

October 4th, 2020

Scripture: Malachi 3:7-10

Introduction: Today we continue with the sermon series on Stewardship. For the first part of October, we will try to uncover some of the mysteries surrounding "SPONGE". Today we are going to talk about GIVING.

1. Give the Gift of a Cheerful Disposition.
2. Give the Gift of Laughter – "A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the borne." (Proverbs 17:22 NIV). Example: share funny stories, a good joke and cartoons.
3. Give the Gift of a Compliment
4. Give the Gift of Listening

Giving According to Prophet Malachi:

1. **We should give sincerely.**

Prophet Malachi wanted the twelve tribes of Israel to be sincere in their GIVING of tithes and offerings.



In Malachi 3:10, God tells us that when we bring our tithes (10% of our income, first fruits) into His storehouse, He will open the windows of heaven for us and pour out to us great blessing that there will not be enough room to contain it.

The topic of tithing for so long has been a debate among Christians. They argue that it was an old Testament tradition and not New Testament.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:7-8 NIV)

2. **We should give humbly and quietly.**

"But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." (Matthew 6:3-4 NIV)

Giving to the work of God is an investment with eternal rewards for both the giver and the beneficiary of the gift.