



A person who does not pay his tithe of say \$100 says that he has more faith in what that \$100 can do for him than what Almighty God can do for him.

5) Does God require me to give over and above the tithe?

The tithe does not belong to us but to God. When we pay our tithes, we square up with God. The Bible teaches that we are to give offerings over and above the tithe.

Malachi 3:8 (NASB) *"Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed Thee?' In tithes and offerings."*

God says in Luke 6:38, *"...by your standard of measure it (your giving over and above your tithes) will be measured back to you."* Christians need to grow and be progressive in their giving as God continues to bless them.

In the early church, Christians were exhorted to put aside and save according to how they prospered and give on the first day of every week - every Sunday. In fact they were reminded that Jesus told them to give:

1 Corinthians 16:2 (NASB) *"On the first day (Sunday) of EVERY week let each one of you put aside and save, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come."*

Acts 20:35b (NASB) *"...remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*

We must also not neglect to give to the poor.

Proverbs 19:17 (NASB) *"He who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his good deed."*

Proverbs 28:27 (NASB) *"He who gives to the poor will never want, but he who shuts his eyes will have many*

curses."

We all need to budget every month to give something to those who are less fortunate than we are.

6) What are the benefits of Biblical giving?

Our **giving is an act of worship to God**. It is a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God, and God promises to meet all our needs according to heaven's overflowing abundance.

Philippians 4:15-19 (NASB) *"... no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once (consistency) for my needs. Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your (heavenly) account. But I have received everything in full, and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."*

Philippians 4:17b (TCNT) *"...but I am anxious to see the abundant return that will be placed to your account."*

Philippians 4:17b (Moffatt) *"...what I am anxious for is the interest that accumulates in this way to your divine credit."*

Proverbs 19:17 (Taylor) *"...you are lending to the Lord - and He pays wonderful interest on your loan!"*

7) What should my attitude be in giving?

Giving with a right heart attitude and motive is so important, because if we don't, we can lose out on receiving the full blessing on our giving.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NASB) *"Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion (or not with pain or pressure or reservation); for God loves a cheerful giver."*



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Jesus is Lord

WHAT IS THE TITHE?



Education is a key to the blessing of God. Without understanding and comprehension most people do things they have never researched. We are to take a sober approach to the Word of God and know what awaits the person who actively searches the scriptures. This pamphlet will answer some pertinent questions on tithing and its implication in the modern church.





TITHING OPENS THE DOOR TO BLESSING

1) Isn't tithing an Old Testament teaching that doesn't apply today?

No! Tithing was ordained by God long before Law, adopted as part of the Law, and then sanctioned by Christ under the New Covenant.

2) Tithing before the Law.

Abraham tithed many years before the law was given to Moses. *Genesis 14:18-20 (NASB)* "And Melchizedek king of Salem (Peace) brought out bread and wine (symbols of the covenant meal); now he was a priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth . . . **And he (Abram) gave him (Melchizedek) a TENTH OF ALL.**"

Abraham's grandson, Jacob, learned the tithing principle from his father Isaac and his grandfather. In Genesis 28, Jacob says to God: "... of ALL that Thou dost give me I will surely give a tenth to Thee."

3) Tithing under the law.

The tithe is the Lord's; it is **HOLY** unto the Lord. This simply means that the tithe does not belong to us. *Leviticus 27:30 (NASB)* "Thus **ALL the tithe of the land, of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's; it is HOLY to the Lord.**"

4) Tithing under the New Covenant.

Melchizedek was the pre-incarnate Christ. He came before the Law, outside of the Old Testament Levitical priesthood, and received tithes from Abraham who is the father of all those who have a covenant with God though faith in Jesus Christ. Read Hebrews 7:1-10 (especially in The Living Bible), and you will see that as we pay our tithes on earth today, **Jesus Christ receives them in Heaven** and counts it to our credit.

Tithing is not only for the Jewish people, but for all true

Jews, who are in covenant with God through faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 2:28-29; Romans 9:6-8).

While Jesus was on earth He could have taught that tithing was only under the law and now a thing of the past; but instead He reinforced the tithing principle, with the provision not to neglect weightier matters.

Matthew 23:23 (TLB) "Yes, woe upon you, Pharisees, and you other religious leaders - hypocrites! For you tithe down to the last mint leaf in your garden, but ignore the important things - justice, mercy and faith. **Yes, you should tithe, but you shouldn't leave the more important things undone.**"

What if I can't afford to tithe?

Let's have a look at some aspects related to tithing:

By **loving money more than God** some Christians have put themselves and their families through many painful experiences. Money is not evil. The love of money is the **ROOT** of ALL sorts of evil. In counselling Christians going through problems, you will find that a major source of problems is because of a love of money.

These verses help us to get a Biblical perspective on wealth and material things:

Timothy 6:9-11 (NASB) "But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare of many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. **For the love of money is the root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang. But flee from these things, you man of God; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness.**"

If a Christian can't give God what is His anyway, he says that he loves money more than he loves God.

Because of discontentment some Christians buy things

they can barely afford and place themselves in an **excessive debt situation**, where they cannot afford to tithe. Some Christians might need to deliver themselves from this situation so that they can obey God.

1 Timothy 6:6-11 (NASB) "But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by **CONTENTMENT**. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. And if we have food and covering, **with these we shall be content.**"

A person who says he can't afford to give is like a farmer who says he only has a few seeds left to eat, therefore he can't afford to sow. No matter how desperate a situation we're in, **we must never neglect to sow if we're to reap a harvest** of God's financial blessing. Even if sowing means sacrifice, God's promise of the harvest is sure.

Matthew 6:33 (Montgomery) "But continue to seek first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; (Phillips) and all these things **will come to you as a matter of course.**"

