

## 6 Truths About Tithing

When you give with joy and with all of your heart, you are not thinking about “the least amount” that you can give. You give because you want to! Tithing, too, should be done because we want to obey the truths in God’s Word. Read carefully the following principles on tithing:

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### 1. God is training us to be faithful stewards in handling money.

People who do not pay a tithe, or tenth, of their income often have poor financial habits that leave them broke soon after payday. Tithing teaches us to pay that which we owe first. Our financial obligation to God is our first

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priority. When He blesses us with increase, He expects us to give a minimum of ten percent as a tithe into the storehouse, which, by definition, is our local church. We should be cheerful givers! We should give out of our abundance. We should give out of our love. And we should give to meet the needs of those who find themselves in need.

### 2. Tithing is commanded.

Malachi 3:10 says, “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse.” (KJV) Tithing, as established by Abraham, involves giving 10 percent of one’s earnings.

### 3. Abraham tithed before the Law of Moses.

The first Biblical record of tithing is found in Genesis 14. Abram’s nephew, Lot, was

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taken captive in a battle between some kings and their armies. When Abram set out to rescue him, not only was he successful, but he also brought back a large amount of spoils. Genesis 14:11-20 records this event.

This Old Testament account of the first mention of tithing indicates that the spoils belonged to Abraham by right of conquest. Abraham has been called the “father of the faithful” (Romans 4) and his life is exemplary to us today. In this passage we are told that Melchizedek was the priest of God Most High. Verse 19 notes that Abram was also “of the Most High God” (KJV). And we are told that the Most

If God cannot trust you with the first portion, how can He give you a future destiny?

High God is “possessor of heaven and earth” (Genesis 14:19 KJV). Apparently, tithing in

this context was a direct acknowledgment of the sovereignty and lordship of God over all the earth. Giving God back a tenth of what is already His anyway is acknowledging God's ownership of the entire earth's wealth. Haggai 2:8 declares, "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine,' saith the LORD of hosts" (KJV).

#### 4. The New Testament recounts the first tithe.

You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving!

Hebrews 7:1-19 records the same story as the Genesis 14 account. This is the last direct reference to tithing in the New Testament and it seems interesting that it also refers to the first reference found in the Old Testament. Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek long before the Mosaic Law was given by God at Mount Sinai. Abraham honored the Most High God by freely giving from a loving, grateful heart. It was a true act of worship. Abraham's giving was not based on the law but on a grateful response to God's grace. You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving!

#### 5. Tithing: A Tithes Is A Tenth.

The tithe simply means the tenth. A tenth is 10 percent. A ratio of 1 to 10 is easy to remember and easy to figure, much like our decimal system today. It seems natural and logical to divide things into tens.

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- Tithing is scriptural.
- Tithing is systematic.
- Tithing is simple.
- Tithing is successful.
- Tithing is right.

God has ordained that the use of money is related to spiritual values. The only way to get our treasures into heaven is to put them into something that is going to heaven. Cattle, lands, stocks, bonds and houses will not make it to heaven. Only men, women, boys and girls of all color are going to heaven.

By exchanging our earthly possessions and money into the saving of souls, we will take our acquired wealth with us to an eternal home

#### 6. Tithing does away with hit-and-miss methods of giving.

If a person is truly tithing, it is a systematic giving of 10 percent of all earnings to the Lord's work. Of every \$10 earned, \$1 is given back to God, leaving the remaining 90 percent for living expenses. Some may think that if they gave God an occasional

tenth, this would be enough. But one cannot be counted as a tither unless the tenth is given consistently. The Bible teaches that tithing is to be the minimum of one's giving, not the maximum. Just because one gives a tenth does not necessarily mean he has fulfilled his stewardship responsibility to God. We are to put God first and show that He is most important to us by tithing the first fruits of our income. Over and over, we've seen the Lord bless the nine-tenths after the tithe, until it went farther than the full amount would have, had we withheld the first tenth.

When we give God our first fruits, He multiplies it back to us many times over