

God's Heart Test
"Life not Law"

God is the ultimate giver:

For God so loved the world that He _____ His only begotten Son.
John 3:16

1. Tithing is life

Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it. (Stewardship) and the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."
Genesis 2:15-17

❖ Being a faithful steward meant "LIFE" to Adam and Eve.

As Christians we believe that all we have belongs to God and that the Lord has richly given us all things to enjoy.

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.
1Timothy 6:17-19

It is only when we give - that we are then released from living a life filled with the worries and concerns of this life.

2. "Tithing" is a test

❖ Tithing is a test from God to see if our hearts are truly committed to Him first.

The word tithe means "a tenth" and throughout the bible the number ten represents "testing".

Ten = Testing:

- How many plagues were there in Egypt? Ten
- How many commandments are there? Ten
- How many times did God test Jacob's heart by allowing his wages to be changed when he was working for his father-in-law? Ten
- How many times did God test Israel when they were wandering in the wilderness? Ten
- How many times was Daniel tested? Ten

We see this same testing continued on in the NT.

- Matthew 25, ten virgins had their preparedness tested.
- Ten days of testing are mentioned in Rev. 2:10

The tithe (tenth) represents the ultimate "HEART TEST" for us as Christians.

Malachi 3:1-10

See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

⁵ "So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty.

⁶ "I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷ Ever since the time of your forefathers 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.

