

Tithing

Tithing is one of the main, acts of obedience's that connects us to the Covenant Promises of God. There are thousands of Covenant Promises in the Bible. People have tried to dismiss tithing because of the hidden desire to (not) obey God. I have unfortunately heard (Pastors) say , "All God wants is an heart –filled offering. But, this is not the Full- Gospel that is in the Bible.

Yes, there are laws that were only to be used for the Old Testament people of God, however, tithing and being a Tither is to be continued.

The first thing we must understand is that a Christian is a Stewart and not an owner. This is the hardest part to make clear as many professing Christians claim ownership over all that they have and even speak of "giving their tithes" whereas the Bible calls it "paying" God's tithe.

There are others that are very careful to pay their tithes but after that, they feel whatever is left is theirs to use in any way they choose. But if Christians today would study God's Word, they will become convinced that all that they have belongs to God, that they have no claim except as a steward to hold and dispose of it as it would be pleasing to God.

When a faithful steward realizes that the method of tithing is literally that of taking one-tenth of his income and deposited it into the Lord treasury, he would be glad to do it, instead of feeling that whoever appeals to him for the work of God, is trying to get his money away from him. Rather, he will feel that everyone who presents to him that the interests of God's Kingdom is helping him to find a way to discharge this obligation to God.

It is true that we are stewards of our time, talent, strength, and ability as well as our money. But our faithfulness in tithes is in reality the greatest test of our stewardship, because the fleshly nature desires money more than anything else, that it might be exalted.

1. How long has the plan of tithing been in existence? The principle of tithing began in the garden when God made Adam and Eve steward's over it. He gave them access to the Garden, but he reserved one tree for himself. We must realize that even though Adam and Eve had dominion over it, they cannot partake of it, for it was God's. When they disobeyed him and partook of that which he had reserved for himself, he drove them out of his garden. God has never relinquished his claim, so he declared in Psalms 24 verse 1, all of the earth is mine. God took one day out of seven and set it aside for his church, and one tenth of the money of his people for the furtherance of his Kingdom. And wherever you find people keeping God's system and giving of one-seventh of their time and one tenth of their income, you will see churches is filled with people, the treasury is filled with money, and God's blessing upon that church, because this is pleasing unto the Lord. By keeping one day in seven holy, you will find you are guided by the Lord the other six, because when we sanctify one day, the other six are blessed by the Lord. Likewise when we are faithful to bring in our tithes and offerings, He will guide us in what to do with the rest.
2. Psalms 50 verses 10-12 says for every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains, and the wild beasts of the field are mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell thee, for the world is mine, and the fullness thereof. Haggai 2 verse 8 says, the silver is mine and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts.
3. Why should we tithe as believers?
 - a. It is God's plan handed down to us in His Word.
 - b. It was endorsed by Jesus. (Matt 23:23 , Luke 11:42) (these ought ye to have done, and not leave the other undone)
 - c. It is the only practical business way for us to recognize God's prior claim on our time, energy, and ability.
 - d. It will enrich our lives spiritually.
 - e. It brings financial blessing.

Because giving is an expression of our love, love is action. It means moving out of our self into the way of God. It is when we give that we find the most satisfaction in our own lives, because God created us after His own image, and God is on the giving hand. We feel most like God when we do things like God, when we give and give.

God has not ordained us to failure. "That God who begun this good work in you, will carry on until it is finished". He never fails and He will never let us down. Remember this, the man who plants few seeds will have a small crop, the one who plants many would have a large crop. Each one should give, then, as he has decided, not will regret or out of the sense of duty, for God loves one who gives gladly or cheerfully. And God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourself and more than enough for every good cause, 2nd Corinthians 9:6-8.

Prices keep going up. The rate of interest keeps Rising, but God still only asks for 10%.

Jesus himself told us, freely you have received, freely give (Matthew 10:8).

The whole Christian principle is based on giving. God proved his love by giving his son (John 3:16). Jesus proved his love by giving his life, (John 1:12, Romans 5:8, 2nd Corinth is 8:9).

As His children, we are to express our love the same way about giving. But you must remember, never doubt in the dark what God has shown you in the light.

4) Will a man rob God? How can a man rob God? There is no mistake, God answers this question himself. "In tithes and offerings" (Mal 3:8).

5) How much do we bring to the church? We are to bring to church, Mal 3:10 says Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be meat in mine house; says the Lord of Hosts. The place that you receive your spiritual oversight and spiritual meals; (1/10) one tenth of our income, each payday. That is one dime out of every dollar.

We are not to send our tithes to any TV ministry if you are part of a local church. No one or no organization is to receive God's Tithe, but the local church. If you are only part of a TV ministry, then they are to receive your tithe. **Remember, God's perfect (WILL) is for you and I to be part of a Local Church. People that are only part of an On-Line church are those that can't attend a local church**. Jer 3:15 ; Eph 4:10-16; Heb 10:25.

6) 1st Cor 16:2 “ Tells us, upon the first day of the week, let everyone of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him”. This shows we are to bring our tithes and offerings regularly and systematically.

7) Also a cheerful Giver is a person that has formed a financial partnership with God. Because of his giving God has obligated himself to provide him with wisdom, guidance, and strength. He would also provide him with power for all details and will supply all of his (Needs) according to riches in Glory by Christ Jesus- (Phil 4:19).

Note- this will not mean the believer will not have undesirable financial hindrances but it does mean you can remind God in Prayer that you are a covenant tither and you can believe him to rescue you and restore you. Mal 3:10 -12; Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.11) And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground, neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of Hosts.12) And all Nations shall call you blessed, for you shall be a delightsome land, said the Lord of Hosts; Is 54:17 No weapon formed against you shall prosper; Is 43:26 Put me in remembrance; let us plead together; declare thou; that thou mayest be justified.

8) Tithing is definitely for the New Testament age. The book of Hebrews was written some 35 years after the origin of the New Testament Church. Hebrews chapter 7 verse 8 tells us, the Jewish priests though mortal, receive tithes, but we are told that Melchizedec lives on. Christ himself is spoken of receiving the tithe. Since Jesus is a priest forever; After the order of Melchizedek, and since Abraham is the father of us all through faith, the same principles that lead Abraham to pay tithes to Melchizedek, who was the type of Christ, should also lead every member of the body of Christ to honor Christ with his tithes and offerings. To some, it may seem when they bring their tithes and offerings to God's house, that they are giving it to a man. This is not true. Instead, the tithes are being required by Christ himself. Acting in his high priesthood after the order of Melchizedek, he received the tithes from men. And he still does!

9) Jesus is the founder of the Christian Church and He instituted and ordained the practice of paying tithes for the support of the preaching of the gospel. Paul wrote in 1st Corinthians chapter 9 verse 7 through 11; regarding the ministry and its maintenance. Also in 1st Corinthians 9 verse 13, it says do you not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the Temple? And they which wait at the altar are (partaker) with the altar? Paul is reminding them that the priests receive their support and living of the things of the Temple, of the church, that is the tithes and offerings that is brought in from the people of God.

10) We many times lay so much stress on the financial blessing the tither is going to get that we often neglect the spiritual blessing which is far more important. When we tithe, we have assurance in satisfaction of knowing we are putting God first in our lives and that we're actually in partnership with God, The all-knowing, all-powerful God who can bring to pass those things that is best for us spiritually, as well as physically and financially. The tither has real joy and realizes that he is God's partner too and that he is having a part in advancing God's program in the world today.

Tithing is not only a financial plan, but a spiritual plan, and the financial plan that is suggested in the Word of God. When God's tithing system is not used, then the church has to resort to man-made methods of raising money that is, in the end, spiritually deadening..

11) What is the difference between tithes and offerings? The difference is that in our tithes we pay God, and in offerings we give to God. In every promise of the Bible there is a condition and God always requires us to make the first move. He tells us and Luke 6 verse 38: Give and it shall be given unto you. This is not the tithe, it is an offering because he encourages us to learn the secret of giving. King David has been noted as saying "he gave over and above". 1st Chronicles 29 verse 3. We can't beat God's giving. If we activate the biblical principle of Sowing and Reaping, we will see the hand of God move on our behalf.

I have to include, when the Child of God dismisses tithing, God will get his tithes some other way. It is said- there is only one thing God can't do and that is lie. He will keep his Word concerning His Tithes and Offering and He will keep His promise concerning the security of your finances.