



Out of Order – Message 6

Warm-up

How do you feel about money? Do you think a person's relationship with money has anything to do with his or her relationship with God?

Overview

Over the last few weeks of the *Unseen* series, we have explored what the Bible says about the spiritual realm, our authority as believers, the role of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life, and who angels are. In Message 6, we will discover more about living a life of order—through tithing. Let's learn and see how to handle money God's way.

Word and Application

What Is Tithing?

Tithing is giving the first 10% of your income (and increase) to God through your local church.

Four Things About Tithing

1. Tithing is giving back to God what already belongs to Him.
Read Zechariah 1:3, Isaiah 55:6-7 and Malachi 3:7. One way to put our lives in order is to pay to God what we owe Him. He is our provider. What might prevent some believers from tithing regularly? Describe your attitude toward tithing. How do these scriptures and the truth that the tithe belongs to God change your view of tithing?
2. Your tithe enables your church to thrive.
Read Malachi 3:10 and Proverbs 3:9-10. Another way to put our lives in order is to be part of the church's efforts to help those in our communities. How would you defend the principle of tithing to someone who is unfamiliar with this truth?

3. Your tithe has the favor of God on it for your life.

Read Malachi 3:10 and Deuteronomy 28:12. God is faithful and promises to bless us if we are obedient by tithing. In your own words, what does it mean to have the *favor of God* on your life? Are you inviting God to open the windows of heaven in your life?

4. Tithing is not a money issue; it's a trust issue.

Do you agree with this statement? Explain.

Read Psalm 32:10, Matthew 6:31-33, Jeremiah 17:7-8, and Psalm 37:3. When we tithe we show God that we trust Him for provision and not worldly resources. What are some practical ways we can increase our trust in the faithfulness of God?

The world tells us that we should spend our money in the following way. When it comes to finances, in which of these areas does your focus lie? Rank the below items in order of financial priority to you.

1. Spend it
2. Pay bills/ debt
3. Pay taxes
4. Save/ invest it
5. Give it

The Christian way that we should spend our money is as follows. Does either of these areas come easy or hard for you? Explain.

1. Give it (TITHE)
2. Save/ invest it (STEWARDSHIP)
3. Pay taxes (CITIZENSHIP)
4. Pay bills/ debt (RESPONSIBILITY)
5. Spend it (SELF-CARE)

We can be confident that our God is faithful to bless us as we are obedient to Him in our relationship with money and resources.

Life Challenge

Spend time in prayer asking God to fully open your heart to trust Him as your source and sole provider.

- If you do not tithe, meditate on the scriptures from this lesson then commit to testing God with regular tithing and watch how God fulfills His Word.
- If you already tithe, ask God to show you any areas in which you can grow in generosity that is pleasing to Him.

Prayer

Pray for the specific needs of the group.