

# HOW TITING SOLVED

## MY FINANCIAL TROUBLES

**And at the Same Time Brought Me Spiritual Blessing that  
Far Outweighed the Material Gain**

By Wade C. Smith

**“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine House, and prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord 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.” Malachi 3:10.**

If a man owed me money and he was having a hard struggle to make a living, and by all common sense reasoning there appeared very little prospect of ever getting my money back, I would try to persuade that man to begin tithing.

I confidently believe if I could induce him to tithe his income, that is, pay one-tenth of it to the Lord, he would sooner or later pay me back every cent he owed me; because he would prosper.

Tithing solved servious financial problems for me and at the same time brought me spiritual blessing that far outweighed the material gain.

When I began tithing 21 years ago I was hopelessly in debt. Misfortune, which came when I first began to be a wage earner, plunged me deep “in the red,” and, in trying to work out, repeated misfortunes came one after another

so that, like a frog endeavoring to escape from the well, when I jumped up two feet I fell back three.

That was awfully discouraging, and I had just about given up hope of ever getting out of debt—when I was persuaded to begin (rather paying) to the Lord one-tenth of what I earned.

When I was first challenged to tithe I almost smiled, it seemed so ridiculous for me to think of it. Why, I said, it would be dishonest for me to “give away” any part of my income to church or anything else, when I owed money to those who had trusted me. Before I could give money I must pay my creditors.

But I was troubled, for I was a Christian and I knew that tithing was Scriptural — that the Bible stated a definite portion (one-tenth) should be paid to the Lord.

So I prayed for light and understanding as to what really was duty in my own “peculiar” circumstance. Then there came to me this startling fact:

#### **The Lord Was My First Creditor!**

**If any creditors should be given preference, it was He. He certainly had first claim on me.**

Then I looked at Malachi 3:10, and I saw God saying there — that if I would trust Him and tithe, He would open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing so big there would not be room enough to receive it. So I decided to begin tithing, and I nailed the purpose down, with Malachi 3:10.

On the first of the following month when I drew my salary I took one-tenth and put it aside for the Lord's work. During the first two months it went pretty hard, and I had to pray harder and hang on harder to Malachi 3:10.

It looked for a little while as if God had forgotten about opening the windows. But I set my jaw and hung on. I kept a careful account to be sure that I was fair

with God, even to the penny.

**Then Things Began to Come to Pass!**

Ways came to me to earn more money — ways I never dreamed of. Altogether unexpectedly, my salary was increased. I have not space here to detail the different means that suddenly came to my hands for making more money. I wish I could tell you about it some time face to face it is like a thrilling Romance.

In less than a year I was out of debt and buying my own home. Up to that time I had lived in a rented house. I saved up something against old age.

That was all wonderful, but the greatest joy was in the dispensing of the "Lord's tenth." It grew to much more than a tenth — more than double that amount.

Formerly it made me grit my teeth to hear a missionary sermon or any appeal for money for the church or charity — I was so helplessly in debt!

But now I rejoiced for every clear call that I could believe was from the Lord for His work, because there was always something in the Lord's treasury and I was His trusted servant to hand it out.

How I wish somebody could have told me this story when I was fifteen! How much joy I have missed!

How much financial misery I have suffered! How different it could have been if I had just known! Before I began to tithe, it is full of blessing.

For twenty-two years I have not worried about money. Oh, sometimes there is close figuring, but it is always with the consciousness that the Lord, my Senior Partner, and I are figuring together and I know it will work out—and it does: — Baptist Bible Tribune.

**A GOOD INVESTMENT**

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth where moth and rust do corrupt and where thieves break through and steal!

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