

Tithing: A Principle of Faith, Not Just Law

1. TITHING BEGAN BEFORE THE LAW

Genesis 14:18-20 "Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High... And he [Abram] gave him a tithe of all."

- This moment happens before the Mosaic Law.
- Abraham tithed as a response of faith and gratitude.
- Melchizedek is a type of Christ (see Hebrews 7).

2. JACOB ALSO TITHED AS A VOW OF FAITH

Genesis 28:20-22 "...and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

- Jacob voluntarily vowed a tithe to God as an act of worship and trust.

3. TITHING UNDER THE LAW - STILL GOD'S PRINCIPLE

Leviticus 27:30 "And all the tithe of the land... is the Lord's. It is holy to the Lord." Malachi 3:10 "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse..."

- The tithe is His and supports His house.

4. JESUS AFFIRMS THE TITHE

Matthew 23:23 "These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone."

- Jesus does not cancel the tithe
- He rebukes the heart behind it.

5. TITHING REFLECTS THE HEART

Proverbs 3:9-10 "Honor the Lord with your possessions..." 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 "...for God loves a cheerful giver."

- Tithing is a discipline of honor and trust.

6. THE TITHE SUPPORTS THE LOCAL CHURCH

1 Corinthians 9:13-14 "Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel."

- The church is the modern "storehouse". CONCLUSION: Tithing:
- Started before the Law
- Affirmed during the Law
- Confirmed by Jesus
- Reflects the heart
- Builds the Kingdom

It is not forced, but a covenant principle of honor and blessing.

7. TITHING AND THE NEEDS OF THE CHURCH In the Old Testament, the tithe wasn't only a spiritual act - it was also practical. The temple had daily needs: offerings, oil, bread, utensils, garments, and upkeep. God's system provided for this through the faithful giving of His people.

****Numbers 18:21 (NKJV)**** "Behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tabernacle of meeting."

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- The people gave their tithe to the Levites.
- The Levites gave a tenth of that to the priests (see Numbers 18:26).
- This system ensured that God's house could function and His servants were sustained.

In the same way, today's church also has practical needs:

- Facilities and utilities
- Ministers and staff
- Evangelism, missions, and helping the poor

The local church is the place where believers gather, are fed, trained, and equipped. Just as the Old Testament temple needed support, so does the New Testament church. ---

8. THE CHURCH SHOULD ALSO GIVE Not only are believers called to give, but we believe that **churches themselves should give** - to missions, other ministries, and the Kingdom of God at large. *

Philippians 4:15-17 (NKJV) "...no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account."

- Paul was supported by churches who partnered with him financially.
- He saw this not just as generosity, but as **spiritual fruit** to their credit. ---

9. NEW TESTAMENT GIVING - UNITY, POWER & JOY Giving in the New Testament is marked by **unity**, **spiritual power**, and **joy**. ***Acts 4:32-35 (NKJV)*** "Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul... Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them... and they distributed to each as anyone had need."

- The early church operated as **one body**, giving joyfully and sacrificially.
- They shared finances, possessions, and purpose
- and great **grace and power** was upon them.

2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (NKJV) "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you..."

- Giving is not driven by fear, greed, or manipulation.
- It flows from a heart surrendered to God, trusting Him as Provider. ---

10. CONCLUSION: GIVING BUILDS GOD'S HOUSE AND HIS KINGDOM

- Tithing supports the church and its mission.
- Giving reflects the heart, releases spiritual blessing, and brings unity.
- Churches should also sow generously into other works of the Kingdom.

Just as the Old Testament priests served the temple through the tithes of the people, today's ministers are sustained through faithful giving. And just as the Levites gave to the High Priest, so should churches honor and bless other ministries that are building the Body of Christ.

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Giving is not a burden - it is a ****privilege, a principle, and a promise****.