

Question About Whether Car Accident Compensation Obtained Is Subject to Tithing

By Pastor Ed Anderson

In your estimation/understanding, **is car accident compensation (not income) obtained by a representing lawyer subject to tithing?** I'm seeking guidance.

Thank you. God bless your ministry richly.

Answer:

Thank you for your thoughtful question and for your heart to honor God with what He's entrusted to you.

Is Car Accident Compensation Subject to Tithing?

This is a sincere and important question many believers wrestle with, especially when seeking to be faithful stewards. While each situation may require prayerful personal conviction, here are some biblical principles and pastoral insights to help guide your decision:

1. Understand the Nature of the Compensation

Compensation from a car accident (especially if received through a legal settlement) typically covers:

- **Medical expenses**
- **Vehicle repair or replacement**
- **Lost wages**
- **Pain and suffering**
- **Attorney's fees**

From a biblical stewardship perspective, not all of this is "increase" (income); much of it is **restorative**—intended to return what was lost, not to provide gain.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house." – Malachi 3:10

Tithe in Scripture is based on **increase** or **profit** (see Proverbs 3:9, Leviticus 27:30). Therefore:

2. Guiding Principle: Tithe on Increase, Not Reimbursement

- If the compensation includes *money above your losses* (for example, a large pain-and-suffering award or more than the value of a totaled car), many believers choose to tithe on that excess, seeing it as **increase**.
- If the money is merely covering your **losses** (medical bills, repairs, missed wages), then biblically this would **not require a tithe**, as it's not "gain"—it's restoration.

3. A Personal Act of Worship, Not Legal Obligation

While God's Word teaches tithing, He also calls for **generous giving from the heart**:

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." – 2 Corinthians 9:7

Some choose to give a **freewill offering** from such settlements—not out of obligation, but as worship, thanksgiving, or a testimony of God's protection and provision.

4. What I Say From A Biblical Standpoint

Based on this approach to biblical stewardship and practical application:

- **Tithing is always based on increase**—not on restitution.
- If any part of the settlement was in **excess** of restoring what was lost, then that excess could be tithed on as an act of faith.
- But you are **not under compulsion**, and **God looks at the heart**, not just the ledger.

I encourage prayerful reflection: *"Lord, was any part of this unexpected blessing Your provision beyond my need? If so, I want to honor You with it."*

5. Practical Tip

If your settlement was, for example, \$100,000:

- Medical bills: \$30,000
- Lost wages: \$20,000
- Vehicle replacement: \$25,000
- Pain & suffering: \$20,000
- Attorney fees: \$5,000

Then only the **\$20,000** (pain & suffering) might be considered potential “increase,” if you choose to tithe at all.

Final Thought

Your question reveals a heart of **sensitivity to the Spirit and integrity before God**—and that pleases Him. Let this be a personal moment of worship between you and the Lord.

“Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce.” –
Proverbs 3:9

May God bless you richly and give you peace and clarity.

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Ed Anderson