

# What is Tithing?

The word "tithe" means a "tenth part or 10%". In the Bible God tells us that we are to give the first 10% of all we earn back to Him. Giving less than 10% is not a tithe.

Offerings are gifts given beyond your tithe. They include gifts for building fund, special projects, compassionate ministries, etc. Tithing is God's minimum standard, the starting point. As God prospers you, you'll want to give more.

## Why Should I Tithe?

### 11 Reasons from God's Word.

- 1. BECAUSE GOD COMMANDS IT!** "A tithe of all you produce is the Lord's, and it is holy." [Lev. 27:30]
- 2. BECAUSE JESUS COMMANDS IT!** "Yes, you should tithe, and you shouldn't leave the more important things undone either." [Matt. 23:23] Tithing was the only thing Jesus commended the Pharisees for doing.
- 3. BECAUSE TITHING SHOWS THAT GOD HAS FIRST PLACE IN MY LIFE.** "The purpose of tithing is to teach you to put God first in your life." [Deut. 14:23 LB] If God doesn't have first priority in your finances, then He really isn't first in your life.
- 4. BECAUSE IT REMINDS US THAT EVERYTHING WE HAVE IS GIVEN BY GOD.** "Always remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you the ability to produce wealth." [Deut. 8:18] Rather than feeling I'm giving God 10% of MY money, we realize God is letting us keep 90% of HIS money. Without God, we would have nothing!
- 5. BECAUSE TITHING EXPRESSES MY GRATITUDE TO GOD FOR HELPING ME EARN AN INCOME.** "How can I repay the Lord for all His goodness to me?" [Ps. 116:12] - *The answer* "Each of you should bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you." [Deut. 16:17]
- 6. BECAUSE REFUSING TO TITHE IS STEALING FROM GOD!** If you don't tithe, God says you are using money that rightfully belongs to Him. "God says, 'Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me!' But you ask, 'How do we rob You?' God says, 'In tithes and offerings. Bring your whole tithe to My house.'" [Mal. 3:8-10]
- 7. BECAUSE TITHING GIVES GOD A CHANCE TO PROVE TO ME THAT HE EXISTS AND WANTS TO BLESS ME.** "Bring Me your tithe. Test me in this," says the Lord, 'and see if I won't throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.'" [Mal. 3] This is the most amazing promise of the Bible. God actually offers a challenge. Start tithing and watch what happens. He has promised to bless you. It is the primary way you can prove that God exists in your life. Trust Him!
- 8. BECAUSE IT IS ESSENTIAL TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH.** "Just as you grow in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in earnestness and love... See that you also **grow in the grace of giving.**" [2 Cor. 8:7]
- 9. BECAUSE TITHING SHOWS I REALLY LOVE GOD.** "Where your treasure is, your heart will be also." [Matt. 6:21] Where you put your money is where your affection is going to be. Every time you give back to God you are drawn closer to Him. You may say you love Him, but 2 Cor. 8:8 tells us that giving is the test of sincerity of your love. Jesus said, "If you love me, do what I command." [John 14:15]
- 10. BECAUSE TITHING IS AN INVESTMENT FOR ETERNITY.** Jesus told us to "store up treasures in heaven." [Matt. 6:19-20] By investing in helping people find God you are storing treasures in the Kingdom. Most things you spend your money on will not last the year. Investments in the Kingdom last forever.
- 11. BECAUSE I CANNOT OUT GIVE GOD!** There are more promises in the Bible about giving than any other subject. Giving unlocks the promises of God in your life. When you give, God gives back in greater degree. Jesus said, "For if you give, you will get. Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure. Whatever measure you use to give, it will be used to measure what is given back to you." [Luke 6:38]

Many Christians remain spiritual babies because they disobey God by not tithing.

## Where Should I Give?

The Bible is clear that you are to give to Him in your place of worship. In Biblical days it was your temple. Now it is your New Testament Church.