

What Do You Have In Your Hand?

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GOD USES OUR RESOURCES

God uses the resources we have which we are willing to give to Him to use for His glory. In many places in His Word, God instructed people to give of what they had in order to receive His blessing! The Tithe, in Malachi 3:10-13, is a very real illustration of this principle. Notice the verse below.

- Proverbs 3:9-10 *Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the Firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.*

“What do you have in your hand?”

Even the world recognizes this principle as seen in a quote from Arthur Ashe, “Want to accomplish great things? Start where you are, use what you have, and do what you can!”

1. **A humble shepherd’s staff to the Rod of God.** In Exodus 4:2 God appeared to Moses in the burning bush and asked what is in his hand. Moses replied, “a (shepherd’s) staff.” In preparation of facing Pharaoh, the staff is then miraculously transformed into a snake and back into a staff. The staff is thereafter referred to as the “rod or staff of God.” Notice the three dynamic stages...
 - **The staff of humility, as the shepherd’s staff.**
Exodus 4:2
 - **The staff of authority, judgement and miracles.**
Exodus 7:14-12:36 (Ten plagues) *...So he lifted up the rod and struck the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants. And all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood...*

- **The staff of power, deliverance, and provision.**

Exodus 14:1-31 *...But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea...*

Water from the Rock in Exodus 17:1-7.

2. **The widow’s oil** — In 2 Kings 4:1- 7, the widow of a prophet had no means of paying off her debts and went to Elisha for help. He asked her, “What do you have in your house?” She only had one pot filled with oil. She was then told to borrow as many pots as she could and begin pouring *what she had* into the pots... and God filled all of them!
 - Elijah and the widow’s last meal in 1 Kings 17:8-16.
3. **A few loaves and fish** — Jesus used what the disciples had collected, a miniscule fraction of the amount needed to feed about 20-25,000 people!
 - Matthew 14:13–21 *...And they said to Him, “We have here only five loaves and two fish.” He said, “Bring them here to Me.”...*
 - Also in Mark 6:31–44; Luke 9:12–17; John 6:1–14.
4. **If you are wanting to see God’s supernatural provision, power, etc.** begin where you are. As you give Him your time, talents, and resources (however small they may be), God can and will use it to bless a world in great need.
 - Key: present Him with the *best* of what you have and allow Him to provide according to His timing.

Next week: A powerful refresher on the topic of “The First.” Use the QR code to see a preview.

