



# MALACHI

*A Call For Pure Devotion*



# Further Insults to God by Israel

*Malachi 3:1-15*

# Malachi: Theme

“They [Israel] were all too ready to make ethical compromises and to dilute the strenuous demands of proper worship. In response to the cynicism and religious malaise of his contemporaries, Malachi’s prophecy comes as a wake-up call to renewed covenant fidelity.”

(ESV Study Bible: *Introduction to Malachi*)



# Disputes #5 and #6

- **Giving** ~ Necessary to turn back to God
  - Begins with tithing (Lev 27:30) and offerings
  - Reminder about God's love, glory, & worthiness
- **Pointlessness** ~ Getting 'un-anchored'
  - "The wicked succeed and God does nothing," they say
  - Good is called evil and evil good

# Two Key Verses

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. //

Behold, I am sending you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of the Lord.

(Malachi 3:1 + 4:5 ESV)

# 2 Kings 2:1, 11, 12

And it came about when the Lord was about to take up Elijah by a whirlwind to heaven ...

As they were going along and talking ... behold there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven...and [Elisha] saw him no more.

# Was John the Baptist Elijah?

- On the affirmative side
  - Jesus' own testimony about him  
Matt 11:9-10 / Luke 7:27
  - Popular sentiment Mark 6:15
  - Post-transfiguration answer  
Mark 9:11-13 and Matt 17:10-13
- On the negative side
  - John has own father and mother
  - Only in the “spirit and power of Elijah” Luke 1:13-17
  - “...like a prophet of old...”  
Mark 6:15 not the prophet of old

*What are your thoughts?*

# Two Dramatic Reversals?

#1 – “The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple” BUT “Who can endure?” “Who can stand...?” “I will draw near to you for judgment...”

#2 – “For I, the Lord, do not change, therefore you, O sons of Jacob, have not met your end / been consumed.”

*What is your take on verse 6? What is our typical context when using this phrase? Is that accurate?*



# **Malachi's Two Vital Questions**

**#1 – Have you been robbing / defrauding God?**

**#2 – Does your life indicate that you feel it's futile to serve the Lord your God?**

# Financial Stewardship 101

- Finances are a “watershed” for attitude
  - Whose money is it really? (Deut 8:11-20)
  - Who controls “the devourer”? (Mal 3:11)
- He who trusts in the Lord will prosper (Prov 28:25)
- Everybody’s financial bucket has holes!
  - Some are self-made; some are God allowed
  - How does He call you to live vs. how does the World call you to live?

# Giving and Tithing 101

- Discussing “tithing” can be triggering, why?
  - It’s a type of sacrifice, even today
  - *Tithe* = a tenth (Lev 27:30) (Neh 13:10-12) (Deut 14:22)
  - Burnt offerings, sacrifices, tithes, heave offerings, votive offerings, freewill offerings, firstborn of herd and flock -- Deut 12:6 list
- He who is generous will be blessed (Prov 22:9)
- Giving reveals your heart; God’s prescription is
  - *Shawb* “return, turn back from, turn to (God)”
  - If you will draw near, He will draw near”
  - James 4:3-10 summary – remember the watershed...

# James 4:3-6

[3] You ask and do not receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your own pleasures, [4] You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. [5] Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose, “He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us”? [6] But He gives a greater grace. Therefore, it says “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”



# James 4:7-10

[7] Submit, therefore, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [8] Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you doubleminded. [9] Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy into gloom. [10] Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord and He will exalt you. (NASB 95)

# **Review the Vital Questions**

**#1 – Have you been robbing / defrauding God in any way?**

**#2 – Does your life indicate, by attitude or actions, that you feel it's futile to serve the Lord your God?**

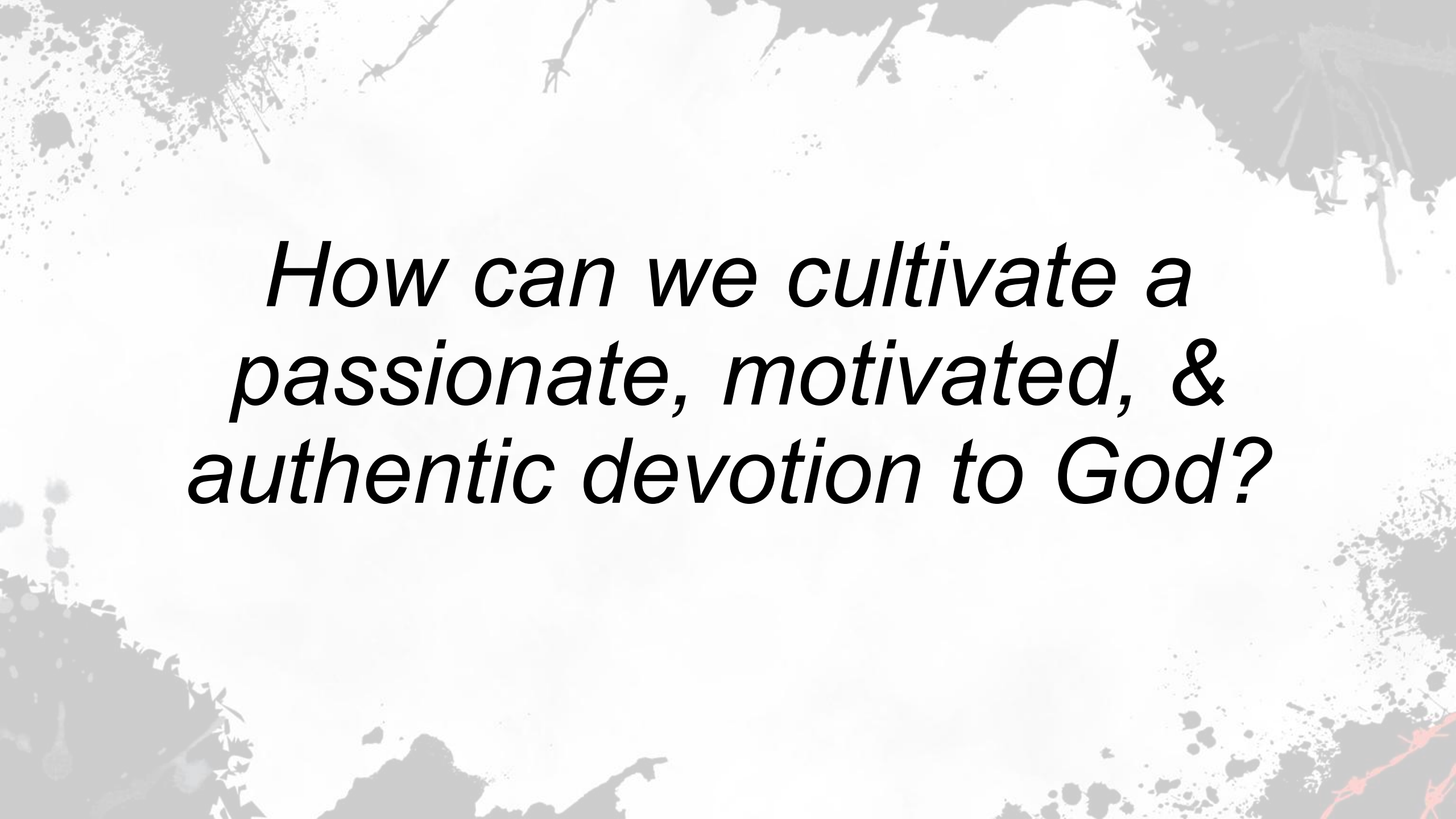


*Are the two questions related,  
in light of what James wrote?*

# Malachi 3:14 & 15

[14] “You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept His charge, and that we have walked in mourning before the Lord of hosts? [15] So now we call the arrogant blessed; not only are the doers of wickedness built up, but they also test God and escape.’”





*How can we cultivate a  
passionate, motivated, &  
authentic devotion to God?*

# Steps Towards God

1. Recognize that everything you are and have is ultimately from the Lord Himself
2. Recognize & recount the unconditional & faithful nature of His love towards you
3. Think about times He has shown Himself or intervened in times of trouble for you

Hence, the *Book of Remembrance* in V16



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