

# How to Survive in Difficult Economic Times?

## Part 1

### “Sowing into the Kingdom of God”

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup>But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. – Matthew 6:19-21

- ➔ The word “treasure” literally means wealth or deposit.
- ➔ You will invest in whatever you think is important.
- ➔ Where your “deposits” are is where your heart will be also.

Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle. – Proverbs 23:5

Wealth does two things: It leaves us when we are alive or it leaves us when we die.

Ask yourself: Am I possessed by my possessions?

QUESTION: How do break the possession stronghold?

ANSWER: Honor God with your wealth.

- ➔ God taught the Israelites to honor Him with the tithe.
- ➔ It was the first 10% of their increase.
- ➔ This was to be given unto God.

- ➔ It was brought into the temple were the Levites, God’s appointed priests, would distribute it.

Principle behind the tithe:

- Tithing will not allow your wealth to control you.
- By giving God your “first” you are recognizing that God and God alone is the giver of your increase.

Instead, I give to the Levites as their inheritance the tithes that the Israelites present as an offering to the LORD. That is why I said concerning them: ‘They will have no inheritance among the Israelites.’ – Numbers 18:24

- Giving to God is an act of worship: You are literally giving your offering to the Lord.
- The tithe was considered holy unto the Lord.

A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD. Leviticus 27:30

- God wants your best and first.

## BOTTOM LINE

Ask yourself, “God, how am I handling everything you have given me?”