



**“THE TRUST TEST” // Malachi 3:6-12  
Scott Farmer // August 22-23, 2015**

**Opening Remarks**

Money and religion have a long and checkered relationship. The fact that Jesus said more about money than about heaven, hell, prayer, faith, and love suggests that He knows just how important this topic is to us!

How we use money is a leading indicator of what we value, hope, fear, love.

Today we ask your small group to walk into the inevitable tension you feel about your money and faith. Who/what do you trust? Who/what do you fear?

I hope you enjoy [most of] this conversation [by the end]!

**Warm it up**

1] When you hear “tithe” what do you feel? What do you think?

**Talk it over**

- 2] Read Malachi 3:6-12. How is “returning” to the Lord related to “tithing” in this passage?
- 3] Why do you suppose God invites people to “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse ... test me in this” issue of tithing? [Normally, God commands that people should not test him – Matthew 4:7; Deuteronomy 6:16].
- 4] What three benefits should we expect when we tithe [vv. 10-12]? Can you explain each and relate them to the act of tithing?
- 5] How does Jesus view tithing in Matthew 23:23?
- 6] How should you think about the human recipients of your tithe to God? [Scott spoke to this issue. Malachi 1-3 also provides cultural and religious context of this call to tithe into God’s storehouse.]

**Work it out**

Scott introduced the “Trust Test” [See below]

How ready are you to take up this “trust test” with God? Are you ready to check any of the three options? Why or why not?

**Wrap it up**

Congratulations. You are beginning a very important conversation which followers of Christ need to engage in caring and prayerful community. I trust you are listening and speaking with mutual respect and prayerful care. God wants His best for your life. God does not need any of your money. He wants you to experience spiritual blessing, material support, and expanding influence. Return to Him expectantly. Tithing is a leading indicator, a trust test.

**Pray it through**

Pray the Lord’s Prayer together in light of your group’s conversation.

**THE TRUST TEST**

*“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 you will not have room enough for it.”*

*Malachi 3:10*

**YOUR PART**

Please Note: *YOUR PART COMES FIRST*

- You commit to give 10% (or more) of your income for a period of 90 days.
- Each time you receive income, you give your tithe (10% or more) for the Lord’s work.

**CPC’S PART**

- If at the end of 90 days you feel your decision was a mistake or you did not receive a blessing, we will give any money you gave to CPC back promptly. (Donations must be attached to your name. Email [myra@cpcdanville.org](mailto:myra@cpcdanville.org) for refund)
- That’s all there is to it. Remember: you have made a money-back guarantee – you have nothing to lose!

*Scott Farmer*

Pastor’s signature on behalf of the Session of CPC

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**THE TRUST TEST**

Recognizing God’s ownership and my stewardship and wanting the blessings promised, I hereby choose to accept God’s Trust Test.

For 90 days I will give 10% or more of my income to the Lord.

- I want to begin moving toward tithing and will take a next step
- I will begin giving 10% or more
- I already give 10% or more and will continue

If you would like the pastors to pray specifically for you in this process, please write your name below:

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