



# MY GREATEST DAY OF FAITH

## FAITH WITH GRATEFULNESS

Malachi 3 and 2 Corinthians 8 & 9

June 11, 2023

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### MESSAGE NOTES

#### **BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING AND BLESSED EVEN MORE.**

*Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. And thereby put Me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. — Malachi 3:10 (ESV)*

*“Behold, I send My messenger, and He will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the Lord of hosts. — Malachi 3:1 (ESV)*

*“From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord of hosts. But you say, “How shall we return?” — Malachi 3:7 (ESV)*

*— Malachi 3:10 (ESV)*

*We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. — 2 Corinthians 8:1 – 2 (ESV)*

#### **Qualities of generosity from a blessed heart:**

- **Blessed giving comes from eager hearts**

*For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints. — 2 Corinthians 8:3 – 4 (ESV)*

- **Blessed giving comes from surrendered hearts**

*... and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. — 2 Corinthians 8:5 (ESV)*

- **Blessed giving comes from joyful hearts**

*Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. — 2 Corinthians 9:7 (ESV)*

- **Blessed giving comes from testifying hearts**

*By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, — 2 Corinthians 9:13 (ESV)*



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- **Take our next faith step in joyful generosity with God together**

— *Malachi 3:10 (ESV)*

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Discussion Starter: Share an example of how someone has blessed you financially and what you felt as a result.
- Read Malachi 3:10. Describe what the principle of the tithe is in the Bible and how God uses it in the local church today.
- What are some of the barriers of generosity in everyday life? What are some of the joys of giving in the name of Christ to meet unexpected needs around us?
- Pastor Jon said, “We are blessed to be a blessing and blessed even more.” He called it a “blessing explosion.” Who is always the main blessing? What are some of the potential blessings of living a generous life?
- What was your biggest take away from the message this week?
- Read 2 Corinthians 9:13. How is a heart and life of generosity connected to “testifying” to the resurrection of Christ (to us and others around us).
- Read 2 Corinthians 8:1 – 4. What can we learn from the example of the people in the church of Macedonia?
- Pray: Take some time to pray for the ministries of ENCOUNTER as God leads you (Vacation Bible School, Camp Pondo for our students, Global Partners, Celebrate Recovery, small groups, Women and Men’s ministries, local outreaches, etc.)