

# Tithing

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## Building the Local Church and a Blessing for Our Lives

Tithing is a Godly principle of giving the first 10% of our income to God through His church, which God has set in place since the beginning of time.

When we tithe we are putting God first over all of our finance. Our tithe is used to build the local church, helping it to grow it in size and influence to impact many people and the world. We are putting our money to an eternal use.

God's promise is also that our lives will be blessed so much that we will overflow! Not just financially but in every area of life. We are blessed so that we can be a blessing to others.

## The Blessing of Tithing

### Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

(10) 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.

Why should we bring our tithe into the "storehouse" or local church? What does the "food" represent?

This is the only time in the Bible God says to test Him. What is His promise for our lives?

### Proverbs 3:9-10 (NIV)

(9) Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;

(10) then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Honoring God is giving Him the best of your life including in your finances. When we give a tithe of our income God will fill our "barns" to overflowing and our "vats" will brim over.

What do the barns and vats represent in your life?

## God Loves a Cheerful Giver

### 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NIV)

(6) Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

(7) 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.

If we sow sparingly how will we reap? What if we decide to sow generously?

God loves and rejoices when we give with a cheerful heart. We shouldn't feel pressured to give, but rather we should to give out of a thankful heart for all Jesus has done for us.

Do you always have a cheerful heart when you give, or are you giving with regret? Let's purpose to give with joy!

### 1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV)

(2) On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

In Paul's time, most people were paid every week. At your workplace it may be weekly, fortnightly or monthly. Why is it important to take time and prepare to give?

## Our Tithe Is Holy to God

### Leviticus 27:30 (NIV)

(30) "A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.

Actually a tithe of our income, wherever it comes from, already belongs to God. It is not our property; rather we are just honoring and returning to God what is already His.

The Bible says that our tithe is holy and special to God. It has a special and important meaning to Him, as it shows His place as number one over all areas of our lives.

### Romans 11:16 (NIV)

(16) If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches.

When we honor God with our tithe, the holy firstfruit of our income, the rest of our income is also made holy. The tithe is the holy root that produces holy fruit in our lives.

If we want our lives to produce holy fruit what must we do?

## Ask a Friend

How have you seen God build the church since you have been tithing?

Have you seen God's blessing in your life? What is one of the stories where you have been blessed?

Do you have any other questions about tithing?

## Application

Have you tried tithing before? Let's start today!

## Prayer Model

God, thank you that you want to bless my life. I pray you will use my tithe to build the local church and expand your Kingdom. Help me to live a generous life, blessed to be a blessing.

## Key Verse

Luke 6:38 (NIV)

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”