

GROWING IN GENEROSITY!

DOUG REED // FEBRUARY 26, 2017

The Blessing Test!

2 Corinthians 8:7 NIV'84 MEMORY VERSE

Acts 20:35 NIV'84

John 3:16 NIV'84

Giving is a loving act of worship; as well as an acknowledgment of who we trust and believe in—God Himself!

Life has less to do with how rich we are OR become BUT more with how we give and use our riches for God!

Romans 14:12 NLT

Three Questions to Answer:

1) Where did it all go?

2) What did I spend it on?

3) What has been accomplished for eternity through my use of all this wealth?

Luke 16:11 NLT

We look at God and say, "Can I trust you with my finances?" God looks at us and says, "Can I trust you with mine?"

It's NOT what we want from you but what we want for you that counts! A deeper and generous relationship with Jesus!

What is 'The Blessing Test?'

Deuteronomy 14:23b NLT

Chronicles 29:14b NIV'84

Goal: Being Jesus! Generously living and giving like He gave!

The Blessing Test – Malachi 3:6-10 –

Four Tithing Truths

Tithing Truth # 1: If we've turned away from God, return to Him!

Malachi 3:6a and 7 NIV'84

Tithing Truth # 2: By tithing, we give God what's already His!

Malachi 3:8 NIV'84

Proverbs 3:9-10a NIV'84

Malachi 1:8, 13b and 14b NIV'84

Tithing Truth # 3: By tithing, we position ourselves to be blessed!

Malachi 3:9-10 NIV'84

Tithing Truth # 4: So, test God! Go ahead, try the tithing challenge!

Take the 'Tithing Challenge!'

1st Step: Basic Level Giving

2nd Step: Obedience Level Giving

3rd Step: Sacrificial Level Giving

2 Corinthians 8:7 NIV'84 MEMORY VERSE

'The Blessing Test' all comes down to total trust in God rather than our self!

'So What?' Challenge: Reflect—Respond—Reach Out—Retell!

THE 'SO WHAT' CHALLENGE

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE:

"But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving." 2 Corinthians 8:7 NIV'84

REFLECT

Questions to reflect on in your personal quiet time, with the family and/or in your Life Group.

1) What one point personally stood out from the message and why?

2) Read 2 Cor. 8:7. Can we name someone who exhibits a life and heart of generosity? What stands out and why?

3) Discuss: Giving is a loving act of worship; an acknowledgment of who we trust and believe in—God Himself!

4) Discuss: Life has less to do with how rich we are OR become BUT more with how we give and use our riches for God!

5) Read Malachi 3:6-10. Discuss and apply the 'Four Tithing Truths'.

6) Challenge each other to the 'Tithing Challenge'! Do we trust God or not?

RESPOND

What personal response and/or possible life change do you have to what you have heard?

REACH OUT

In regards to what has been revealed to you, what intentional action can you take this week to impact someone else for Christ?

RETELL

Share how God has worked in you and through you with someone else – in personal conversation, in your Life Group or at c3ocala.com/retell.