSIDE FORCE COMES UPON IT.
 3. SOMETIMES THAT FORCE CAN BE A WIND, OR A MASS OF ENERGY, OR EVEN A HUMAN OR ANOTHER OBJECT.
 4. BUT THE ONLY WAY THAT THING CAN MOVE, IS IF SOMETHING ON THE OUTSIDE MAKES IT HAPPEN...
 5. THAT'S THE LAW OF MOTION. OR THE COVENANT OF MOTION. SIMPLY PUT, AINT NOTHING GONNA MOVE BY ITSELF.
 - THERE HAS TO BE A FORCE THAT ACTS UPON IT.
 - WHY DID THIS GLASS MOVE, CAUSE I TOUCHED IT. MY HAND PRESENTED A FORCE THAT INTERRUPTED THE STATE OF REST THAT THE GLASS WAS IN.
 6. BUT THE LAW THAT ALL OF US SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH, IS THE LAW OF NATURAL REPRODUCTION...
- C. WATCH THIS. [GENESIS 1:11] READS, “AND GOD SAID, LET THE EARTH BRING FORTH GRASS, THE HERB YIELDING SEED, AND THE FRUIT TREE YIELDING FRUIT AFTER HIS KIND, WHOSE SEED IS IN ITSELF, UPON THE EARTH: AND IT WAS SO. ¹²AND THE EARTH BROUGHT FORTH GRASS, AND HERB YIELDING SEED AFTER HIS KIND, AND THE TREE YIELDING FRUIT, WHOSE

SEED WAS IN ITSELF, AFTER HIS KIND: AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD.”

1. THAT LAW OF REPRODUCTION HAS BEEN IN OPERATION SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME.
 2. TO THIS DAY YOU *STILL* CAN'T PLANT ORANGE SEEDS AND GET APPLES. BECAUSE EVERY SEED HAS TO YIELD AFTER IT OWN KIND.
 3. AND JUST LIKE THE LAWS OF SCIENCE ARE STILL IN EFFECT, INSTEAD OF LOOKING AT THE LAW AS A COMMANDMENT, YOU'D FEEL A LOT BETTER IF YOU LOOKED AT IT AS A COVENANT.
 4. IN OTHER WORDS, THE ONE THING GOD CAN'T DO IS LIE.
 5. SO IF ALL HIS COVENANTS ARE STILL GOOD IN SCIENCE AND NATURE, THEN THEY MUST STILL BE GOOD WHEN IT COMES TO LIVING AND GIVING.
- D. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FADES, BUT THE WORD OF OUR GOD SHALL STAND FOREVER...
1. DO YOU KNOW WHAT GOOD NEWS THAT IS?
 2. THAT MEANS GRAVITY WOULD HAVE TO FAIL BEFORE GOD'S WORD FAILS.
 3. IT MEANS THAT LIONS WOULD HAVE TO LAY EGGS AND CHICKENS WOULD GIVE BIRTH TO EAGLES.
 4. BUT THE PROMISES THAT ARE IN THIS BOOK WOULD STILL BE RIGHT AND GOOD...
- E. YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS. IT MEANS THAT YOU NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HOW THE WAY IS GONNA GET MADE. BECAUSE THE GOD WHO SET UP

THE COVENANT, HE'S ALSO IN CHARGE OF THE MAINTENANCE.

1. **LISTEN, THE STARS DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEIR BULBS BURNING OUT. THAT'S GOD'S PROBLEM.**
 2. **EARTH- ROTATION**
 3. **BIRDS- WORM SUPPLY**
 4. **GRASS- WHETHER IT RAINS OR NOT**
- F. AND YOU NEED TO KNOW THAT A CHRISTIAN SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT A RECESSION. BECAUSE YOUR HELP IS NOT IN THE MARKET. YOUR HELP IS IN THE MASTER!**
1. **WHO CARES WHAT THE BANK SAYS. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?**
 2. **SENATE – SOURCE**
 3. **DOLLAR IS WORTH- WHAT IS THIS DOCTRINE WORTH TO YOU**
 4. **BECAUSE THE ONLY ONES WHO WILL PERISH, ARE THE ONES WHO ABANDON THE COVENANT.**
 5. **HE SAYS; “BRING YE ALL THE TITHES INTO THE STOREHOUSE, THAT THERE MAY BE MEAT IN MINE HOUSE, AND PROVE ME NOW HEREWITH, SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS, IF I WILL NOT OPEN YOU THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN, AND POUR YOU OUT A BLESSING, THAT THERE SHALL NOT BE ROOM ENOUGH TO RECEIVE IT. ¹¹AND I WILL REBUKE THE DEVOURER FOR YOUR SAKES, AND HE SHALL NOT DESTROY THE FRUITS OF YOUR GROUND; NEITHER SHALL YOUR VINE CAST HER FRUIT BEFORE THE TIME IN THE FIELD, SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS.”**

G. AGAIN NOW, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A COVENANT. SO AS LONG AS WE DO OUR PART, THE LORD WILL KEEPING ON DOING HIS PART.

- 1. AND FOR ALL THOSE TIMES WHERE STUFF WENT WRONG, YOU CAN'T ACCUSE GOD OF BEING A LIAR. BECAUSE EVERY ONE OF HIS COVENANTS ARE STILL IN OPERATION.**
- 2. BE HONEST NOW, DID GOD MOVE, OR DID YOU MOVE.**
- 3. BECAUSE WHEN YOU DECIDE TO BECOME A FAITHFUL GIVER, GOD WILL REBUKE ALL THAT STUFF THAT WANTS TO DEVOUR YOUR MONEY...**
- 4. I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT BILLS THAT YOU INCUR FROM DAY TO DAY BECAUSE IF YOU DECIDE TO ACCEPT A SERVICE FROM SOMEBODY, ANOTHER BIBLE COMMANDMENT IS THAT YOU PAY YOUR BILLS ON TIME.**
- 5. SO I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT YOU REBUKING MACY'S AND CURSING OUT COMCAST. YOU TOOK SOMETHING FROM THEM, SO YOU NEED TO PAY FOR WHAT THEY GAVE YOU.**
- 6. BUT THE DEVOURERS THAT GOD IS TALKING ABOUT, ARE THOSE RECESSIONS AND DEPRESSIONS THAT OVERTAKE THE NONBELIEVER.**

H. LISTEN, THERE ISN'T ONE PERSON IN THIS ROOM THAT OUGHTA BE WORRIED ABOUT TOMORROW. BECAUSE YOU KNOW THE ONE WHO *HOLDS* TOMORROW...

- 1. I HEARD JESUS; " SAID TAKE NO THOUGHT FOR WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO EAT OR WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO DRINK, OR WHERE YOU ARE GOING TO LIVE.**

2. IF YOU SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD, AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND HIS LAW, AND HIS COVENANT, AND HIS PROMISES, THEN ALL THESE OTHER THINGS WILL BE ADDED UNTO YOU...”
3. ASK THE FOLKS AROUND YOU, DID YOU DO WHAT HE SAID?
4. HAVE YOU BEEN OBEDIENT?
5. HAVE YOU BEEN FAITHFUL TO THE COVENANT?
6. TELL THEM GOD DIDN'T MOVE, YOU MUST HAVE MOVED...

CONCLUSION

THE REASON WHY WE GIVE IS BECAUSE GOD OWN EVERYTHING. AND IF HIS COVENANT COMMANDS THAT I GIVE A CERTAIN PORTION, THEN IT IS MY LOVE, NOT THE LAW, THAT MOVES ME TO BE OBEDIENT.

I SUBMIT THAT TRUE LOVE, WILL NEVER ALLOW YOU TO BE JUST A TAKER.

BUT RATHER IT WILL ALWAYS MOTIVATE YOU TO GIVE AND GIVE SOME MORE.

JUST LIKE IN THE WORLD WHEN YOU DECLARE YOU LOVE SOMEBODY, YOU FIND WAYS TO GIVE THEM THINGS THAT UNDERSCORE YOUR AFFECTIONS.

YOU GAVE HER FLOWERS, BECAUSE YOU LOVE HER...

- CANDY
- JEWELRY
- OUTFITS
- PERFUME

YOU GAVE HIM.....

- **COLOGNE**
- **WATCHES**
- **CUFFLINKS**

YOU GAVE YOUR KIDS.....

- **VIDEO GAMES**
- **HUGS**
- **KISSES**

YOU GAVE YOUR SIGNIFICANT OTHER.....

- **LITTLE NOTES AND MESSAGES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY**

ALL THESE THINGS YOU DO, BECAUSE LOVE WILL FIND A WAY TO EXPRESS ITSELF THROUGH GIVING...

JESUS SAYS, "IF YOU LOVE ME, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS"

AND THE BEST WAY TO EXPRESS THAT LOVE, IS THROUGH YOU LIVING AND YOUR GIVING.

THE LORD, SPENT HUNDREDS OF YEARS, TRYING TO *TELL* MAN, HOW MUCH HE LOVED HIM.

BUT AFTER ALL THOSE YEARS, AND THE PEOPLE WOULDN'T LISTEN, GOD MADE UP HIS MIND, TO *SHOW* US HIS LOVE...

HE CAME ALL THE WAY DOWN, THROUGH (42) GENERATIONS, AND WRAPPED HIS LOVE, IN SWADDLING CLOTHES.

HIS LOVE, WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM, TO A VIRGIN TEENAGER, AND A LOWLY CARPENTER.

HIS LOVE, WAS REARED IN NAZARETH, AND WENT TO THE TEMPLE, AT (12) YEARS OLD.

HIS LOVE, WENT DOWN TO THE JORDAN, AND WAS BAPTIZED, IN THE RIVER BY JOHN.

HIS LOVE, SHOWED UP IN CANA, AND TURNED WATER, IN TO WINE.

- **MET A BLIND MAN- RUBBED DIRT IN HIS EYES, AND RESTORED HIS SIGHT.**
- **MET A BLEEDING WOMAN, AND SHE WAS MADE WHOLE, JUST BECAUSE SHE TOUCHED HIM;**
- **WENT BY THE TEMPLE, CAST OUT DEMONS, AND TURNED OVER THE MERCHANT TABLES**
- **WENT BY THE GRAVE YARD, CALLED OLD LAZARUS, WHO WAS STINKING IN THE TOMB,**
- **STOPPED BY GETHSEMANE, AND HE PRAYED, 'TIL HIS SWEAT DRIPPED DOWN LIKE BLOOD**

AND RIGHT EARLY, ONE FRIDAY MORNING, GOD'S LOVE, SENT JESUS TO THE CROSS FOR GOD.

HE DIED..

BUT EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, HE GOT UP WITH ALL POWER IN HIS HAND.

I WAS SINKING... BUT THE MASTER... LOVE, LIFTED ME...!

IF GOD DOESN'T DO ANYTHING ELSE FOR ME, HE HAS ALREADY GIVEN ME ENOUGH.

HE GAVE ME; LOVE...

- **KINDNESS**
- **GRACE**
- **MERCY**
- **FAITH**
- **FORGIVENESS**
- **PEACE**
- **JOY**

THIS JOY...