## DAY 26 ~ 30 DAY FAITH & FITNESS CHALLENGE

#### SCRIPTURE:

(Deuteronomy 14:23 TLB). "The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives"

Malachi 3:10. (SEE BELOW)

Leviticus 27:30-32 NLT "A tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain or fruit, belongs to the LORD and must be set apart to him as holy . . .The LORD also owns every tenth animal counted off from your herds and flocks. They are set apart to him as holy." -

### **DEVOTIONAL**

### **COMEBACK TITHING**

Money is an awkward conversation to have at church. We expect the electric bill to be paid, craft supplies bought for the kids, and coffee served without often putting much thought into how it's all paid for. We all have our own budgets to worry about, but giving to God is an honor and a privilege when we have the right attitude.

Giving is a demonstration of our commitment to the church, the hands and feet of Christ. Pastors and Leaders trust God to provide the necessary means to carry out the mission. .... At the same time, the Holy Spirit moves in the hearts of believers to give generously and support the work that God is doing, also learning to trust God with their own finances.

A recent study revealed that only 12% of born again Christians tithed. For many Believers, this seems shocking. They know that tithing is part of a lifestyle that leads to God's blessings. It demonstrates that we have the right priorities. That He has first place in our lives. That we trust Him to supply all our needs.

Whatever you want God to bless, you have to put him first in it. So if you want God to bless your finances, you have to put him first in your money. This is the principle of tithing: You give the first 10 percent of your income back to God.

# Here are four verses that explain the promise, the purpose, the place, and when to tithe.

**First:** The promise about tithing: Proverbs 3:9-10 "Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income, and he will fill your barns with wheat and barley and overflow your wine vats with the finest wines" (TLB). God says that if you honor him with the first part of your income, he will bless you financially.

We decided years ago that if we're going to be in debt to anybody, we're not going to be in debt to God. God gets paid first, right off the top. If I make 10 dollars, the first dollar goes back to him. If I make a hundred dollars, the first 10 dollars go back to him. It all comes from God in the first place, and I want his blessing on the rest of it.

**Second:** "The Purpose of tithing Why does God tell us to tithe? Deuteronomy 14:23 says, is to teach you always to put God first in your lives" (TLB). God doesn't need your money, but he wants what it represents: your heart. He wants you to trust him.

**Third:** Where should you tithe? Do you tithe your Sorority? Or do you tithe to your brother who's been out of work for three years? No. Thats not tithing, That's charity. Tithing is an act of worship. It goes to God. It belongs to God.

Malachi 3:10 says, "Bring to the storehouse a full tenth of what you earn . . . Test me in this,' says the Lord All-Powerful. 'I will open the windows of heaven for you and pour out all the blessings you need" (NCV). The storehouse is the temple or the place where you worship God.

**Forth:** When are you supposed to tithe? You do it on the day you worship. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 16:2, "On every Lord's Day each of you should put aside something from what you have earned during the week, and use it for this offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn" (TLB). When you give to God on the first day of the week, the first part of your day, and the first part of your money, you're declaring, "You're really number one in my life."

**Notice** that the verse says to "put aside." You've got to plan this! Tithing should not be an impulsive thing. In this Comeback Season I decree and declare that you purpose in your heart that your giving will be consistent and intentional. Then you can watch how God blesses and uses you and honors his promises in your life.

### Question?

How do you need to plan today so that you can be faithful in tithing?

Jesus said it is better to give than to receive and that's so true when you really believe in what you're giving. Giving is an act of worship and service to God that brings glory to his name. Let's give cheerfully knowing that our generosity is used to bless others who are in need.

### **PRAY 10 MINUTES**

Ask God to open your eyes to opportunities to give—especially to the church and the poor as God so often reminds us to do in his Word.

### **FITNESS 15 MINUTES**

- ~WALK
- ~JOG
- ~REST
- ~REPEAT 2 MORE TIMES