

What The Bible Says About:

Tithing

**Log Lane Community Church
Pastor David C. Voshell
16795 HWY 144 LLV
Ft. Morgan, CO 80705
970-867-2923**

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Introduction - Scripture giving is one of the fundamentals of Faith.

2 Cor. 8:1-7

Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: [2] that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. [3] For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, [4] imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. [5] And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God. [6] So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well. [7] **But as you abound in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us--see that you abound in this grace also.**

A. We are commanded to bring our gifts into the Storehouse (common treasury of the Church) upon the first day of the week.

1. 1 Cor. 16:2

On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

Under grace, we Give, Not Pay, the tithe. Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils and this was four hundred years before the Law, and it is confirmed in the New Testament.

Hebrews 7:2

to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "king of righteousness," and then also king of Salem, meaning "king of peace,"

Hebrews 7:4

Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils.

2. What Jesus said concerning the tithe.

Matthew 23:23

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint

and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

Note: Since Christ sanctioned Tithing then it should be the practice of all His followers.

B. We are told the tithe is the Lord's.

1. Leviticus 27:30

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's. It is holy to the Lord.

Malachi 3:10

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse,
That there may be food in My house,
And try Me now in this,"
Says the Lord of hosts,
"If I will not open for you the windows of heaven
And pour out for you such blessing
That there will not be room enough to receive it.

The preceding are foundational verses to support the need of tithing. We have not trusted the Lord with our life, if we have not trusted Him to the point of obedience in every area of life - including our material substance. Our giving is a record of our Faith and Obedience.

C. A tithe is one tenth of your income according to Leviticus. Tithe and Tenth are synonymous.

1. Leviticus 27:30-32

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's. It is holy to the Lord. [31] If a man wants at all to redeem any of his tithes, he shall add one-fifth to it. [32] And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the Lord.

There are some who say that the tithe is only an Old Testament law and that we are not under the law, but under grace. However, the New Testament has given us the admonition to tithe.

The only proportionate giving method that God ever established has been and is the tithe. Because of that, we do not give an "offering" until after the tenth, because the tenth is the Lord's. Even in the Old Testament, the offering was that given freely after the tithe. The New Testament tells us that the things done in the

Old Testament were for our example.

2. **1 Cor. 10:1-13**

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, [2] all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, [3] all ate the same spiritual food, [4] and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. [5] But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. [6] **Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.** [7] And do not become idolaters, as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." [8] Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; [9] nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; [10] nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. [11] Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. [12] Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. [13] No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

So, we are taught a proportionate method of giving with an accompanying offering when given willingly.

D. What is the purpose of tithing?

1. It is to finance God's work. He has established a work and ministry, which is carried on, through His churches. We share in His work and are given the responsibility of housing a church. It takes finances to construct and maintain a church building. It takes finances to pay the utilities necessary to maintain the work. It takes finances to maintain the personnel to meet the spiritual well being of the members, and to equip the church with material helpful to these needs. The work of the ministry involves costs even as other work. It is our privilege, as well as being our responsibility, to have a part in financing God's work. That's why we give. We are not giving because we are trying to earn anything from God. We are not giving because we are trying to ease our future time, or do away with any sins. **It Certainly cannot do that.**

2. There is another purpose for giving. According to Malachi 3:10 it puts God to the test. He said. "**Try Me now**" (KJV - "Prove Me"). Since He asked us to do this why don't you seriously consider doing that very thing? He wants us to put Him to the test.

Malachi 3:10-11

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse,
That there may be food in My house,
And try Me now in this,"
Says the Lord of hosts,
"If I will not open for you the windows of heaven
And pour out for you such blessing
That there will not be room enough to receive it.

[11] "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes,
So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground,
Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,"
Says the Lord of hosts;

3. Tithing also puts the believer to the test. By giving, you prove your love for Him. Giving is an expression of love and indicates what is in the heart. It is then always rewarded with the blessings of God.

Giving is the greatest expression of love a man can experience. Love is giving to meet the needs of another. God expressed the greatest love when He gave the greatest Gift, **His Perfect Son**.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

God the Father sacrificially gave His Son as our substitute. The Son willingly gave Himself for our redemption. Love expresses itself in giving. No one can love and not give, for what we love we will freely give of our time, of our finances, and of our energy. When you tell someone that you love them, and yet you never do anything for them, they have every reason to doubt that love.

God has blessed each of us in so many ways. He has freely given us salvation, health, good families, and countless material blessings. The greatest of these is, of course, our salvation. How can we say the love of God dwells in us if we will not give of our means so the lost may have an opportunity to hear of salvation too?

E. Tithing began with Abraham in Genesis.

1. Genesis 14:17-20

And the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him. [18] Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. [19] And he blessed him and said:

"Blessed be Abram of God Most High,
Possessor of heaven and earth;
[20] And blessed be God Most High,
Who has delivered your enemies into your hand."

And he gave him a tithe of all.

Abraham met Melchizedek, the priest of Salem, as he was coming back from the slaughter of the kings, and Abraham willingly gave tithes of all that he had to Christ in this Old Testament appearance.

F. Jacob believed that tithing was important when he made his covenant with God.

1. Genesis 28:20-22

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, [21] so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God. [22] And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

"If God will be with me....." was part of Jacob's request. God has promised us saying, "I will never leave you nor forsake you....."

2. Hebrews 13:5

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Christ Said, "lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

3. Matthew 28:20

teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Paul testifies in:

2 Tim. 1:12

For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

Jacob also desired that God keep him.

Jacob also said, "If God will give me bread to eat and raiment to put on..."

Christ promised that these would be provided for us:

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

His righteousness is explicit obedience to His Word. What His Word teaches is right and the only righteousness is obedience to His Word.

"Seek first the kingdom of God" involves our salvation, and then we are to seek, "His righteousness". This entails every aspect of our lives. Part of His plan for righteousness involves our giving.

G. What things are to be added to us?

1. His keeping and physical provision for us.

If we are saved and continuously seeking His righteousness instead of our own desires, He has promised to take care of every area of our lives. Many Christians make a mistake in thinking that God has obligated Himself to do all of these things for them, in spite of how they live and what they do. **That is not true!!!** God has placed some conditions on His blessings. There are no conditions on salvation, except that we confess Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior of our lives; but when it comes to the **Blessings of God** and His taking care of us, He has placed the condition of obedience. He directs us to walk in all His ways. He wants His Word to abide in us, and He wants us to abide in Him. We cannot expect the **Blessings of God** on our lives if we do not follow the conditions that He has laid down in His Word; but when we obey, we have confidence in His Faithfulness and Blessings.

Philip. 4:19

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Psalm 34:9

Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints!
There is no want to those who fear Him.

John 15:7

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

2. God has promised and He will not fail because it is impossible for God to lie.

Hebrews 6:18

That by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

He has never before failed in any promise - nor will He ever fail!!! Have you ever proved God **faithfully**? Have you ever put yourself completely in His hands so as to prove Him and His keeping power? It is a great faith builder!!!

Jacob then said he would establish God's house. That was something that he could have a part in. That's something that we also need to do. Our church building is the House of God. It is the place where boys and girls are taught Biblical principles about the home and marriage, about work and honesty and responsibility. Someone has to support the establishment of God's house.

God has commanded that we demonstrate our love and appreciation for Him by our tithes and offerings, which support the church He loves and for which He gave Himself. God's house should have a most important place in your life. It should be more important than any earthly thing because it is in the Church that spiritual truth is dispensed.

Ephes. 5:25

Husbands love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.

Jacob said he would tithe of all that God gave him. The tithe begins before anything else ever comes out of our checks. The money that we have as an income is what we have after our tithe and after our taxes. The government always gets what it wants, and we have little to say about it. How much more should God have what He asks because He is our only Lord and Savior?

Jacob was willing to give God a tenth of everything if God would take care of him. Are you willing to do the same thing? Jacob was never sorry, and God never failed him. Does that indicate anything to you?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, recognizing that this is not my message, but God's, and He wants the best for us.

2 Cor. 9:6-8

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. [7] So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. [8] And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have abundance for every good work.

Your giving will put your life to the test, but you will also be putting God to the test. Why should God ever want a trusting, obedient child to be poor and not looking like the child of the King? God wants the very best for you but God wants to know that you are going to honor Him. Observe it in your own home. You love a disobedient son, but it is difficult to pour out favors on him. But it is entirely different with a son who is loving and obedient and responsive to you.

H. When should the tithe be given?

According to 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, it is the time when the Church meets.

1 Cor. 16:1-2

Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: [2] On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

The first day of the week is Sunday, The Lord's day. We are to bring the first fruits of God's blessings to us. We need to be present, having a tenth in our hand to testify of His goodness and our faith.

How can you not tithe, when God's will is so clearly known?

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