

## My Declaration: Finances

**Big Idea:** Honoring God financially is not a burden for us to bear, it's a blessing for us to live.

**Big Question:** How do I live in the blessing?

**Main Scripture:** Genesis 2:15, 4:3-7

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**Genesis 2:15** <sup>15</sup> The Lord God placed the man (mankind) in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it.

### 1. Understand, it all belongs to God

**1 Chronicles 29:11-12** <sup>11b</sup> Everything in the heavens and on earth is yours, O LORD, and this is your kingdom. We adore you as the one who is over all things. <sup>12a</sup> Wealth and honor come from you alone, for you rule over everything.

**Genesis 4:3-7** <sup>3</sup> When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord. <sup>4</sup> Abel also brought a gift—the best of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The Lord accepted (blessed) Abel and his gift, <sup>5</sup> but he did not accept (bless) Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected. <sup>6</sup> "Why are you so angry?" the Lord asked Cain. "Why do you look so dejected?" <sup>7</sup> You will be accepted (blessed) if you do what is right.

### 2. Understand, the best goes back to God

**Malachi 3:8-10a** <sup>8</sup> "Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! "But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?' "You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. <sup>9</sup> You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me. <sup>10</sup> Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple.

**Matthew 23:23** What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law--justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.

"I never would have been able to tithe the first million dollars I ever made if I had not tithed my first salary, which was \$1.50 per week." --- J. D. Rockefeller

**Genesis 4:6-7** <sup>6</sup> "Why are you so angry?" the Lord asked Cain. "Why do you look so dejected?" <sup>7</sup> You will be accepted (blessed) if you do what is right.

### 3. Understand, the blessing comes from God

**Malachi 3:10** <sup>10</sup> Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!"

"God's work in my finances has been incredible to watch. His Blessing may not have come in the ways or timing that I would have chosen or wanted, but rather in ways that suggest

provision truly originates from Him. I wanted to send this to you as an encouragement that although tithing is likely not fun to talk about as a Pastor and that you might even receive push back of sorts when you do, it is incredibly important. It has made me a better follower of Christ and for that I am truly grateful. All the best, Jeremy”