

“THE TRUTH ABOUT TITHING”

FASTING FOR FINANCIAL FREEDOM

Measures of Accountability:

1. Have you created a budget?
2. Have you listed all your debts?
3. Have you discovered your dominant type of spending?
4. Have you learned the purpose of money?
5. Have you adopted an attitude of contentment?
6. Have you developed a BIGGER view of God?
7. Have you selected an accountability partner?
8. Have you set a BIG goal?
9. Have you determined your second win?
10. Have you found (saved) \$50.00?

The journey begins today!

INTRODUCTION – The Institution of Tithing

The first record of tithing is in Genesis 14. After Abraham returned from war, he gave one-tenth of the spoils to Melchizedek, the priest-king of Salem.

The tithe is a tenth of one's income.

A tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain or fruit, is the Lord's, and is holy. (Leviticus 27:30 TLB)

What did Jesus actually say about tithing?

Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! **You give a tenth of your spices**—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. **You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.** (Matthew 23:23 NIV)

- **Law and Grace**

NT believers are eligible for OT promises. However, we cannot claim OT promises without respecting OT principles and practices. Hebrews 13:5 says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." That is an OT promise found in Deuteronomy 31:6.

Jesus Christ is the fulfilment of OT promises and prophecies.

Do we really understand the difference between the legal and the liberal? Legally, married people owe each other NOTHING until they get a divorce.

Is tithing a matter of the Law? NO! Tithing pre-dates the Law. Humanity, intimacy, the family, parenting, giving, mercy, forgiveness, grace, etc.—ALL PRE-DATE THE LAW.

Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:17 & 20 NKJ)

Grace does not lower the standard; grace raises the standard. The tithe (10%) is not to be seen as the end of Christian giving, but rather than the beginning.

A boy received ten silver dollars for his tenth birthday. He set the first silver dollar aside saying, "This one is for Jesus."

He talked about his plans for each dollar. When he came to the last silver dollar, he said again, "This one is for Jesus."

The boy's mother interrupted, "But I thought you gave the first dollar to Jesus."

"I did," the boy replied. "The first one really belongs to Him, but this one is a gift to Him from me."

- **How Much Is Enough?**

EVERYTHING!

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. (Romans 12:1-2 NIV)

The person who has given everything has no problem with giving anything.
The person who has given 100% can easily give 10%.

- **Inside the Numbers**

Less than 5% of American Christians tithe.

More than 80% of the income comes from less than 20% of the members.

25% of actively engaged members give nothing at all.

The average contributor gives 2.5% of their income.

Only 1% of the most affluent Americans tithe.

People making less than \$20,000 per year are 8 times more likely to tithe than people making more than \$75,000 per year.

The average weekly contribution in America's Protestant churches is \$17.

<https://balancingeverything.com/church-giving-statistics>

<https://healthresearchfunding.org/21-tithing-statistics/>

CONCLUSION – Where Do We Go From Here?

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV)

Giving should be a “heart” decision. It is a matter of love, not logic. We give out of grace, not grief. By conviction, not compulsion.

God loves a cheerful giver.

And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. (2 Corinthians 9:8 NLT)

If you decide to give, God will give you something to give!

We decide to give then God “superabounds” us. When we fix our mentality, God will fix our money. When we meet His expectations, He exceeds our expectations. We may experience little, but we will NEVER experience lack.

A traveler finds a bucket of water next to a pump. He has two options - he can drink the water or he can prime the pump. Should he drink the water he may never experience the abundance of the well. If he primes the pump, he will have more water than he can drink.

A Promise to Claim

¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. (2 Corinthians 9:10-11 NIV)

How We Will Fast

1. Create a budget and follow it with intentionality.
[Allocate 10% for God; 10% for savings; and 80% for living expenses.]
2. Purchase only what is absolutely necessary (i.e. food, clothing, shelter, insurance, and transportation).
3. Vow to create no new debt.
4. Refrain from using credit cards (debit cards permitted for budgeted items).
5. Abstain from unbudgeted/unnecessary shopping.
6. Do not loan or borrow money.
7. Avoid recreational spending (i.e. dining out, fast food, coffee/drinks, games, movies, and other entertainment).
8. Practice discipline and exercise sound financial judgment.
9. Read a money management article every day.
10. Trust God.