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WHEN I OPEN MY
HANDS JESUS OPENS

*His
Windows*





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Written by
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Introduction

The act of opening our hands is a powerful metaphor for surrender, trust, and generosity. In the same way, when we release our grip on our worries, fears, and possessions, we make space for Jesus to pour out His blessings and grace into our lives. This sermon booklet will explore the significance of this concept, drawing from Scripture, personal testimonies, and practical applications to illustrate how opening our hands leads to divine provision and abundance.

The Importance of Tithing and Offerings

Pay Your Tithes to Your Pastor and Give Offerings to the Storehouse

- Malachi 3:7-10: “Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord Almighty. “But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’ Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. 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 there will not be room enough to store it.”

Fables, Analogies, and Metaphorical Meanings

Fable of the Farmer and the Seed: Once, there was a farmer who had a small plot of land. He had a handful of seeds that he hesitated to plant because he feared they might not grow. One day, he met an old wise man who told him, “If you keep the seeds in your hand, they will never bear fruit. But if you plant them in the soil, they will multiply beyond your imagination.” The farmer decided to plant the seeds, and soon his field was overflowing with crops.

Analogy: Our hands can be likened to a garden. When we hold on tightly to our resources, they remain barren. But when we open our hands to give, we cultivate a garden of blessings that can flourish and bear fruit.

Poetic Meaning: Open hands are like open skies, Where blessings rain down from above. With every seed of faith we sow, We harvest joy, we harvest love.

Metaphorical Meaning: Opening our hands symbolizes letting go of control and trusting in God’s provision. It is a gesture of faith that allows us to receive the abundance He has in store for us. Just as a tree cannot grow without releasing its seeds, we cannot experience the fullness of God’s blessings

without first letting go.

Rabbi Commentary on Open Heaven (Malachi 3:7-10)

In Jewish tradition, the concept of “open heaven” is rich with meaning. The phrase signifies a divine favor that allows blessings to flow freely to those who obey God’s commands. Rabbis teach that returning to God through acts of obedience, such as tithing, creates a channel for His blessings to pour into our lives.

Rabbi Commentary: Rabbi Nachman of Breslov emphasized that the act of giving is not merely a financial transaction but a spiritual one. When we bring our tithes to God, we are acknowledging His sovereignty over our lives and finances. This act of faith opens the heavens, allowing God’s blessings to flow like a river.

The “floodgates of heaven” represent an abundance that surpasses our understanding. It is a divine promise that when we trust God with our resources, He will respond with generosity that fills every need.

The Rebuking of the Devourer

Understanding the Devourer: In Malachi 3:11, God promises to “rebuke the devourer” for those who

faithfully tithe. The devourer symbolizes anything that consumes our resources—be it financial struggles, health issues, or personal crises.

Significance:By tithing, we not only open our hands to receive blessings but also invite God to protect our resources from being consumed by the devourer. This promise signifies that God will intervene in our lives, ensuring that our investments—whether in finances, relationships, or health—are safeguarded against loss.

Rabbi Commentary:Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach taught that the devourer is not just an external force but can also represent our own fears and anxieties that eat away at our peace and stability. By trusting God through tithing, we declare that we are not governed by fear but by faith. This act of faith empowers us to overcome the devourer, allowing us to live in the fullness of God's provision.

The Biblical Foundation

1. The Widow's Offering (Mark 12:41-44):

- **Scripture:** Jesus observed the rich giving their gifts at the temple, but He focused on a poor widow who gave two small coins. He declared, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others."

- Significance: The widow opened her hands, trusting God with her last resources. In doing so, she demonstrated that true generosity is not about the amount given but the heart behind the gift.

2. The Feeding of the 5,000 (John 6:9):

- Scripture: A boy offered his five loaves and two fish to Jesus. Jesus took the food, gave thanks, and distributed it to the crowds, resulting in a miraculous feast.

- Significance: The boy's willingness to open his hands and share what little he had allowed Jesus to multiply it. This story illustrates how God can take our small offerings and do great things with them.

3. The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30):

- Scripture: In this parable, a master entrusts his servants with talents (money) before going on a journey. The servants who invested their talents were rewarded, while the one who buried his talent was reprimanded.

- Significance: This parable teaches us that when we open our hands to use what God has given us, we invite His blessings. Holding onto our resources out of fear leads to missed opportunities.

4. The Prayer of Jabez (1 Chronicles 4:10):

- Scripture: Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that You would bless me and enlarge my territory!"

- Significance: Jabez's prayer exemplifies the act of asking God to expand his influence and blessings. By opening his hands in prayer, he sought God's favor and provision.

5. The Rich Young Ruler (Mark 10:21-22):

- Scripture: Jesus looked at the young man and loved him, saying, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." The young man went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.
- Significance: This story illustrates the struggle of opening our hands to let go of earthly treasures. True discipleship requires a willingness to surrender what we hold dear.

Scriptures on Blessing and Prosperity

1. Malachi 3:10:

- Scripture: "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 there will not be room enough to store it."
- Significance: This verse emphasizes the principle of giving and how God promises to bless abundantly when we open our hands to Him through our tithes and offerings.

2. Deuteronomy 28:1-2:

- Scripture: “If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God.”
- Significance: This passage highlights the connection between obedience to God and receiving blessings, reinforcing the importance of surrendering our will to His.

3. Philippians 4:19:

- Scripture: “And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”
- Significance: This verse reassures us that when we trust in God and open our hands to Him, He will provide for our needs abundantly.

4. Psalm 37:4:

- Scripture: “Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”
- Significance: When we open our hearts and hands to God, delighting in Him, He promises to fulfill our desires, aligning our hearts with His will.

5. Proverbs 3:9-10:

- Scripture: “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over

with new wine.”

- Significance: This passage encourages us to honor God with our resources, promising that such generosity will lead to abundant blessings.

6. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8:

- Scripture: “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”
- Significance: This passage underscores the principle of generosity and the assurance that God will bless us abundantly when we give with a cheerful heart.

7. Joshua 1:8:

- Scripture: “Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”
- Significance: This verse connects meditation on God’s Word and obedience to His commands with prosperity and success, emphasizing the importance of aligning our lives with His truth.

8. Psalm 1:1-3:

- Scripture: “Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.”
- Significance: This passage illustrates the blessings that come from delighting in God’s law and living a righteous life, leading to prosperity in all endeavors.

Practical Applications

1. Opening Our Hands in Prayer:

- Practice: When we pray, consider physically opening your hands as a gesture of surrender. This act symbolizes your willingness to let go of control and trust in God’s provision.
- Outcome: By opening your hands in prayer, you invite Jesus to fill you with His peace, guidance, and blessings.

2. Generosity and Service:

- Practice: Look for opportunities to serve others and share your resources, whether it’s time, talents, or finances. Opening your hands to help those in need reflects Jesus’ love.

- Outcome: As you give, you may find that Jesus opens His windows of blessing in your life, providing not just for your needs but also filling you with joy and fulfillment.

3. Letting Go of Worries:

- Practice: Identify areas in your life where you are holding onto worries or fears. Write them down and, in a prayerful moment, physically open your hands and release them to God.
- Outcome: This act of surrender can lead to a sense of freedom and trust, allowing Jesus to work in your circumstances.

4. Embracing New Opportunities:

- Practice: Be open to new opportunities that God places in your path. Sometimes we hold onto the familiar out of fear. Opening our hands can mean embracing change and trusting God with our future.
- Outcome: By stepping out in faith, you may discover new blessings and purposes that God has in store for you.

Personal Testimonies

1. Testimony of Provision:

- A member of the congregation shares how they faced financial hardship but chose to give generously to a local charity. They recount how, in the following

weeks, unexpected financial blessings came their way, affirming that when they opened their hands, God opened His windows of provision.

2. Testimony of Healing:

- Another member shares a story of struggling with anxiety. They describe how, through prayer and the act of opening their hands in surrender, they experienced a profound sense of peace and healing, illustrating the power of releasing their burdens to Jesus.

3. Testimony of Service:

- A volunteer in the church shares how they began serving in the community. Initially hesitant, they opened their hands to serve and found joy and fulfillment in helping others, which deepened their faith and connection to God.

Poetic Reflection

When I Open My Hands:

When I open my hands, I release my fears, Letting go of the burdens that weigh down my years. In the space that I make, Jesus pours out His grace, Opening windows of blessing, filling every place.

Like the widow who gave, though her gift seemed so small, I trust in His promise, He sees it all. With

each act of kindness, each moment I share, I open my hands wide, knowing He's always there.

Rabbi Commentary on Verbal Confidence

In Jewish tradition, the spoken word holds immense power. Rabbis often teach that words create reality; they can build or destroy, bless or curse. The Talmud states, "The world stands on three things: Torah, service, and deeds of loving-kindness." This teaching highlights the importance of verbal expressions—whether through prayer, study, or acts of kindness—as foundational to a life of faith.

Rabbi Nachman of Breslov emphasized the importance of speaking to God, encouraging believers to express their thoughts and feelings openly. He taught that verbalizing one's struggles and hopes brings clarity and connection to the Divine. This aligns with the biblical principle that "the mouth speaks what the heart is full of" (Matthew 12:34).

Verbal confidence is not merely about speaking; it is about aligning our words with God's truth. When we declare God's promises, we participate in the creative act of faith, shaping our reality in accordance with His will.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

We come before You with open hands, ready to release our fears, worries, and burdens. We trust that as we open our hearts to You, You will open Your windows of blessing in our lives. Help us to be generous in spirit, to serve others with love, and to embrace the opportunities You place before us.

May we always remember that our true provision comes from You. Fill us with Your peace as we surrender our lives into Your capable hands. Thank You for the blessings You have in store for us.

In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

Conclusion

“When I open my hands, Jesus opens His windows” is not just a saying; it is a powerful truth rooted in faith and action. As we learn to open our hands—whether in prayer, generosity, or surrender—we create space for Jesus to work miracles in our lives.

Let us embrace this principle, trusting that as we release what we have, Jesus will pour out His blessings in ways we cannot imagine. May we become

vessels of His love and grace, experiencing the fullness of life that comes from opening our hands to Him.

My Sermon booklet serves as a comprehensive guide for preaching and reflection, encouraging individuals to embrace the act of opening their hands and hearts to Jesus, leading to a life of abundance and blessing.