

# Testing God

Sometime in the winter of last year (I think) you gave a sermon about finances, tithing, and how it's really the one time in life that God invites us to test Him.

Up until then, we "tithed" when it was convenient-we'd drop an extra 20 in the box when we had extra cash on us, when there was a special fundraising project, if it was Christmas, Easter, etc., or if we were just feeling like we hadn't given money in too long. No rhyme or reason!

I was particularly feeling pretty stressed about money during that time in our lives - my husband had just gone back to school full time, and we were talking about having kids soon. It was the time in my life when I was probably least likely to start tithing regularly, but that sermon really challenged us to put God to the test and see how He would respond to faithful giving.

We started tithing that following week I believe, using the online automatic payments through the website. It was just a little to start, but we started seeing almost instant responses from God. It was not long after that week that I got a significant raise at work. We upped our tithe amount accordingly, and a few weeks after that I was told we would receive a portion of any profits we got from a new product I helped develop at work. Already God was showing up in big ways!

We continued to tithe regularly and **made sure we had room** built into our budget for any special things that came up at church or in the community that we could help with through donations. **We have given to every need that we've heard of in some way since then, and we've never been short on money for bills or living expenses as a result.**

All seemed to be going well for us until a couple of months ago, when we received a bill from the hospital for a significant sum in expectation of when I would deliver our baby. I knew we'd have a hospital bill at some point but I wasn't ready at that time for that amount! It stressed me out a little but I knew we would handle it one way or the other. Literally less than a week later, I was called into my boss's office and was told that I would now be a partner in the 2nd-largest sector of my company and as such, would receive a percentage of the profits on a quarterly basis. What a shock! I was given a check that day for the year's earnings so far, and the first thing we did was tithe 10% to the church. (The 2nd thing we did was pay that hospital bill!) **Tithing is now our number one financial priority and we do it without hesitation.** God has proved Himself above and beyond anything we expected, and it makes us happy and excited to tithe now and wait to see what God will do in us and in the lives of other people with that money.

Lastly (I know, long story...), I discussed adding our daughter to my work health insurance plan with our HR department about a month ago, and the cost for that was going to be about \$700 per month. I knew I didn't want to pay that much so I began looking into separate plans for her when I received a call back from HR saying not to worry about her insurance-my company would cover it for free. **The blessings keep coming and we believe 100% that it all started with our decision to faithfully and consistently tithe and create room in our budget for the needs of our church and our community.**

**It's been the best learning and growing experience for us-what a year! It's time for us to increase our tithe amount again, and I can honestly say I look forward to it with no fear or anxiety-such a turnaround from my attitude just a few months ago.**

- A Journey Family