

**THE BIG IDEA: Giving God your best.**

Let me briefly explain the Malachi scripture:

God charged the priest with failing to honor Him (to the point of showing contempt for His name) and failing to be good spiritual examples to the people. The priest did not worship God properly. They were not following His law for the sacrifices. Therefore, by Malachi's time the nation's leaders had once again fallen away from God. The people right along with them. The worship of God was no longer from heartfelt adoration. Instead, it was simply a burdensome job for the priest.

Is that how it is with us? It becomes a burden to honor God. It is no longer heartfelt. We just give God the minimum. Do we do things just to say we did something, but it was not our best.

The Bible says: therefore, I urge you brothers in view of God's mercy to offer your bodies/best as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God that is your act of worship. (Roman 12:1).

It is just not enough to go to church Sunday after Sunday and get into a routine. The Lord said: you worship me with your lips, but your heart is far from me. We have to seek the Lord in our private time for Him to change our hearts. That He can take out of us old mess and place within us His love, His power, His grace, His joy, His spirit, His word, and His strength. Then we are free to give Him our honor/best.

When you had less you had more faith and honored the Lord more. So, do not think when you have more you need less faith and honor God less. It is more of a sacrifice now that you have more to honor God and give your best. Give nothing less than your best.

What does the Lord require of us? Go to Deuteronomy 10:12-13

**1. How do we give God our best?**

- a. Giving your best in honoring God.
- b. Giving your best with your gifts and talents.
- c. Giving your best on your job.
- d. Giving your best in your marriage.
- e. Giving your best in being faithful.
- f. Giving your best in tithes and offering.
- g. Giving your best to each other.

God gave us His best. (John 3:16)

Jesus gave us His best (1 Peter 2:24)

**2. How does God giving us His best benefit us?**

- a. We are saved (1 Peter 1:2)
- b. We have eternal life (John 10:28)
- c. We have our name in the Lamb's book of life (Rev. 21:27)
- d. We are born again (John 3:3-6)

**3. How does giving God our best benefit us?**

1. We are anointed (1 John 2:27)
2. We hear from God (Roman 10:17, John 10:27)
3. We have power and inner strength (Philip 4:13)
4. We have love and give love (2 Tim. 1:7)
5. We have peace and joy (2 Thess. 3:16)
6. We have faith (Hebrew 11:1)

Alter call: I know that we have been talking about giving our best to God, but the best thing you can give God is yourself. The bible says that it is God's desire for you to be saved (1 Tim 2:4).