



Sunday June 10, 2007

Topic: Giving To God

3 Facts about Giving to God

1. Giving to God is a form of worship
Psalm 96:8 / Proverbs 3:9,10
2. God's work on the earth has to be financed through contributions made by God's people.
Exodus 25:1-8 / 1 Chronicles 29:1-9 / 1 Corinthians 9:13,14 / Galatians 6:6
3. The needs of God's people are met through other people who make themselves available to be used by God.
1 Corinthians 16:1,2 / 2 Corinthians 8:1-7,24 / 1 Timothy 6:17-19

How to Give

Tithes, offerings, alms

1. Tithes

Malachi 3:8-12

Tithing is simply giving back to God 10 percent of what you have received.

Leviticus 27:30,32

The tithe belongs to God. When we hold back what belongs to Him we are robbing God.
The tithe is sacred because it is the Lords'.

God does not need our money. Everything already belongs to Him (Psalm 24:1, Psalm 50:10, Haggai 2:8). However, tithing is a way of showing our submission to the Lord in the area of finances.

Understanding Tithing

First recorded instance of someone tithing:

Abraham gave his tithe to Melchizedek Genesis 14:18-22

1. We do not see God instructing Abraham to tithe. He gave his tithe willingly and voluntarily. New Testament believers are to walk in the steps of Abraham (Romans 4:11,12)
2. Melchizedek was both "king of Salem" and the "priest of the Most High God". Abraham did not go out to find some one who was "poor and needy" to give his tithe to. Melchizedek was a king and was definitely not "poor and needy". Yet Abraham gave his tithe to this king-priest.

Jacob tithed Genesis 28:20-22

Once the Law was given through Moses, tithing was made part of the Mosaic law (Old Ceovenant).



The priests and Levites served in the Temple. The people's tithes were given to the Levites (Numbers 18:23,24). The Levites then gave tithes and offering out of that to the Priests who were the descendants of Aaron (Numbers 18:26-29). [Note: This teaches us that even preachers/ministers must tithe.]

We see the importance of the tithe to support the Levites. When people stopped bringing in the tithes, the Levites were forced to go out and work to support themselves (Nehemiah 13:10-12; Nehemiah 10:37-39; Nehemiah 12:44)

The Old Testament talks about three tithes

- (a) a tithe for the Levites and priests who worked in the temple (Leviticus 27:30-33)
- (b) a tithe for observing God's festivals / National feasts (Deuteronomy 14:22-27), and
- (c) a tithe to care for the poor (Deuteronomy 14:28,29).

The first two tithes were given every year and were brought to Jerusalem, the central place of worship for distribution and consumption. The third tithe was to be stored locally in each city or town for use by the Levites and the poor of the community (stranger, fatherless and widows).

FAQ1: Do we still tithe in the New Testament?

Yes! 5 reasons:

- (a) The Lord Jesus approved tithing Matthew 23:23. Jesus did not abolish the Law, He came to fulfill it (Matthew 5:17) and lift us to a higher standard and a better covenant. Jesus instructed us to give to God, what belongs to God (Matthew 22:21). The tithe is the Lord's and hence must be given to Him.
- (b) The Melchizedek priesthood received tithes. Jesus Christ serves in the same order of priesthood as Melchizedek and still receives tithes today (Hebrews 6:20, 7:1-10,17). Therefore believers continue to tithe even though the Levitical priesthood has ended, in accordance to the priesthood of Melchizedek, which existed before the Levitical priesthood, and is still in effect today, because Jesus Christ is the final living Priest of this order.
- (c) Abraham who is the father of faith, in whose steps we are to follow, gave tithes. (Romans 4:11,12)
- (d) Paul commanded that just as in the Old Covenant, priests in the Temple lived of the tithes, so also in the New Testament, those who preach Gospel should live of the Gospel. (1 Corinthians 9:13,14). The implication is unmistakable, which includes the concept of tithing which was practiced in the Old Testament.
- (e) In Biblical interpretation, what God instituted and did not explicitly revoke or replace, is intended to continue. Tithing has not been revoked or replaced.

We must understand that one of the primary reasons why the NT does not have explicit instructions on tithing for believers, is because, the Early Church continued in many of the practices of the nation of Israel, which included tithing. Except that their giving was now toward the local church (i.e. initially the church in Jerusalem).

FAQ2: When should I tithe?

As soon as you get the fruits of your labour Deuteronomy 26:1,2



FAQ3: Where should I give my tithe?

While there is no chapter and verse that explicitly gives instructions on this, we have sound Scriptural basis to firmly believe, that your tithe, all of it, must go to your local church.

First, we learn from the Old Testament pattern that all the tithes were brought to the house of God (the Temple in Jerusalem) where the ministers of God served. Although there were other prophets in the land (e.g. Elijah, Elisha) – people did not give their tithes to “Prophet Elisha Ministries” or to “King David’s Worship ministry” – but brought all their tithes to the Temple in Jerusalem. While people blessed the prophets with their gifts, their tithes were brought to the Temple in Jerusalem.

The NT equivalent to the OT Temple is the local church. The local church is called the house of God (1 Timothy 3:15). The five-fold ministers and other believer ministries serve in the context of the local church (1 Timothy 5:17,18).

Second, we see this pattern setup in the Early Church:

- Believers brought their contributions to the apostles (Acts 4:34,35) who led the first church in Jerusalem
- Collections were made by the local church on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:1,2)
- The local churches supported traveling ministers as the apostle Paul and gave to the needs of other churches (2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 9:1; Philippians 4:15-17)
- In the Pastoral Epistles we see the following : The local church was to support its ministers (1 Timothy 5:17,18), The local church was to take care of the widows (1 Timothy 5:9). This establishes a pattern similar to the OT Temple ministry, which involved receiving people tithes and offerings for its functioning.

Some believers split their tithes into several portions, give one portion to their local church, and distribute the other portions across other ministries. This is wrong, because God did say “bring all the tithe into the storehouse”.

Reasons people do not give their full tithe to their Local church:

Reason 1: There are others who need this more or my church is rich and does not need my tithe.

Response: Abraham gave his tithes to a king-priest, Melchizedek. Melchizedek did not need Abraham’s tithe since he was a king! And yet Abraham willingly gave his tithe to Melchizedek. I think there is an important lesson here. Your giving of the tithe should not be determined on whether your local church needs it or not. You give your tithe to your local church as a demonstration of your submission to God.

Reason 2: I like to support other ministries or I have committed to supporting other ministries.

You are welcome to give offerings to other ministries, but your full tithe must go to your local church. The New Testament program is centered around the local church. The local church is the house of God (1 Timothy 3:15). As far as the New Testament model is concerned all ministries were to be rooted in a local church. The body of Christ has deviated from this with many ministries whose leader(s) operate independently without having roots, accountability and relationship to a local church. This is in essence deviating from God’s New Testament plan. However, God still blesses and uses this



because we are all He has here on earth. God will use a donkey if He has to!, although we know that is not God's best.

Reason 3: I just attend this church, but get my real spiritual food from somewhere else or I do not trust the pastor/people in my local church with money

Well this is not an ideal situation and you need to quickly find a local church where you can be spiritually nourished and where you can be a useful member, with leadership you can respect and trust. You have no business wasting your life in a church that you just "attend" and where you are not spiritually nourished. Don't cheat yourself. You have one life to live and you must live it right ant to the max for the sake of the Kingdom of God. You live out your life as a member of the Body of Christ in a local church. If you can't do that in the church you are, then it is your responsibility to find a local church where you can do so. Act now!

FAQ4: Should I tithe even when I am financially tight?

Yes! Deuteronomy 26:12-15

Personal Example

FAQ5: Should I tithe based on my salary before tax or after tax (TDS)?

Before tax.

FAQ6: I have just understood about tithing now. What should I do about all the previous years when I was a believer but did not tithe?

Start now and be committed to honoring God with your finances from this point forward. Release the past since you may not be able to go back in time to make up for the previous years.

2. Offerings

Anything above your tithes that you give for the work of the Lord is your offering.

3. Alms

Giving to the poor and needy
Matthew 6:1-4 Matthew 25:40

Submission and Obedience

There are many who are obedient but who are not submitted to the Lord. The Lord desires submission. Obedience is doing something that God has instructed you to do while submission is yieldedness or surrender. While obedience is important, we need to go further and come to a place of submission to God in the area of our finances. This means that even after we give to God the 10% we still make the remaining 90% available to Him so that He can use even that as He desires, when He desires.

The ministry of giving

Romans 12:6-8

There are some believers who God has graced and gifted with an abundance of finances to give for the work of His Kingdom. This is their ministry.



The Rewards of Giving

- Tithing impacts you spiritually Acts 20:35
- Tithing unlocks the blessings of the tither Malachi 3:9-12
- Giving releases divine provision to meet your need Philippians 4:15-19 / 2 Corinthians 9:8 / Luke 6:38
- Giving alms : Luke 12:33

Ask for a blessing when you give Deuteronomy 26:15



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JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

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WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

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