

Commandment # 9—False Witness 3: Lightning Round

16 “You shall not testify falsely [that is, lie, withhold, or manipulate the truth] against your neighbor (any person). (AMP)

This lesson section on “False Witness” in part is about tithes and tithing, but a lot of this section is on faithfulness in giving and the courage in faith to do so.

Tithe: This is a British term meaning tenth. The dictionary says this:

Tithe: (often pl) (Christianity) a tenth part of agricultural or other produce, personal income, or profits, contributed either voluntarily or as a tax for the support of the church or clergy or for charitable purposes

We will now see a clip from the Simpsons episode **Viva Ned Flanders**.

Cartoon Link:

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/159/Lightning1.webm

What do you see in the clip?

Reverend Lovejoy doesn't think that the church is getting the full 10% of the tithe due.

How would a good church fix this issue; is an audit the answer?

Not necessarily, in fact, I am a firm believer that you can give a tenth of your net income as long as you give a tenth of the tax return at the end of a fiscal year. In my opinion, when you tithe out of gross income when getting money back at the end of the fiscal year, that tax return is already counted and doesn't need to be given an offering from unless led to by God.

Note about waiters/waitress, self employed etc. who actually pay taxes at the end of the fiscal year (an educated guess):

If you are a waiter or waitress, self-employed etc who may pay at the end of a fiscal year, giving an offering by paying of your gross pay probably is the best way; this is before the state and federal taxes take their bite out of your money (on average, these governmental taxes equal about 20%-30% in the U.S. unfortunately.

Anything given as a tithe or offering above and beyond is definitely a cheerful love offering to where you serve to ensure the smooth sailing of the cause for any kind of tithe or offering. This kind of tithing from the pay of these types of jobs however is definitely more faith intensive in my opinion because sometimes you don't know how much of a tax bill you might receive. When you are in this situation you must depend on God to make up any lack possibly even more so than other people who don't need to tithe in this way.

If we go back to Rev. Lovejoy's comments, he is also not paying attention to the fact that some people may be using their tithes correctly for ministry or helping the community. Rev. Lovejoy might need to ask questions first really before an audit.

Why is tithing important?

As the definition tells us, a tithe is important because it ensures the smooth operation of a church and/or ministry and is not wrong, but it's even more biblical to feed the poor, needy, hungry etc. of the community.

The actual tithe seems to be of the best of produce and grain, so as to feed everyone including the priests (eating the holy consecrated part of the harvest, which we will get to shortly). Money seems to be more of an offering than tithe and is almost if not just as important as a tithe for the maintenance and smooth running of the place of worship, although some of the offering would be definitely useful as a tithe to fuel those projects and

ministries and should be used as such when appropriate.

In the book of Deuteronomy 14: 22-29 and 26 (ASV), we see the true function of the tithe.

Deu 14:22 Thou shalt surely tithe all the increase of thy seed, that which cometh forth from the field year by year.

Deu 14:23 And thou shalt eat before Jehovah thy God, in the place which he shall choose, to cause his name to dwell there, the tithe of thy grain, of thy new wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herd and of thy flock; that thou mayest learn to fear Jehovah thy God always.

Deu 14:24 And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it, because the place is too far from thee, which Jehovah thy God shall choose, to set his name there, when Jehovah thy God shall bless thee;

Deu 14:25 then shalt thou turn it into money, and bind up the money in thy hand, and shalt go unto the place which Jehovah thy God shall choose:

Deu 14:26 and thou shalt bestow the money for whatsoever thy soul desireth, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul asketh of thee; and thou shalt eat there before Jehovah thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou and thy household.

Deu 14:27 And the Levite that is within thy gates, thou shalt not forsake him; for he hath no portion nor inheritance with thee.

Deu 14:28 At the end of every three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase in the same year, and shalt lay it up within thy gates:

Deu 14:29 and the Levite, because he hath no portion nor inheritance with thee, and the sojourner, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that Jehovah thy God may bless thee in all the work of thy hand which thou doest.

Deu 26:1 And it shall be, when thou art come in unto the land which Jehovah thy God giveth thee for an inheritance, and possessest it, and dwellest therein,

Deu 26:2 that thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which thou shalt bring in from thy land that Jehovah thy God giveth thee; and thou shalt put it in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which Jehovah thy God shall choose, to cause his name to dwell there.

Deu 26:3 And thou shalt come unto the priest that shall be in those days, and say unto him, I profess this day unto Jehovah thy God, that I am come unto the land which Jehovah sware unto our fathers to give us.

Deu 26:4 And the priest shall take the basket out of thy hand and set it down before the altar of Jehovah thy God.

Deu 26:5 And thou shalt answer and say before Jehovah thy God, A Syrian ready to perish was my father; and he went down into Egypt, and sojourned there, few in number; and he became there a nation, great, mighty, and populous.

Deu 26:6 And the Egyptians dealt ill with us, and afflicted us, and laid upon us hard bondage:

Deu 26:7 and we cried unto Jehovah, the God of our fathers, and Jehovah heard our voice, and saw

our affliction, and our toil, and our oppression;
Deu 26:8 and Jehovah brought us forth out of
Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched
arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs,
and with wonders;

Deu 26:9 and he hath brought us into this place,
and hath given us this land, a land flowing with
milk and honey.

Deu 26:10 And now, behold, I have brought the
first of the fruit of the ground, which thou, O
Jehovah, hast given me. And thou shalt set it down
before Jehovah thy God, and worship before
Jehovah thy God:

Deu 26:11 and thou shalt rejoice in all the good
which Jehovah thy God hath given unto thee, and
unto thy house, thou, and the Levite, and the
sojourner that is in the midst of thee.

Deu 26:12 When thou hast made an end of tithing
all the tithe of thine increase in the third year,
which is the year of tithing, then thou shalt give it
unto the Levite, to the sojourner, to the fatherless,
and to the widow, that they may eat within thy
gates, and be filled.

Deu 26:13 And thou shalt say before Jehovah thy God, I have put away the hallowed things out of my house, and also have given them unto the Levite, and unto the sojourner, to the fatherless, and to the widow, according to all thy commandment which thou hast commanded me: I have not transgressed any of thy commandments, neither have I forgotten them:

Deu 26:14 I have not eaten thereof in my mourning, neither have I put away thereof, being unclean, nor given thereof for the dead: I have hearkened to the voice of Jehovah my God; I have done according to all that thou hast commanded me.

Deu 26:15 Look down from thy holy habitation, from heaven, and bless thy people Israel, and the ground which thou hast given us, as thou swarest unto our fathers, a land flowing with milk and honey.

Deu 26:16 This day Jehovah thy God commandeth thee to do these statutes and ordinances: thou shalt therefore keep and do them with all thy heart, and with all thy soul.

Deu 26:17 Thou hast avouched Jehovah this day to be thy God, and that thou wouldest walk in his ways, and keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his ordinances, and hearken unto his voice:

Deu 26:18 and Jehovah hath avouched thee this day to be a people for his own possession, as he hath promised thee, and that thou shouldest keep all his commandments;

Deu 26:19 and to make thee high above all nations that he hath made, in praise, and in name, and in honor; and that thou mayest be a holy people unto Jehovah thy God, as he hath spoken.

The tithe is actually something that is very important because it allows everyone in the land to have meals, and worship together. Tithing kind of reminds me of how a food/clothing bank for the needy and hungry functions. Now, there is definitely a liturgical remembrance that is said as in a lot of older style churches especially to help remember the importance of God and then utterly and wholeheartedly revering God in the act of worship. Tithes are meant to help the poor, the

stranger, the widow and orphan and the priest line (The Levites) would participate on the receiving end of these blessings every three years. Everyone is fully satisfied all the time. The Levites were in the meantime privileged to eat the consecrated and holy food in the temple where they served.

This is found in Deuteronomy 18: 1-8 (ASV)

Deu 18:1 The priests the Levites, even all the tribe of Levi, shall have no portion nor inheritance with Israel: they shall eat the offerings of Jehovah made by fire, and his inheritance.

Deu 18:2 And they shall have no inheritance among their brethren: Jehovah is their inheritance, as he hath spoken unto them.

Deu 18:3 And this shall be the priests' due from the people, from them that offer a sacrifice, whether it be ox or sheep, that they shall give unto the priest the shoulder, and the two cheeks, and the maw.

Deu 18:4 The first-fruits of thy grain, of thy new wine, and of thine oil, and the first of the fleece of thy sheep, shalt thou give him.

Deu 18:5 For Jehovah thy God hath chosen him out of all thy tribes, to stand to minister in the name of Jehovah, him and his sons for ever.

Deu 18:6 And if a Levite come from any of thy gates out of all Israel, where he sojourneth, and come with all the desire of his soul unto the place which Jehovah shall choose;

Deu 18:7 then he shall minister in the name of Jehovah his God, as all his brethren the Levites do, who stand there before Jehovah.

Deu 18:8 They shall have like portions to eat, besides that which cometh of the sale of his patrimony.

Note: Patrimony is land, estate, inheritance from a father, or even the worth of the temple or church served in.

It looks like that God Himself gives this inheritance or value mentioned as a special inheritance but it doesn't come from Israel.

What happens though when the people are selfish?

This inevitably happens when faith is lacking or people don't see the way that God does math; everyone's tenth or tithe becomes a pretty huge quantity. When tithe isn't proper, it could endanger the health of the community trying to share in the stores of tithes. Some people might try to tell tall tales as they say.

Let's look at a Looney Tunes cartoon short called **The Hardship Of Miles Standish**

Cartoon Link:

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/159/Lightning2.webm

What do you see in this clip?

Basically, this cartoon is all about an old man spreading a story that has no basis in fact; he thinks

it's true he says because this is the way he heard it, then swears an oath that it's true and dares lightning to strike if he is not telling the truth. The grandpa gets punished in the end by a lightning bolt destroying his house and almost kills him.

Why would this story deserve lightning?

This is a dangerous lie, because the boy he is teaching is not learning historical truth and may believe and be deceived.

If we look at this from the Christian perspective, this situation is grave indeed.

Let's look at Proverbs 14: 5 (ASV), Galations 1: 6-10 (NIV)

Pro 14:5 A faithful witness will not lie; But a false witness uttereth lies.

Gal 1: 6-10

6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—

7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.

8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!

9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!

10 Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

This is very strong language that should be taken seriously. Tall tales or lies have no place in the faith especially with the work of the Gospel, such as with tithes and offerings.

There is also another very serious situation here. As stated before, the old man swore an oath and therefore, he is bound by his word.

Let's look at Numbers 30: 1-2 (ASV)

Num 30:1 And Moses spake unto the heads of the tribes of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which Jehovah hath commanded.

Num 30:2 When a man voweth a vow unto Jehovah, or sweareth an oath to bind his soul with a bond, he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.

On the flip side, the Lord is gracious when we do

things correctly and with the right heart and mind set.

Let's look at Proverbs 3: 9-10 (ASV).

Pro 3:9 Honor Jehovah with thy substance, And with the first-fruits of all thine increase:

Pro 3:10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, And thy vats shall overflow with new wine.

However, when we give correctly and cheerfully, we will never be in lack and even if we for some reason find ourselves in need, God will provide.

Some even will steal from the tithe pool or don't tithe or offer enough and even if they did, they don't with the right heart. This effectively is kind of like our next clip, which is from the Simpsons episode [Bart's Girlfriend](#).

Cartoon Link:

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/159/Lighting3.webm

What do you see in this clip?

Jessica is Reverend Lovejoy's daughter, but she is a thief and a liar. She steals from the collection plate and lets Bart take the fall.

This brings us to the heart of this study. Let's look at Malachi 3: 6-18

Mal 3:6 For I, Jehovah, change not; therefore ye, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

Mal 3:7 From the days of your fathers ye have turned aside from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith Jehovah of hosts. But ye say, Wherein shall we return?

Mal 3:8 Will a man rob God? yet ye rob me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and

offerings.

Mal 3:9 Ye are cursed with the curse; for ye rob me, even this whole nation.

Mal 3:10 Bring ye the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and prove me now herewith, saith Jehovah of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Mal 3:11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast its fruit before the time in the field, saith Jehovah of hosts.

Mal 3:12 And all nations shall call you happy; for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith Jehovah of hosts.

Mal 3:13 Your words have been stout against me, saith Jehovah. Yet ye say, What have we spoken against thee?

Mal 3:14 Ye have said, It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept his charge, and that we have walked mournfully before Jehovah of hosts?

Mal 3:15 and now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are built up; yea, they tempt God, and escape.

Mal 3:16 Then they that feared Jehovah spake one with another; and Jehovah hearkened, and heard, and a book of remembrance was written before him, for them that feared Jehovah, and that thought upon his name.

Mal 3:17 And they shall be mine, saith Jehovah of hosts, even mine own possession, in the day that I make; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

Mal 3:18 Then shall ye return and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

Now for a little bit of a side bar here. Jesus also uses this scripture in his parable of the sheep and goats. Let's look at Matthew 25: 31-46.

31“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and

all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne.

32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,

36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?’

38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?

39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,
43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I

needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

44 “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

45 “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

46 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

The actual time of judgment is referred to here.
Let's look at Revelation 20: 11-15.

11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The

dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.

14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

15 Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

However, in the next account of scripture, the lying thieves didn't escape physically at all.

Let's look at Acts 4: 32—5: 11 (NIV)

32 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 all

34 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 sales

35 and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

36 Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"),

37 sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 5: 1-11

1 Now a man named Ananias, together with his

wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property.

2 With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?

4 Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God."

5 When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened.

6 Then some young men came forward, wrapped

up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

7 About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

8 Peter asked her, “Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?”

“Yes,” she said, “that is the price.”

9 Peter said to her, “How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also.”

10 At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

11 Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

Why did this couple deserve being struck by lightning or something similar.

I hear varying answers on the subject, but I will give my viewpoint, that this couple had said that they confessed the faith and agreed to give any sale proceeds (in this case, the value of the property) to the apostles for dividing among the people in the form of needs and food etc. No one was to be in lack. This couple was bound by an oath and didn't deliver fully, what's worse is that they lied about it. I am guessing that what was done was in arrogance and nothing legitimate. The Christian church as a whole was in its infancy and this was detrimental to the safety of it because tithes are to be used for the needy, poor, widow, fatherless etc. Letting these two get away with this evil would not visibly show the grace of God clearly and people of the day may not have converted to The Way. In short, these thefts and lies could have cost God's kingdom souls.

If we look back at Numbers 30: 1-2 (ASV) we see

that Ananias is bound by his oath.

Let's look at it again.

Num 30:1 And Moses spake unto the heads of the tribes of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which Jehovah hath commanded.

Num 30:2 When a man voweth a vow unto Jehovah, or sweareth an oath to bind his soul with a bond, he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.

Now, let's look at the now widowed Saphira.

Let's look at Numbers 30: 6-15, Proverbs 19: 5; 9.

Num 30:6 And if she be married to a husband, while her vows are upon her, or the rash utterance of her lips, wherewith she hath bound her soul,

Num 30:7 and her husband hear it, and hold his peace at her in the day that he heareth it; then her vows shall stand, and her bonds wherewith she hath bound her soul shall stand.

Num 30:8 But if her husband disallow her in the day that he heareth it, then he shall make void her vow which is upon her, and the rash utterance of her lips, wherewith she hath bound her soul: and Jehovah will forgive her.

Num 30:9 But the vow of a widow, or of her that is divorced, even everything wherewith she hath bound her soul, shall stand against her.

Num 30:10 And if she vowed in her husband's house, or bound her soul by a bond with an oath,

Num 30:11 and her husband heard it, and held his peace at her, and disallowed her not; then all her vows shall stand, and every bond wherewith she bound her soul shall stand.

Num 30:12 But if her husband made them null and void in the day that he heard them, then whatsoever proceeded out of her lips concerning her vows, or concerning the bond of her soul, shall not stand: her husband hath made them void; and Jehovah will

forgive her.

Num 30:13 Every vow, and every binding oath to afflict the soul, her husband may establish it, or her husband may make it void.

Num 30:14 But if her husband altogether hold his peace at her from day to day, then he establisheth all her vows, or all her bonds, which are upon her: he hath established them, because he held his peace at her in the day that he heard them.

Num 30:15 But if he shall make them null and void after that he hath heard them, then he shall bear her iniquity.

Let's look especially at verse 9, she is widowed (unknown to her); she is now obligated to what she says and her husband Ananias was automatically bound by his by Levitical precedent and he was no longer alive to say no to have her forgiven of the vow or even take the consequences himself by saying no late.

It's tradition to think that these two were struck dead by lightning because it happened so fast and

lightning is used as a judgment tool and to indicate God's wrath. Saphira was bound by law as well.

In some old game shows there was what was called the lightning round (so named because good answers to questions and requirements for the biggest prizes had to be extremely quick). God says that lying is no game however and it is clear that lying in general is deserving of a lightning round that would be never wanted and any liar that receives this will surely lose the game just like this:

Let's look at a clip from the Pinky And The Brain episode [My Feldmans, My Friends](#).

Cartoon Link:

http://toonspirit.net/lessons_and_studies/159/Lightning4.webm

What do you see in this clip?

Pinky in his attempt to help Brain with his plan to take over the world does something extremely stupid by standing on top of the metal transmitter in the middle of a lightning storm and gets struck. Pinky barely survives, but for some reason has fun.

Lying especially with tithes and offerings and/or bad stewardship is foolish and its consequences are not fun and must be avoided. Not everyone gets struck by lightning like this, but unrepentant thefts and lies like this are bound to bring swift judgment of some type and tests God's patience and power. This is something that no one will stand safely in the time it comes. Pinky asked to be burnt to a crisp figuratively as Ananias and Saphira literally tempted God and paid for it. Lying is asking for this deadly lightning round that goes off like a gun and kills without remedy. Try a game of Russian Roulette with every chamber in the gun loaded.

On the contrary, we need to be more like the widow in Mark 12: 41-44 (NIV)

41 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the

offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. 42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. 44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

Even though she couldn't afford it, she gave it all to help the cause of the ministry of the temple. This is astounding to Jesus and He made sure to note its importance.

Although giving ten percent of everything is a good rule of thumb, we need to remember to be sold out to Christ and be prepared to go above and beyond the call of duty in the ministry of Christ just like the widow.

What have we learned?

Lying can easily bring sorrow, lack of trust, destruction and death. These are never good consequences (even if the lies bring “good consequences”)

Let's look at Matthew 16: 24-27 (NIV).

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

26 What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

We need to remember also what Malachi 3: 10 says as we go back to it.

Mal 3:10 Bring ye the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and prove me now herewith, saith Jehovah of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Jesus quotes this with a derivative form when He says in Luke 6: 38 (NIV).

38 Give, 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.”

If we happily sell out to Jesus Christ instead of thefts and lies, we will be made to have blessings that we cannot hold to ourselves because it would be too much. Give blessing and it multiplies and

comes back to you more than what you had and then you repeat the cycle God wants us to have abundance, but not as the world knows it, in other words, blessing doesn't mean money all the time on the back end of giving blessings as some suppose, but this does mean that God will be quick to send aid, protect, and bless with success our labors in Christ and then the good life this produces will have God's favor. Then, eternity is ours in God's kingdom of Heaven because Christ would be first in our lives.