

"Opening the Floodgates of Heaven"

Portions of this message were inspired during personal prayer and study. Additional study sources for this message include: *Take God at His Word* by Kregg Hood, *Stewardship Is Lordship* by John Maxwell, an untitled stewardship series by R.D.E. Smith, 1973, *Speaking of Stewardship* by William G. Carter, *Money, Possessions, and Eternity* by Randy Alcorn, *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn, *The Stewardship of Life* by Kirk Nowery, *Revolutionary Generosity* by Kirk Nowery, *The 33 Laws of Stewardship* by Dave Sutherland, *Financial Peace* by Dave Ramsey, and *Money and the Christian* by Caleb McAfee, *Commentary on the Whole Bible* by Matthew Henry, *The New International Bible Commentary*, edited by F. F. Bruce, *The NIV Study Bible*, 1985 by The Zondervan Corporation.
Pastor Ed recommends these and other resources to you. He invites you to contact him at info@EastonWorshipCenter.org to join in our online discussions.

February 5, 2012

**Every family gets a free copy of the excellent book, *Take God at His Word* by Kregg Hood !
Even if you are a guest here, we want you to have one.**



Acts 20:35b NIV

The Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Malachi 3 NIV

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. "But you ask, 'How are we to return?'*

8 *"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings.*

9 *You are under a curse — the whole nation of you — because you are robbing me.*

10 *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. **Test me in this,**" says the LORD Almighty, **"and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.***

OUR RESPONSE OF DEVOTION

Psalm 26:2 NIV

Test me, O LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; ...

Tithing is important because of its ...

1. *Frequency* : 51 times!
2. *Symbolism* : Giving a tenth demonstrates that God actually owns it all
3. *Theology* : God is looking at us to get to know His heart

Malachi 3 NIV

6 *"I the LORD do not change..."*

Romans 15.4 NIV

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

THE FLOODGATE OF _____

Matthew 6.33 NIV

*"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all **these things** will be given to you as well."*

Q1. "Do I want to be blessed?"

Q2. "Do I need God's floodgate of provision to be wide-open in my life?"

Malachi 3:10b NIV

*Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and **pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.**"*

2 Corinthians 9:6 NIV

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Luke 6:38 NIV

*"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For **with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.**"*

Malachi 3:10-11 NIV

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty.

THE FLOODGATE OF FINANCIAL _____

Luke 16:11-12 NIV

So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?

And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

THE FLOODGATE OF _____

Now, God's timeframe can try our patience, can't it?

We reap:

1. What we sow
2. More than we sow
3. In a season after we sow.

God's timeframe is rarely instantaneous. No, there's a season of germination, growth, and maturity.

Malachi 3:17-18 NIV

17 "They will be mine," says the LORD Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him.

18 And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.

Life Scriptures for this week

Mon, Feb 6	Malachi 3.1-12
Tue, Feb 7	Malachi 3.13-18
Wed, Feb 8	Romans 15.1-5
Thu, Feb 9	Matthew 6..24-34
Fri, Feb 10	2 Corinthians 9.6-11
Sat, Feb 11	Luke 16.1-13
Sun, Feb 12	Luke 11.37-42

If you are not already on our LifeScriptures email distro list, pls contact us at info@EastonWorshipCenter.org and we be pleased to add you!



Pastor Information Exchange = PIE Meetings

Answers: Provision; Order; Identity