

## **“Budget or Blessing”**

Tough times in an economy, whether in the private sector or a denomination, have a negative “trickle down” effect concerning the livelihood of a family or a church. As goods and services decrease so does the standard of living as employment takes a hit. When applied to a congregation, a decrease in programs usually follows compounded by a drop in participating membership both in activities and in financial giving.

As this takes place an atmosphere of fear and isolation sets in. Rather than faith and involvement lack of money and status quo trump God and our faith in Him to provide; and, increasingly we replace God’s promises with worry and wonder why things seem so tough.

I have sought the Lord concerning our stewardship and what to do next. What God has shown is not a budget but a blessing and the way into it that can turn things around.

### **What to do to turn budget into blessing**

- Listen to what God has spoken long ago and apply it to your life and your giving to this church:

*“For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you...are not consumed. From the days of your fathers 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?’*

*“Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, ‘How?’ In tithes and offerings...Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse...and test Me if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.” (Malachi 3:6-10)*

- Pray and ask God what this Scripture means concerning your financial giving.
- Now do it.
- Expect the blessing of God to come upon you and this church as a result of your obedience.