

## E-Series

### They're Not Your Doughnuts



*6 For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished. 7 Ever since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, "How shall we return?" 8 Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, "How are we robbing you?" In your tithes and offerings! 9 You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me—the whole nation of you! 10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus*

*put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. –Malachi 3:6-10*

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Last night I shared with you an e-series message from my friend, James Howell, pastor at Myers Park UMC in Charlotte. In that message he writes, “Methodists have always taught “tithing,” giving 10% of whatever we earn to the Church. Sounds manipulative, I know – so it’s worth mentioning that [John Wesley](#), our founder, was opposed to tithing. He thought 10% was simply too little to give to the work of God – and might create the foolish illusion that 90% of my money is mine!”

Does that sound familiar? To me, it sounds remarkably similar to “they’re not your doughnuts.” In that video clip from yesterday, we saw a guy who was serendipitously given a dozen doughnuts. Yet, when he was asked for just one from the very doughnut-giver, he was protective and territorial.

The caption then came up, “When we tithe, we’re not giving God 10%. He’s giving us 90%!”

It’s certainly true. Not only that, but tithing is one of those spiritual disciplines that helps us grow in our faith, because, by tithing, we are stepping out in faith and trusting God.

Realizing that they’re not my doughnuts,  
Pastor Michael

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