

## **My Giving Makes A Statement Of What I Want**

### **Haggai 1:5-6 (NLT)**

**5 This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: Look at what's happening to you!**

**6 You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes!**

### **Haggai 1:9 (NLT)**

**9 You hoped for rich harvests, but they were poor. And when you brought your harvest home, I blew it away. Why? Because my house lies in ruins, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, while all of you are busy building your own fine houses.**

Last week, we put a new snack machine in the Youth & Family Center. However, we put it right next to the old snack machine, that was empty and out of order. Although, they look quite similar, one of them is full and in working order. The other is empty and is incapable of functioning properly. **We should all agree, that it matters which machine you give your money to.** Many Christians live their lives with this paradox. They have been expecting to receive, but they've been putting their money into a place that is incapable of giving them what they've been expecting. We can never arrive at a place of prosperity, if we give out of God's divine order. If prosperity is what we're expecting from God, we must learn what it takes to get there. Let's first define prosperity.

**Prosperity: Having more than enough of God's supply to complete His instructions for your life.**

With this in mind, let's examine: **My Giving Makes A Statement Of What I Want**

### **Malachi 3:10-11 (NASB)**

**10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,” says the Lord of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.**

**11 Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes,” says the Lord of hosts.**

**When you tithe, you can expect blessing, protection and God fighting on your behalf.** Tithe puts you in the right place positionally, to receive from God. The motivation to tithe comes from obedience and trust in God. God says, “if you tithe, I’ll bless you, protect you and fight the enemy for you.

**1. My tithe makes a statement of trust and obedience.**

**Isaiah 58:7-8 (NIV)**

**7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?**

**8 Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.**

**Proverbs 19:17 (NASB)**

**17 One who is gracious to a poor person lends to the Lord, And He will repay him for his good deed.**

**My alms giving makes a statement of compassion and responsibility. When you give alms you can expect repayment and healing from God.** Of all the giving, alms giving is not giving to God. It’s lending to the Lord. The motivation of alms giving comes from compassion and responsibility. As Christians, our mandate is that the stronger are supposed to bear the infirmities of the weak. There is no compassion if there is not first passion. God says, “If you give to the poor, I’ll heal you and pay you back everything you’ve given 1 to 1.”

**2. My alms giving makes a statement of compassion and responsibility.**

**Proverbs 3:9-10 (NKJV)**

**9 Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase;**

**10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.**

**When you give first fruits you can expect God to honor you with increased opportunities for increase.** First fruits giving is mentioned 31 times in the Bible. It's important to God. So, it's important to us. The motivation for first fruits giving comes from generosity. I can only give first fruits when there has been increase. It shows God I'm not in love with money. It expresses my love for God and His Word. The Bible reminds us, "Seek ye first God's way and then all these things will be added." When we honor God with first fruits, He honors us with creative ideas, witty inventions and open doors for increase.

**3. My first fruits giving make a statement of honor, priority and generosity.**

**Mark 4:3 (NASB)**

**3 "Listen to this! Behold, the sower went out to sow;**

**Mark 4:8 (NASB)**

**8 Other seeds fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold."**

**When you sow seed you can expect that after some time you will receive 30, 60 or 100-fold harvest from what you've given.** Our sowing is where we determine what we expect to receive. Tithe, first fruits and alms cannot produce what seed can. The motivation for seed giving is faith and reward. Sowing seed can stop lack and poverty in their tracks. Your

see must be relative to the harvest you want to receive. If you have big vision and enormous expectations, your seed needs to match what you see in your spirit.

#### **4. My seed giving makes a statement of vision and expectation.**

All month, we've been in a teaching series entitled: **Bank Statements**. Rather we realize it or not, there is something always speaking for us when we're not around. It's our Bank Statement. How and where we give makes a statement of what we want.