

A New Thing  
Ministries

# Breaking the Spirit of Poverty



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Although the word of God teaches us that Jesus took our poverty and gave us His abundance, I believe many in the body of Christ are living under a spirit of poverty or at least have the effects of a spirit of poverty in their life. I see it every day in the calls we receive and in the emails I get, most people are not walking in the abundance that Jesus died to give us.

2 Corinthians 8:9 says; ***For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.***

Let's take a look at a few of these words.

*Jesus Christ was **RICH** – this word 'rich' means abounding in material resources, abundantly supplied.*

*Yet for your sake, He became **POOR** – this word 'poor' means reduced to begging, destitute of wealth and lacking in everything.*

*That you through His **POVERTY** – this word 'poverty' means the condition of one destitute of riches and abundance.*

*Might become **RICH** – this word 'rich' means to be rich, to have an abundance of outward possession. One is who affluent in resources so that he can give blessings to all.*

What an awesome scripture this is for us – what an amazing promise! Just as Jesus purchased your salvation at the cross – just as He became sin for you so that you could walk free from sin and the effects of sin, He also became poor for you so that you could walk free from all lack, poverty and all effects of it.

No longer are you bound to sin and no longer are you bound to lack or poverty. The spirit of poverty has no legal right to operate in your life, unless you have given it one. Just as sin has no right in your life unless you open the door to it, lack has no right in your life unless you open the door to it.

Either way, the good news is that Jesus destroyed this spirit and its right to operate in your life. As you learn the principles of God concerning abundance, this spirit of poverty will no longer be able to operate in your life. You will begin to live the abundant life that Jesus, Himself, died to give you.

He took your poverty – it is not yours – He gave you His right to a rich life (one that is abundantly supplied) – it belongs to you and I believe it is time we take it, how about you?

## Without A Cause

When something is going on in my life that is not in agreement with the word of God, the first thing I do is look in my life and my heart to make sure I don't have a door open to allow the enemy to come in.

Proverbs 26:2 says; ***a curse without a cause cannot come.***

I believe this is a pretty powerful scripture; a curse simply can't legally operate in your life if there is not a reason for it to be there. Sometimes, the reason is simply that we don't realize our rights in Christ or who we are in Christ.

However, at other times it is because we are doing something to allow the enemy access to our lives – if that is the case, we simply need to change what is allowing him access and that curse, along with its effects, will have to leave.

Hopefully, you now understand from 2 Corinthians 8:9 that you don't have to allow poverty or lack in your life. You have a God-given legal right to prosperity and all that comes with it.

## Ears to Hear

In ministry it has also been odd to me that people love to hear just about any message preached, other than one on finances. On the other hand, that is the very area where most people struggle, in their finances.

It seems sensible to me, if one was struggling in a certain area, that they would be eager to hear preaching in that area – a preaching that would teach them how to overcome their area of struggle.

I once heard a minister say that the wallet is always the last thing to be converted. I believe, if God doesn't have a say in your finances, you are not truly converted at all.

The way we treat finances biblically in our lives is the very basics, the kindergarten of our spiritual walk. You can't go on to the next level in God if you are unfaithful in your finances.

It has nothing to do with a dollar amount; it has everything to do with a heart issue. Who is Lord over your life? Who is Lord over your finances? God is not broke, He does not need your money, He wants your heart and your obedience. Walking in obedience to God releases His blessing on your life. Let's take a look at Luke 16.

Verse 11-12 says: ***Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?***

Verse 11 plainly says, if we are not faithful in the money God has placed in our hands, we will never taste of the true riches that are ours in Christ. Those spiritual gifts that we seek, the peace of mind, the prospering soul...those things will never be ours if we are not first faithful in our money and in how God tells us to handle it.

Verse 12 says, if you are not faithful with what belongs to another – who will give you what is your own. The tithe of your increase, the 10%, doesn't belong to you, it belongs to God, if you are not faithful in the area of tithing, you will never taste of your own riches, at least not according to the word of God.

The test for the release of financial blessings in one's life is the way we handle money. I belong to God, everything I have belongs to God, and I simply oversee it and eat of its fruit. God is the Master of all I have.

Every born again believer is a steward of what God places in our hands. He is watching closely at how we handle what He puts in our hands, just as He was

the day Jesus told of the men he gave talents to. Those who were faithful, received increase, those who didn't, even what they had was taken away.

## A Gun Shy Church

Now, I do understand why the church may be gun shy concerning tithing and giving. We have all heard stories of churches and ministries who were not walking in integrity in this area. Do someone else's shortcomings release me or you from obeying God's word concerning finances? No. I and I alone will be held accountable concerning what I do with my finances. I am accountable for my tithe and offering, no one else. It doesn't even matter if I have been burned in the past; I simply have to give that to God and continue to obey His word.

With my obedience to God in my finances, I put myself under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Malachi 3 is probably one of the most well known scriptures concerning tithe and offering; let's take a look at it today.

***For I am the Lord, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you, Says the Lord of hosts. But you said, 'In what way shall we return?' Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this, Says the Lord of hosts, If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field, says the Lord of hosts; and all nations***

***will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land, Says the Lord of hosts.  
Malachi 3:6-12***

Let's look at a few of these lines, first of all God says He does not change. He is the same God yesterday, today and tomorrow. His principles from the Garden of Eden to now still apply, it has not changed.

This scripture goes on to say that we rob God when we withhold tithe and offerings. Furthermore, if we do rob God in tithe and offering, a curse is released. This is a curse of poverty.

Next take note at what God says; He says 'test me in this.' This is the only time in the Bible that God invites us to test Him on anything. Not only that but He promises that when we do test Him in this that He will open up the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing that is beyond our wildest dreams. We can't even handle all God wants to pour out into our lives and it comes from being faithful in tithe and offering.

I would venture to say that 99% of people who struggle financially have not been 100% faithful in tithe and offering. God says bring ALL the tithe into the storehouse, that means a full 10% of your income. He also wants us to bring Him the best, which is the first portion, not the last portion.

It is not everyone's personal decision to tithe, it is God's principle, and if we ever want to walk in the abundant life we are going to have to fully obey God in tithe and offerings. It's not a choice to tithe or not, it is a choice to obey God or not. If you want to walk in the blessing of God and not under the curse of poverty, it is a must. We don't have to be led to tithe; it is the principle of God. God will tell us 'where' to tithe but He has already told us to tithe.

This I know from experience, you simply can't out give God. This is why He says 'test me in this' He knows you can never out give Him. And when someone becomes radically obedient in their finances, God becomes radical in His giving back to that person.

As for the tithe, you give the tithe where you are fed. You don't send it to a family member who needs money – you give it into the storehouse of God – into a place where the people of God are being fed. You can't redirect the tithe; Lev. 27 tells us that the tithe has already been dedicated to the storehouse, the place where God's people are fed.

Now, the offering, is yours to give anywhere you like. God may tell you where to give offerings to or you may simply have compassion in your heart to give to a certain place, either way, where you give your offering is up to you.

## Tithe Law?

Some will say that tithing is under the law. However scripture teaches us that Abraham tithed 400 years before the law, it is a principle of God. The tithe is written in the heart of God's people.

St. Augustine wrote, *our ancestors used to abound in wealth of every kind...because they tithed. Now, we fail to tithe and the whole has been taken away.*

You never, never get to keep the tithe. If you don't give your tithe to God then it goes to the devourer. Our giving of the tithe is what causes God to rebuke the devourer, if we don't tithe, the devourer is not rebuked. We become a legal target for the devourer.

If you are not a tither, it will go somewhere, your car will break down or you will have some kind of unexpected expense...it is called devouring. And this devourer doesn't usually stop at 10%. I promise you that you can live better on 90% with God, than you can on 100% without His blessing on your finances.

The tithe shows our dependency on God. It speaks loudly that He is our Provider in ALL THINGS.

God has put a test before you, if you want to see the fullness of the blessing of God on your finances, it is up to you, it is determined by your obedience in your tithe and offering.

I did find something I found funny while studying the tithe. In Leviticus the Bible says that you can 'borrow' the tithe but if you do you have to put with it a fifth, or 20%. Wow, God charged 20% for borrowing your tithe; I think it is easier to obey the first time.

New Covenant

In furthering studying the old covenant and the new covenant, I read Matthew 5:21