

## **TEXT: PROVERBS 3:9-10**

### **THEME: HONORING GOD WITH THE 1<sup>ST</sup> FRUIT**

**PROPOSITION:** *The secret of having your stores filled to overflow is through bringing your first fruit of your produce to the Lord in form of tithe.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

I once asked a professor what makes such learned persons come to sit in the church and listen to someone who is less educated than them and even do as they are told? Is it not irrational to come to listen to such persons? This professor told me they don't come to listen to the less educated person preaching or speaking to them. They come to listen to God speaking to them through this person and do what God says.

Abraham brought a tithe to Melchizedek and was blessed Hebrews 7: in Galatians 3:6 Abraham was regarded as righteous by God when he offered his son Isaac by faith. It looked very irrational. (Illustration – The Niagara falls incident) He is a father of faith. Passing the baton of Faith is having people emulate what fathers of faith did.

It sometimes looks very irrational to do some of the things that God has commanded us to do in the Bible. One of these is paying your tithe to God. This is because God rebukes the devourer and the destroyer.

A doctor built a hospital and worked very hard to build a gynecology unit. He kept investing and working very hard at the hospital. The doctor would be at the hospital caring for the different patients day and night. One day he asked his nurse to wheel the scanner to the bedside of a patient. This nurse pushed the delicate expensive machine carelessly and it fell over. The new expensive equipment this doctor had acquired was suddenly destroyed along with thousands of hard earned money. In one moment the hard earned income of this doctor went down the drain. God promises to protect you

from such losses when you pay your tithe. In an hour's time all your work and profit can come to nothing. The blessing of the tithe is to have the destroyer rebuked.

*“And I will rebuke the destroyer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.” (Malachi 3:11)*

1. There are consequences of not obeying God. Leviticus 26:14-19. The HEAVENS WILL BECOME LIKE IRON AND THE EARTH LIKE BRONZE. You cannot expect anything from an iron heaven. Heavens have clouds that bring water for the crops and sustenance. It means you will have nothing. You cannot expect anything from a bronze earth, you plant and get nothing out of it. Yet it is the one supposed to sustain you.
2. When you tithe you cause the heavens to be opened over your life and blessings are poured out of them. (Malachi 3:10)
3. When you tithe you cause the heavens to be opened and the devourer is rebuked. (Malachi 3:11). This is one of the greatest blessings of having the devourer rebuked. The creation of wealth is not dependent on how much you earn but on how much goes out of your hand. Many people earn a lot but pay out a lot more. It is evident that people with high salaries often do not have money to spend. Because the established devourer eats away everything.
4. When you tithe you cause the heavens to be opened and the destroyer is restrained. (3:11)
5. God will entrust you with the weightier matters of Justice, Mercy and faithfulness. (Matthew 23:23)