

# Robbing God

***"I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. Ever since the time of your forefathers 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?' 'Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?'"In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse -- the whole nation of you -- because you are robbing me. 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 you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty." (Malachi 3:6-12)***

God is the same and His Word is never changed; He is the same yesterday, today and forever. ***"God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?" (Numbers 23: 19)*** And here He is speaking to His people that He does not change, so the people would not destroy. He had mercy on His people; He does not treat us as our sins deserve. God is still giving us chances to go back to Him. He is calling us to repent, turn away from our sins and to return to Him. Now if you hear that God is calling His people to go back to Him and follow His decrees and commands, what do you think they had done wrong? Adultery, fornication, idolatry, or witchcraft; sure they have done great things against God that He is asking them to return to Him. They have turned away from His decrees and have not kept them. But they may ask, ***'How are we to return?'*** This question will be asked by people who worship God and even serve Him but God is telling them to return to Him.

What they have done wrong that God is not happy with them? The charge that had put by God against them is that they are robbing Him in the terms of tithes and offerings. The tithes are the first ten percent of what you receive from money or other material blessings. After we bring our tithes to God then we give our offerings in whatever we had decided to give to the Lord. Now if we fail to bring our tithes and our offerings to the Lord we are robbing God and we become like thieves. God's children should not behave like thieves with God. Thieves or robbers will not enter the kingdom of God; in another word there is no salvation for them.

When people or believers rob God in this way they will be under curse; themselves, their families, the church who does not teach or admonish about this matter, and the whole society will be under curse because the people of God are robbing the Lord. God had sent His Son the Lord Jesus Christ to save us and to deliver us from sin and death. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He was buried but rose from the dead on the third day to give eternal life to those who believe in Him and follow His steps in their lives. Now to believe in Christ it means to repent from your sins and to give your life fully to do His will.

But then how you can give your life fully to Jesus but you are not yet bringing your tithes and giving Him your offerings. How you can say that you love God with all your heart but you cannot surrender your money to Him. Tithes and offerings when you bring it will be used to support God's work through His church. The tithes and the offerings will go to support the workers especially those who work fully to God and have no secular Job, so they can do God's work thoroughly. God's work needs financial support that comes from the tithes and offerings, so that the spiritual food that is needed to supply and support the flocks spiritually are there. In return, giving the tithes and bringing the offerings gives greater blessings to us who practice that in the following ways:-

- 1- ***The flood-gates of heaven will be open: "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 you will not have room enough for it." (Malachi 3:10)*** Those who practice tithing regularly and who live a holy life they have no problem, they have no more place to keep God's blessing. God sure will pour out so many blessings in our lives as we diligently practice tithing and offerings.
- 2- ***The pests will be prevented: "I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty." (Malachi 3:11)*** As you bring your tithes to God He will be the one to rebuke the devour and the pests like taxes, accidents, sickness, penalties, fines, unnecessary bills, etc. Therefore once you get your salary or whatever income, take the tithes out, so God will open the flood gates to cover the bills and He will rebuke the unnecessary expenses.
- 3- ***The vines in your fields will not cast their fruit:*** The vines are the fruit of your hard work and labour in the fields. Suppose you work hard to plant a vineyard; fruits will come out, but while they are still green and not ripe God will not allow them to fall down. Your hard work over the years God would not allow it to fall down; it will be established and considered for your behalf.

***My Dear and Beloved: "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty" (Malachi 3:12)*** Because of your faithfulness toward God, He will reward you for that and bless you in a such a way that everyone will notice and say that you are blessed by the Lord. Therefore commit yourself to God, obey Him, and bring your tithes and your offerings in full. Trust Him and His promises to you as you agree to surrender your life to Him and pray.

***My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Father God I obey your Word by bringing faithfully and regularly my tithes and my offering. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.***