

Tithing

by Senior Pastor Jim Preisig

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Several of you commented on the extraordinary commitment that I made - the money back guarantee. It is really quite simple. God said in Malachi 3:10, "*Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.*"

As the people of faith, we stand with God. So please put the Lord to the test. Try tithing for one, two, three months. If at the end of that period of time, if you feel that the Lord hasn't been faithful in His promise and blessed you, simply drop the church a note and we will refund your gift. Why would we make such an outlandish offer; something unheard of in ecclesiastical circles? It is really very simple. People assume or suspect that when the church preaches stewardship it does so for self-serving motives.

In reality, the Bible teaches us to be generous because we desperately need to give, and to give generously, if we are to grow spiritually. The paradox of the Gospel is that when we give of ourselves we are blessed extravagantly by God.

This isn't a prosperity Gospel you hear from televangelists. God won't make you rich in worldly terms because you give, for that is wealth you cannot keep; God will bless you with that which is eternal. A good example is the people who ventured out on the last mission trip to New Orleans. One person was telling about the fatigue, adding quickly, "But we received so much more than we gave!" That is the truth of the Gospel — I guarantee it!