

LIFT **“LIFT OUR HEARTS”**

Word of Year: Every Year Since 2013!

-2026 CHURCH: LIFT

LIFT: To take hold of and raise something in order to remove, carry, or move it to a different position.

John F. Kennedy said the famous quote, “The rising tide lifts all boats”

-He was talking about the financial economy....

.....I am talking about the spiritual economy!

-Praying for community Impact! (Light in the darkness)

-Week 1: LIFT OUR EYES (PRAYING FOR MIRACLES)

Psalm 121:1-2 I lift up my eyes to the mountains- where does my help come from? 2My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

-I HAVE GREAT FAITH DREAMS FOR 2026!!!!

-Week 2: LIFT OUR HANDS (WE NEED EACH OTHER)

-Isolation affects us emotionally, relationally, physically and spiritually

-Moses, Joshua, Aaron & Hur and the soldiers saw victory TOGETHER as Moses Hands were extended in surrender to Heaven!

-Week 3: LIFT OUR EARS! (RADIO)

God speaks through His Word, through His Spirit, through wise counsel, and sometimes through circumstances.

Samuel: “Speak Lord, your servant is listening”

Listening plus Obedience brings Blessing (TRANSFORMATION)

TODAY: LIFT OUR HEARTS

More than ANYTHING.....GOD WANTS OUR HEARTS!

GOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT PROTECTING OUR HEARTS!

Luke 6:36-38 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Let's put it all together:

-be merciful	-show kindness & forgiveness
-don't judge	-form an opinion or conclusion about
-don't condemn	-sentence to punishment
-forgive	-stop feeling angry or resentful for an offense
-GIVE	-freely transfer or hand over

THESE ARE ALL HEART ISSUES!

Verse 38 “For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

-WE GET TO DECIDE ON THE DOSE!

Not only in the context of money here.....about giving mercy and forgiveness & HAVING A GENEROUS HEART!

(THE REAL EVIL) -Greed, power, and control rule our earth!
(FOLLOW THE MONEY)

1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Not money.....but the LOVE of money.

Matthew 19:23-26 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “I tell you the truth, it is very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.²⁴ I’ll say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!”

-WHY? Because money can become our idol.....even our God!

- We put our trust in it!
- We put our hope and future in it!
- We give it continual attention! BECOMES OUR #1

The Lord cares about our hearts and what holds us captive!

-EVERYTHING ON THAT LIST CAN HOLD OUR HEARTS CAPTIVE!

I OFTEN APOLOGIZE WHEN I TALK ABOUT MONEY!

-Last time was the series in May of 2024 (Jeff March 2025 JIREH)

MY HEART: "It's not what I want FROM you.....
...It's what I want FOR you!"

FREEDOM! TRUE FREEDOM

FOR MANY-MONEY HAS A WEIGHT ON US AND EFFECTS OUR HEART!

-It CONTROLS so many of us! STRESS US OUT!!!

How important is it?

1 in every 6 verses in the NT are about money

16 of the 38 parables Jesus taught us with are about money & possessions

Verses about faith...about 500

-prayer—500/

-money—over 2,000

Matthew 6: 19-21 "Don't store up for yourselves treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For wherever your treasure is, there your heart will also be.

MONEY CAN MAKE PEOPLE CHANGE!

-Treat & look at people differently!

-Sometimes brings out the worst! CORRUPTION!

SO TODAY.....LET'S LOOK AT SOME TRUTH TO PROTECT OUR HEARTS!

Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

CONTEXT: (verses 19-21)Treasures in heaven, worry on this earth

-very poor crowd....lived day to day!

-Something to be said about prioritization

“First things First” (TO GET IT DONE)

1) The Principal of the first fruits

A PRINCIPAL FROM 3500 YEARS AGO:

-First Fruits (THEY WERE FARMERS)

Proverbs 3:9-10 Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; ¹⁰then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

-Honor God FIRST and THEN he will increase the rest!

Every culture in every time of History has relied on some sort of currency of trading and monetary value. (GOLD/SILVER/BRONZE.....\$\$\$\$\$)

-A Principal that started 3500 years ago:

Leviticus 27:30 “A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.”

-The TITHE Belongs to God.....so we RETURN it to him (not give)

Exodus 23:19 “Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the Lord your God.

-notice the word BEST (not the left overs)

-notice also where it goes.....to the House of the Lord your God (church)

-THE TITHE IS ALL THROUGH SCRIPTURE! (Predates the Law)

Genesis 14:18-20 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High,¹⁹ and he blessed Abram, saying, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. ²⁰ And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.” Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

-This was 500 years before the law Abraham was the first!

Genesis 28:20-22 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear ²¹ so that I return safely to my father’s household, then the Lord^[f] will be my God ²² and^[g] this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God’s house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.”

-400 years before the Law of Moses!

Leviticus 27:30 “A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.”

-The TITHE Belongs to God.....so we RETURN it to him (not give)

Fore Fathers: Abraham.....Isaac.....Jacob! (Name changed to Israel)

-Israel had 12 sons that became the 12 tribes of Israel!

-THEN...God gave them the land he had promised to Abraham

-There were 12 sons, but that is not how the land was given

-12 Brothers: land split by 10 bros, Joseph's boys each got land

-THAT LEFT THE LEVITES

Numbers 18:21 “I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the tent of meeting.

-The Levites did the work of the Lord (Jesus talked about priests & Levites)

NOW: **-Some say Tithing is OT.....not the New Covenant!**

-for most it is just an excuse to give less! (Free from the law)

Acts 4:32-35 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

-SO YOU CAN CHOOSE!!!!

2) Listening plus Obedience brings Blessing! (Transformation)

Malachi 3:6-12 “For I am the Lord, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.⁷ Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances And have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” Says the Lord of hosts. “But you said, ‘In what way shall we return?’⁸ “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’

In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me,

PRETTY STRAIGHT FORWARD! THEY KNEW THE RULES!

Malachi 3:10—Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, 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 such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.

-Our test: Bring ALL the tithes to the storehouse!

-We can shift lenses on our finances!

-Paying taxes: try to look POOR on paper!

-Getting a loan: try to look RICH on paper!

-IT IS A HEART THING.....Just be honest!

HUGE: SO.....Tithing tests our hearts. (every paycheck)

-tithe: Hebrew word 10th part

INTERESTING NOTE: why a percentage.....

.....because it is fair to everyone!

-The Same exact test for everyone

-So, God set up His plan to fund Ministry and Worship here on Earth

-And that plan helps KEEP our Hearts in a good place!

AND.....IT'S THE ONLY PLACE GOD SAYS "TEST ME"

HUGE: We Believe that 90% blessed will go further than 100% on our own!

*IT BUILD'S OUR FAITH!! (SUPER-NATURAL)

So: First: Understand The Principal of First Fruits
Second: Listening PLUS Obedience brings Blessing

3) **We invite God into our finances!** (Instead of doing it on our own)

TITHING MAKES OUR MONEY STRETCH AND GO FURTHER!

Malachi 3:10-12 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, 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 such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.

¹¹ "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the Lord of hosts; ¹² "And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land," Says the Lord of hosts.

Verse 10: I will open the windows of Heaven and pour out Blessing!

-Such a blessing there will not be room enough to receive it!

Verse 11: I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes!

Verse 12: All nations will call you blessed! IMPACT

GOD'S DESIGN WAS BRILLIANT:

-Everyone gives 10% to the work of the Lord.

-He will take the 90% and stretch it further than the 100%

-FREE MONEY! People will see that you are blessed!

-AND YOU ARE BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING!!

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO OUR CRITICAL MINDS!

Proverbs 3:5-10 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. ⁷Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.

⁸This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

⁹Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the FIRST FRUITS of all your CROPS; ¹⁰then your barns will be filled to OVERFLOWING, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

GOD WANTS TO PARTNER WITH YOU!

-God the creator of all the universe.....will Rebuke the devourer!

That is a pretty good business partner to have!

-Farmers spend money on weed and pest control and irrigation!

-w/o it....their profits go down the drain!

***Imagine a company came along and said.....if you give me 10% of the crop.....I will protect it from weeds and pests!**

-you would probably come out ahead even though it costs you something!

Malachi 3:11-12 “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,” Says the Lord of hosts; ¹²“And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land,” Says the Lord of hosts.

WE ARE TALKING COMPLETE MIND CHANGE HERE!!

-Financial overhaul! TRUE FREEDOM!

-It simply says it is yours...not mine and I trust you.

PERSONAL: I STILL STRESS ABOUT FINANCES!!!!

-BUT.....I HAVE A PARTNER!

GOD WANTS TO BLESS US!!!!!! BUT WE NEED TO DO OUR PART!

-I love as a parent doing MATCHING with my kids! (do their part)

HARD TO FOLLOW THROUGH WHEN THEY DON'T!!

Problem: Many people are MISSING OUT ON THE BLESSING!

HEART RESPONSE:

3 ATTITUDES ABOUT MONEY IN THIS ROOM:

**First-It is mine and I share w/ God when I want to
(I give a bit to do my part)**

**Second-I share my money w/ God because I have to
(I give out of discipline/guilt)**

**Third-It's all God's, and He shares w/ me!
(The most freeing place to live)**

-takes the pressure off of our shoulders!

RESPONSE:

LIFT: To take hold of and raise something in order to remove, carry, or move it to a different position.

CHALLENGE AS WE ALL TAKE A STEP FORWARD TOGETHER!

(FROM MAY 2024)

Emerging: Give sometimes when you come.....KB giving.

Consistent: Set up auto-plan (FIRST FRUITS)

Intentional: Idea: 1% increase each month (10 month tithing plan)

Tither: Gives 10% of income

Sacrificial: Tither and Over & Above (KB & Building)

Legacy: Make a long lasting investment through your company or assets.

**-STOCKS, COMPANY SHARES, IRA DONATIONS, BIT COIN
CHALLENGE: \$100,000 MATCH FOR “NEW PLEDGES”**

FOR EVERYONE: WHAT IS YOUR NEXT STEP?

