

WHY WE GIVE (Practicing the Tithe)

#1 Be more like God

John 3:16: For God so loved the world that He gave...

At the center of the universe is a God who gives. In fact, God withholds nothing from us. We, on the other hand, tend to be sinfully selfish – So we are not very good at giving. In order to get better at something, we need to practice. In order to get better at giving, we need to practice giving. Tithing helps us regularly exercise our giving muscles. By practicing the tithe, we get better at giving. This helps us be more like God.

#2 Put God First

One approach in giving to God is to first pay our mortgage, car payments, utility bills, grocery bills, etc. . Then, after we are sure that we will 'be taken care of,' we bring an offering to God. But giving to God only that which is left over is not putting God first. The practice of tithing works different. Tithing calls us to bring God the first ten percent. This reminds us that everything we have has been given to us by God and it is all His.

#3 Increase Your Faith

It is so easy to put our faith in our money rather than God. Our fear with tithing is that if we give God the first 10%, we won't have enough to meet all of our other obligations. However, the Bible indicates clearly that 90% with God's blessing will go farther than 100% without His blessing. Take, for example, this passage in Malachi 3:

"Bring the whole tithe in to the storehouse...Test me in this" says the LORD Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

God promises to provide for us abundantly when we trust Him for all that we need in this life. But, it takes faith to believe this. It takes faith to believe what reality will confirm once we try it. Once our faith is confirmed by reality, it will grow.

#4 Support God's Church

When we tithe, we directly support God's church and kingdom. It takes financial resources to seek and save the lost. It takes financial resources to help the poor. It takes financial resources to spread the Gospel. When we tithe, you are doing the work of missions and are at work building God's kingdom.