

Malachi 3:10

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.

This is referring to tithing, which is money and/or the first fruit of your labor. But not only is it referring to money, but also what people cling to the most, even more than God.

So is God asking us to give up what we cling to the most? No, you may say, this is referring to money only, so don't try and make me give up other things as well. It sounds like for you who say that, that money is not really the thing you cling to the most, but something, or even someone else that is hindering your walk with the Lord?

Just at church the other day, we were talking about getting into the word of God every morning, and how some people are not morning people and no matter how much they try, they just can't get up early in the morning to spend time with God in His word. These cling to sleep, and the comfort of a nice soft bed with clean sheets and soft fluffy pillows, and snuggling with the covers. So it may be God asking them to let go of what they are clinging to, (A blanket) and cling to what is better. GOD!!!

Maybe that's not what you cling to, but once again, ask yourself, or even ask God, what or who you are clinging to that is hindering your relationship with Him. Yes sometimes it can be a person, like a relationship you are in, that God is telling you to break away from, because in the end, it will be a bad relationship.

Or maybe for you it's not a relationship, but it could be a family member or even a close friend, like a child or a parent or a sibling or even a spouse. Yes we should hold onto and cherish these people in our lives, but are you clinging so tightly to him or her that God can not do a work in them because you are in the way?

Maybe it's a job, where your job comes first over and above everyone and everything else. One thing I tell those who are controlled by their job and who work tremendous overtime all the time is that, "No one ever said while on their deathbed, *'I wish I worked more hours'*". Now it is ok to work extra hours to help out at work, or even make a little extra cash once in a while, but if your job get in the way of your family and church and relationship with the Lord, then you may want to rethink how much you are clinging to your job.

So you may be saying that it's none of those things, and for you, maybe it's a ministry. I know when I started recording my first worship album years ago. I remember I was listening to the first several songs in my car as I was driving home one night. I was really enjoying how the Lord was using me and how the Holy Spirit had given me the lyrics to these songs. As I was listening to

them, I heard the Lord ask me, “What if I told you I wanted you to stop right now and not do this album; would you?” Now this was a life long dream of mine to record a worship album, and my vow was any money I made off of it, or any music that I created, would go back to the Lord 100%, and I was excited with what the Lord was doing through me with the music. But was I willing to give it up, or had I made it an idol that I was worshipping. So, I told the Lord, even with tears in my eyes, that I would stop right there and then and not complete or sell the album. But the Lord knew that already, I think He wanted me to know my own heart. So with that He allowed me to complete it and to date I have released 6 albums and 3 singles on CD’s and streaming audio.

But that was my Abraham/Isaac moment for me, and I am sure if you have not had it yet, there will come a time in your life as you serve the Lord that you will have it, which is God asking you to truly give up what is most precious to you at that time, or as we are talking about today, that thing or even person you are clinging to right now.

The questions isn’t, are you going to continue to cling to it, but rather, are you willing to let go of it? ***“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this”***

† **Mark 10:21-22 (MSG)** *Jesus looked him hard in the eye—and loved him! He said, "There's one thing left: Go sell whatever you own and give it to the poor. All your wealth will then be heavenly wealth. And come follow me." The man's face clouded over. This was the last thing he expected to hear, and he walked off with a heavy heart. He was holding on tight to a lot of things, and not about to let go.*