

Malachi 3:10 (NLT2)

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!

Today's verse is one that some people use out of context, and it's in regard to tithing. They will quote to others; God says that if you '***Put me to the test***' or '***Try Me now in this***' (NKJV) that He will bless you." Which sounds good and all, but the reality is that today's verse is in regard to the sin that Israel was in. Now we really can't get that out of this one verse, but if we read it in its context (which is always key when quoting God's word), then it may become clear to us. So let's go back to verses 6-9 from the NKJV.

† **Malachi 3:6-9** *"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.*

Verse seven tells how Israel had backslidden, "***Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances And have not kept them.***" And with any backslider, the only cure is to repent and return to the Lord "***Return to Me***" And as we just read, God was telling them that if they did, then "***I will return to you.***"

So they ask God the question '***In what way shall we return?***' which sometimes is an honest question, because when we get comfortable in our backslidden sinful state, we just don't see clearly that we have walked away from the Lord, or in what way we have walked away from the Lord.

So, God response was to let them know how they have backslidden or turned their backs on God "***In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me.***" Then God tells the people the blessing that will happen if they repent of this sin, where today's verse now comes into play.

† ***"I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in!"***

So we can't truly quote this verse to others as a means to gain financially or in any other way. Some people think it's a get rich formula or something that they can use to gain the things of this world. They even say that God said to test him on this "***Put me to the test!***" Yet this was God telling Israel that if they repent, then they will see what blessing I (God) will bless you with. So

it's not a matter of gaining financially, but rather gaining the blessing of God's forgiveness and the fruit of God's forgiveness, which is rarely financial or even worldly gain, Because Jesus clearly teaches us not to seek the things of this world, but God, His righteousness, and His kingdom.

† **Matthew 6:33** *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

So, if you or others are struggling financially, do not use today's verse out of context to try and make it say what you want it to, but rather ask God, "Why am I struggling financially?" and He may show you sin in your life that is causing it, and that sin may simply be wasteful spending of what God has already provided for you. Or maybe it's a lack of faith where you are not giving back to God each time you get your paycheck. Or maybe you are, but you are a miser and give ten or twenty bucks once a month, instead of giving sacrificially.

† **Luke 21:1-4** *And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had."*

Or maybe it could be self confidence in ourselves, where we no longer think we need God, because we have our credit cards and the bank to support us.

† **Isaiah 57:13** *When you cry out, Let your collection of idols deliver you. But the wind will carry them all away, A breath will take them. But he who puts his trust in Me shall possess the land, and shall inherit My holy mountain."*