



Finances and the Fear Factor

September 19, 2021 ✨ Wonderful Mercy Church

Three Truths and a Lie

- **Lie:** We won't have enough, God won't provide
- **Truth:** God is our leading economic indicator
- **Truth:** God is willing to protect and provide for us
- **Truth:** when fear is ruling us, we don't have a money problem—we have a relationship problem





Kevin's Story

- Financial, Employment, and Life Event History (1993 – 1997)
- Attending Nativity Lutheran Church (late 1996/early 1997)
- Noticed that most every sermon felt like Graeme knew me personally—the messages challenged me and/or made me think deeper about my life
- Graeme shared a sermon about tithing that featured **Malachi 3:10**: “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. **Test me in this,**” says the Lord Almighty, “**and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.**”

Kevin's Story: The Tithing Challenge

- Discussing the desire to tithe with my wife
 - The Budget Challenge
 - What we decided to do
 - What we did a week after making our decision





Kevin's Story: The Tithing Challenge Results

within a few years...

- Household income nearly doubled
- Completed backyard landscaping including a pool
- No loans (except mortgage) and no longer paying PMI for mortgage
- Replaced sports cars with new Chevy Malibu and new Dodge Grand Caravan in preparation to raise a family
- Increased desire and ability to help and bless others as we felt led by God

Kevin's Story: The Tithing Challenge Results

2000-2014...

- Through depression while living in a rental house / building a new house / supported by a single income (2004-2005)
- Beyond tithing during the initial Wonderful Mercy capital campaign
- While divorced (2010-2014)
 - Inheritance from my parents
 - MBA in Servant Leadership at Grand Canyon University
 - “Brother Kevin”





Kevin's Story: The Tithing Challenge Results

While married to Marisa (2014-present)...

- Blessed with a wife that is in full support of tithing
- Blessed when God leads us to help others
- Blessed by God's many provisions to pay for the education of our children without the need for loans
- Blessed to be working on the same Engineering team / solution since 1997

1 Kings 17:9 NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

“Go and live in the village of Zarephath, near the city of Sidon. I have instructed a widow there to feed you.”



1 Kings 17:13-16

NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

But Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid! Go ahead and do just what you’ve said, but make a little bread for me first. Then use what’s left to prepare a meal for yourself and your son.”¹⁴ For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: There will always be flour and olive oil left in your containers until the time when the Lord sends rain and the crops grow again!”¹⁵ So she did as Elijah said, and she and Elijah and her family continued to eat for many days.¹⁶ There was always enough flour and olive oil left in the containers, just as the Lord had promised through Elijah.



Money is One of the Ways Satan Attacks

Matthew 13:22 “Now the one sown among the thorns—this is one who hears the word, but the worries of this age and the seduction of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”

HOLMAN CHRISTIAN STANDARD BIBLE

When Satan tempts Jesus, what does he offer him but wealth? “all the kingdoms of this world”
[Matthew 4:8]





Matthew 16:26

THE AMPLIFIED BIBLE

“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world [wealth, fame, success], but forfeits his soul?”

Matthew 6:25-26 NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

“That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are?”





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