

**THE JOY OF GIVING
MALACHI 3:6-12**

Introduction

We believe that our first priority is to love and worship God the Creator who made himself known in Jesus Christ, and who sent the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus Christ to the world. As individuals, we want to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. As a church our first purpose for gathering is to reflect on who God is, what he has done, and what he is doing in the world, and to respond in adoration, thanks, confession and reverent obedience. We invite spiritual seekers to gather with us, to ‘taste and see that the Lord is good.’

A. HOW THEN SHALL WE GIVE? AS . . .

1. A response to God’s faithfulness (3:6)
2. An evidence of returning (3:7)
3. An acknowledgement of ownership (3:8)
 - *Psalm 24:1; I Chronicles 29:16*
4. An expression of obedience (3:8,10)
 - *Genesis 14:20; 28:22; Leviticus 27:30; Numbers 18:24,28; Deuteronomy 14:28,29; Matthew 23:23*
5. A sign of devotion (3:9)
6. An act of liberation (3:10)
 - *Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28*
7. A provision for the future (3:10)
 - *Acts 4:34*
8. A demonstration of faith (3:10)
 - *Proverbs 11:24,25; Luke 6:38; II Corinthians 9:6-12*
9. A prudent investment (3:11)
10. An act of witness (3:12)

B. WHAT IS KEEPING US FROM ENTERING INTO THE JOY OF GIVING?

1. Ignorance?
2. Fear?
3. Overspending?

C. STEPS TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM (from Rick Beggs)

1. Remember that God owns it all
2. Live within your income
3. Avoid debt
 - a. *Know what you owe*
 - b. *Stop going into debt*
 - c. *Develop a repayment plan*
 - d. *Get some accountability*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS
NOVEMBER 17-23**

Which of the ten motivations for giving mentioned in the message today do you find echoed in these passages? Which of these motivations are strongest in your own giving?

Review your present patterns of giving, in both tithes and offerings. Ask the Lord whether you need to make any adjustments in these patterns.

Review your present patterns of spending, saving, debt accumulation and debt servicing. Again, ask the Lord if you need to make any adjustments.

Each day, review the promise of Malachi 3:10.

Follow-throughs

Monday	Psalms 24:1 Psalm 50
Tuesday	I Chronicles 29:1-25
Wednesday	Nehemiah 9 and 10
Thursday	II Corinthians 8:1-24; 9:1-15
Friday	Proverbs 11:24,25; Luke 6:38

Warm-ups

Saturday

Sunday