

LIVE *for a* C·H·A·N·G·E

THE POWER OF C-H-A-N-G-E
Part G – Gives Back To God
1 Kings 17:9-16

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Our giving to God has nothing to do with our income. Our giving has to do with our faith and obedience.

I. GOD USES TRUE STORIES FROM THE BIBLE TO SHOW US HOW HE WORKS IN OUR LIFE. (1 Kings 17:9-16)

A. *1 Kings 17:9-14 "Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." ¹⁰ So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" ¹¹ As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread." ¹² "As surely as the Lord your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread--only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it--and die." ¹³ Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord gives rain on the land.'"*

B. God fed in some miraculous way that widow and her son.

II. GOD HAS A JUSTIFIABLE CLAIM ON OUR LIFE.

God expects to be first in our life.

Proverbs 3:9 “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.” (NIV)

*Deuteronomy 14:23 “The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God **first** in your lives.” (TLB)*

III. SOMETIMES GOD ALLOWS A GOD-SIZED NEED TO COME INTO OUR LIFE FOR THE PURPOSE OF **DRAWING** US TO HIM.

Sometimes we need something to get our attention and so God allows some new **challenge** to come into our lives.

IV. GOD GIVES US A PROMISE TO MEET THE NEED BUT ATTACHES A **CONDITION** TO THE PROMISE. (1 Kings 17:14)

A. The woman is faced with a decision. She had to first come to **believe** God.

Obedience to God took more than believing **in** God. It took **believing** God - demonstrated through an act of obedience.

B. The same promise that God made to the widow of Zeraphath, He has made to **you**.

1. *2 Corinthians 9:7-8 “Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”*

2. *Luke 6:38 “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be given to you.”*

C. With God’s promise to meet our needs comes a **condition** that requires an act of faith on our part.

1. *Malachi 3:10 “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.” (NIV)*

2. *Luke 6:38 “**Give**, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be given to you.”*

D. Why would anyone do this? It is a matter of **believing** God.

V. WHEN WE BELIEVE GOD HE MEETS OUR **NEED**.

