**First things First**

God, Money, and Me Week Two

**Rule #1: Don’t feel guilty!**

**Rule #2: Don’t get defensive**

**Rule #3: Keep an open mind.**

series goals:

1. Gain a Biblical understanding of money
2. Identify limiting mindsets and beliefs
3. Exercise complete obedience
4. Create expectation of a return

**OWNERSHIP PRINCIPLE**: God is the owner of everything, not us.

**Haggai 2:8,** “**8**‘The silver is mine and the gold is mine,’ declares the Lord Almighty.”

Putting God first in every of our life is our highest priority. **When God is first then everything else in life comes into order.**

**If God is first in our lives, then He will be first in our finances.**

**TITHING PRINCIPLE: Tithing is the spiritual practice of giving back to God through the local church the first 10% of all that we earn.**

**Malachi 3:7**, Ever since the time of your ancestors 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?’ 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. 11 I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the Lord Almighty. 12 “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the Lord Almighty.

The word “tithe” comes from the number "ten" in Hebrew, and means a tenth.

**Why Tithe?**

1. **TITHING TEACHES ME TO PUT GOD FIRST.**

 Yes, it will require you to rearrange your life, your budget, and your priorities around God. Yes,

However, obedience is priority.

1. **TITHING PROVIDES FOR GOD’S WORK THROUGH HIS CHURCH.**
2. **TITHING INCREASES MY FAITH IN GOD.**

90% with God’s blessings goes further than 100% without.

1. **TITHING RELEASES GOD’S BLESSING.**

**Malachi 3:10b**, 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.

**1 Kings**

**1 Kings 17,** “ **13**Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But **first** make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son.

**14**For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land.’” God will send supernatural provision for obedience.

**15**She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. **16**For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah.

God sent Elijah to the widow because God wanted to provide for the widow

**When we take care of God’s House, God will take care of our house. When you take care of God’s business, God will take care of your business.**

TC.Live/Give:

* 90-Day Tithe Challenge
* Become a Temple Centurion