

Need a Miracle?

January 2017

Dear Friend and Partner,

Luke 5:1-9: **And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the Word of God, He stood by the lake of Gennesaret, And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. And He entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that He would thrust out a little from the land. And He sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. Now when He had left speaking, He said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy Word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, He fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For He was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:**

Luke 6:38: **Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.**

Tithing and giving is a way to supernatural miracles! There's something about tithing and giving in faith, believing, that triggers miracles. Peter had fished all night long and caught nothing. It's not as though he wasn't doing anything, because he was - he was probably doing all he could to catch fish. Then Peter had the opportunity to give Jesus his boat so Jesus could preach from it. God then blessed Peter back with two ships full of fish! That got the attention of everyone involved.

We believers should get the world's attention by the miracles that God performs for us. Having the miraculous power of God in manifestation is the only way you are going to get the religious world's attention. Religion has no power; you, as a believer, need to have miracles manifesting in your life in order to get the sinner's attention. Otherwise, they just think you have another religion, called *'Born Again.'*

There have been many times we gave, but we didn't do it in faith, believing. We live off the harvest blessing of the seeds we sow. When we give our life away, it comes back to us. **For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it** (Luke 9:24). Sometimes, Christians have a difficult time grasping that concept.

Usually, the number one reason a believer doesn't tithe, or tithe *faithfully*, is that they don't believe that God will do what He said He would do in Malachi 3:10-12: **Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and He shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.**

In this promise alone, God promised He'd open up the windows of heaven and pour us out a blessing and that He would rebuke the devourer for our sake.

Galatians 6:6-9: **Let him that is taught in the Word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall He also reap. For He that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but He that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.**

We all seem to enjoy testimonies of God performing miracles, and they're always connected with someone stepping out in faith, believing, in obedience to God's Word. The first step in obeying God in tithing is to know from the Word of God that God wants us to do it, then making up our minds that we're going to do it, and then staying faithful to do it. Tithing is taking your responsibility to do what God requires you to do. You have to make the decision that you are going to do it, and then do it.

I grew up attending church without ever hearing about tithing. It wasn't until after I went to another church and got saved through receiving Jesus Christ as my Lord (Ro. 10:9,10), that I started hearing about tithing.

That's when I began to tithe because I learned from the Word of God that we are to tithe.

It wasn't until later on that I was taught to expect from God what He said He would do for us when we tithe. Up until that time, I was just tithing to give God what belonged to Him: my firstfruits. **Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.** Proverbs 3:9,10

Later, I found out tithing was in my New Covenant: **And here men that die receive tithes; but there He receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that He liveth.** Hebrews 7:8

Usually, the first indication that a Christian is becoming sidetracked from following the Lord is they quit tithing. Then, they stop reading their Bible like they used to, and then stop praying, and on and on. There's something about being a faithful tither that keeps you close to God, and helps keep your heart tender to Him.

As a tither, when anything arises in your life, especially financially, the first thing you think is, *'I'm a tither and I rebuke this, in Jesus' Name.'* Tithing is the best job security and income security that we have in our covenant. Tithers usually always have a job when it seems as though no one else has one. God is able to navigate the tither through all the financial turmoil that seems to be going around. They come through financial storms unscathed, the way Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of a fiery furnace untouched because they refused to compromise (Daniel Ch. 3). We always need God's help to live our lives victoriously, and when we obey His Word, we position ourselves to receive from God.

I knew a Christian brother in the Lord who worked for a company. He and his wife tithed faithfully, gave offerings and blessed people. Then, the company he worked for started laying people off. They had around 300 employees or so when they started laying off and cutting back. All the while, this Christian kept saying things like, *"Satan you can't have my job. I'm a tither."* He'd quote and read Malachi 3:10-12.

The company got down to where they had about 30 employees. Not only did this brother never lose his job, but he got promoted from working in labor to a desk job. All the people who worked with him knew he was a born again Christian because of his witness. They knew him as a man of integrity who got to work early, left late, and did more than what he was expected to do. He kept Satan from taking his job by speaking the Word in the Name of Jesus.

I don't know about you, but when I got born again, that kind of person got my attention. These are regular Christians - not ministers, not preachers but regular people who got God's miracle working power to manifest in their lives. That is how we're to live as believers. No matter what trouble this world goes through, we're not to experience it.

A believer will always be uncomfortable in their conscience until they finally do what God says to do in His Word. Faithfully tithing helps keep your conscience clear. There is one thing obeying God always produces: a bold confidence to withstand Satan and his attacks.

I want to challenge you, if you haven't started tithing, start today. Prove God's Word out and stay with it. But there's one thing about the Lord: anything you do for Him, He's going to want you to want to do it. Not grudgingly or of necessity, but cheerfully. **Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.** 2 Corinthians 9:7

Isaiah 1:19 says, **If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:**

After I got born again, I'd go visit Christians, some of whom I didn't even know personally, and have them tell me miracle testimonies about themselves and others that came about by tithing and giving. The Christians I've always watched since I've been saved are those who tithed, writing out their tithe check every time they got paid. They are the ones who impressed me so much.

I've watched my oldest brother, although he doesn't know it. One year, he and his wife built a new house, and then he lost his job. Although he was unemployed for a long time, he always tithed any money that came to him. Later on, when he got a new better-paying job, he and his wife said they didn't know how, other than God doing it, but they never missed a mortgage payment on their house. And, after he retired, they even got their dream home! You're always going to be faced with needing a miracle and for God to come through for you. So, step out on His promises and believe He'll take care of your every need, in Jesus' Name.

God bless, your Word of faith pastor,

Pastor Jesse Rich

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