

Releasing God's Provision Through Giving:

*Jacob's vow to the Lord:
"and of all that you give me
I will give you a tenth."*

GENESIS 28:22

*Tithing is a golden thread that runs
through every book in the Bible,
but nowhere is there an indication
that the tithe is all a man owes God.
It is a minimum, not a maximum.*

What does God guarantee will happen when I tithe?

- Overflowing blessings
(Proverbs 3:9-10; Malachi 3:10).
- Prevention of money's erosion
(Malachi 3:11).
- Recognizable testimony
(Malachi 3:12).
- Release from the love of money
(1 Timothy 6:9,10; 2 Peter 2:19).

"Tithing isn't fair: It requires too much of my money."

To say that it is not fair is to say that God made a mistake in His initial command for us to tithe. God does not make mistakes! Ten percent is an equal percentage to all. It would be unfair if God required a different percentage from different amounts of income.

"Tithing is a gimmick of the church to raise money."

Tithing is not man's plan to raise money for God, it is God's plan to finance His kingdom's work and to bring provision to His storehouse (Malachi 3:10).

"I want to tithe, but there are so many things I need. Won't God understand?"

"Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.'" (Luke 12:15) "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.'" (Luke 12:15,20-21)

"If tithing is an Old Testament law why do we have to tithe today?"

Clearly giving a tenth (tithe) to God took place before the law was given. In Genesis 14:18-20, we see Abram giving a tithe to Melchizedek (440 years before the law was given). In Genesis 28:22 Jacob made a vow before God to give a tenth of all that God had given him (300 years before the law).



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What God's Word says about Tithing



*Making More and Better
Disciples of Jesus Christ*

THE TITHE

A tithe is 10 percent of your income and is commended by God to be an apportioned equal sacrifice and therefore fair to all. With a fundamental understanding of scripture we can discover God's plan for giving.

Spiritual Principle #1. Recognize God Owns Everything.

God created the earth and all that is in it. He proclaims that everything—animals, cattle, birds, every mountain, and all creatures are His. *“For the world is mine and all that is in it.”* (Psalms 50:10-12) *“The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in.”* (Psalms 24:1) *“‘The silver is mine and the gold is mine,’ declares the LORD Almighty.”* (Haggai 2:8) As born again Christians Paul says we belong to God. *“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”* (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

Spiritual Principle #2. Recognize God is Our Supplier.

We need to realize that true prosperity comes from God. For it is God that gives us power to get wealth. (Deuteronomy 8:1; 1 Chronicles 29:1) The scripture promises that God will supply all our needs, (Philippians 4:19, Matthew 6:25-34) and our Father knows what we need before we ask Him (Matthew 6:8). *“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.”* (1 Timothy 6:17) The Lord provides the tithe. 1 Chronicles 29:14 says *“We have given you (Lord) only what comes from your hand.”*

Spiritual Principle #3. Recognize Our Stewardship

According to Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary: “Stewardship involves the responsibility of managing God's work through the church. God has appointed all Christians to be His stewards on earth. These matters include extending the church's ministry through the preaching of the gospel (Colossians 1:24-28), supporting the church financially (Acts 4:32-37), and



Tithing is a test of faith. It proves you are wholly dependant upon the Lord, believing in Him, trusting Him with all He has entrusted to you.

ministering to the sick and needy (Matthew 25:31-46).”

It is God that gives the strength, knowledge, talents, skills and ability for man to acquire money. *“Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work -this is a gift of God.”* (Ecclesiastes 5:19) The Lord reminds us that we are to be content with what He provides. *“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.”* (1 Timothy 6:6-7)

IS TITHING FOR TODAY?

- In Leviticus 27:30 the Lord called the tithe “HOLY to the Lord.” If it was holy then, then it must also be holy today. In Malachi 3:6 it says, *“I the Lord do not change,”* then He asks the question in 3:8, *“Will a man rob God?”* If the Lord does not change then this is a direct question that the Lord is asking us today. The answer from the Lord to His people was, *“But you have robbed Me ... in tithes and offerings.”* Let us not be guilty of the same offense.
- In the New Testament Paul instructs the Corinthians to set aside a sum of money weekly in keeping with their income (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). He does not specify the amount because it is in keeping with what the Lord has commanded—the tithe.
- Nowhere in scripture is it modeled or illustrated of anyone giving less than the tithe.
- Teaching His disciples, Jesus commended the widow who gave all she had (Mark 12:41-44). Jesus told the Pharisees that they should practice justice, mercy and faithfulness without neglecting to tithe (Matthew 23:23.)
- The Lord is looking at our heart attitude, our love towards Him, and our willingness to be obedient. The ten percent tithe is the Lord's and not ours. In addition, offerings are over and above the tithe and come out of the 90 percent we have left. Remember the Lord said we cannot serve two masters; we cannot serve God and money (Luke 16:13).

HOW DO YOU GET STARTED?

1. First recognize that the tithe is God's and rightfully belongs to Him. It is the seed He has given us to plant in His kingdom (2 Corinthians 9:10).
2. Start right away. Do not take stock and decide when you will start. As the Lord has challenged your heart to be obedient, then start now by putting God first (2 Corinthians 10:5).
3. Many people have started with less than ten percent and said I will work up to the tithe. This is not what God has said. The tithe is His, the whole ten percent (Leviticus 27:30).
4. The Bible teaches how we should give:
 - We should give **regularly** (1 Corinthians 16:1,2).
 - We should give **proportionately** (1 Corinthians 16:1,2).
 - We should give **sacrificially** (Mark 12:41-44).
 - We should give **willingly** (Deuteronomy 15:11).
 - We should give **generously** (2 Corinthians 9:6).
 - We should give **cheerfully** (2 Corinthians 9:7).



EXCUSES FOR NOT TITHING:

“I can't afford to tithe, there won't be enough to pay bills!”

God says that those who do not tithe are robbing Him (Malachi 3:8). He says if we tithe He will open the windows of heaven and pour out on us a blessing we won't be able to hold (Malachi 3:10). We cannot afford not to tithe.

“Tithing is too legalistic. I would rather give what I can feel good about.”

The Lord set the amount and called it His (Leviticus 27:30). God did not want it as bondage to us, but to allow us to show that we put Him first before anything else, especially money. The Lord loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7). Although tithing can make us feel good because we know we are pleasing the Lord, obeying the Lord does not depend on us “feeling good.”