

Ninety Days of Tithing Challenge

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.”

Malachi 3:8–10 (NLT)

The words of Malachi offer the only teaching of the Bible which invites us to test God. How are we to test God? In the practice of **tithing of our income**. The promise from God is that when we trust Him with our finances, He will pour out His blessings and there will not be enough room to store all of them!

What is tithing? Tithing is giving God the *first* ten percent of our income. You may ask if this is the total income or net income. My answer is *all* our income. Otherwise, we may have to discuss net blessings or gross blessings.

Karen and I have tithed, and given beyond the tithe, throughout our marriage, and during my pastoring four churches. We have witnessed how God has poured out His blessings in always having enough, as a family, and in the churches we served. Every church I have ever served had record years of giving when tithing was a priority. Yes, this is what it looks like for God’s blessings to be poured out.

As I draw toward the sunset of being a lead pastor, I wanted to lift this important matter of tithing to you. You will be blessed if you tithe! Shalimar United Methodist Church will be blessed through your tithe. I want to invite you to grow in your giving commitment to tithe as we move **FORWARD** in 2023.

In so many conversations, I know people want to tithe, but they fear they do not have enough income to do so. Tithing is not about how much we make, but rather about establishing God as the top priority in our life. We do this by giving to Him first. The ten percent is proportional to our individual income, so the practice of tithing is the same commitment for everyone.

Still, I know the fear of taking the step of tithing can test our trust in God. This is why I am inviting our congregation to join me in taking the Ninety Days of Tithing Challenge. Try tithing for the first 90 days of 2023 (January 1–March 31), and if you do not see the blessings of God in this decision after 90 days, you are welcome to adjust your giving for the rest of 2023!

Test God through tithing for the first 90 days in 2023. Take a step of faith to trust God and put Him first in every area of your life. You won’t regret it!

Shalom,

Philip