

15. Why Should I Tithe?

Tithing is all part of giving to the Lord. It's not for a church or church staff to get rich. It's not people taking advantage of you. It is simply a gift from you to the Lord. Think of all the gifts the Lord has given you. Tithing is giving back.

Having a bad experience with a church or evangelist can turn a person against tithing. If a church or evangelist pressures you to dig deep into your pockets, in order to receive blessings from the Lord, something may be seriously wrong. I've seen evangelists say that if you give all the money you possibly can to them, then God will bless you financially (like make you rich!); but if you don't give generously, then God won't bless you at all. And people have told me that after visiting a church, someone from that church came over to their house and asked them to donate significantly towards a new building.

Churches and evangelists should be distributing their funds to organizations and missionaries to help those in need. Yes, they have their bills to pay, but they also should be giving to those in need as God sees fit. If a church or evangelist is trying to pressure you to generously give to them, I suggest you stay away and find somewhere else to worship.

One tenth was a percentage decided a long time ago around the time of Moses (**Scriptures 1 – Offer One Tenth**). It wasn't something a person made up, but it came from God. Moses actually met with God and when he would return to his people, his face would be radiant. So radiant that it scared the people. Therefore, Moses had to cover his face after meeting with God, so the people wouldn't be afraid.

So what did Jesus teach us how to live? He wants us to be compassionate and giving to those in need. Most of all, He wants us to be humble servants. To think of others as ourselves. To not be prideful like the Pharisees (See web page **Why Did They Crucify Jesus?**). Tithing is all part of being that humble, giving servant.

It should bring us joy to give to God (**Scriptures 2 – Give Cheerfully**). And you should give how much you decide for yourself to give. Today, we don't have to follow all the old Jewish laws. We can decide for ourselves how much we should give to God. It should bring us joy when we give.

When I first came to know the Lord, finances were extremely stressful. So for the first couple of years, I decided to give \$20 a month to the church. I know that's a ridiculously small amount, but that's all I could afford at that time. Through the years, the Lord blessed me and I was able to give more.

I believe the Lord wants us to pay our bills. If you're facing collection agencies and/or bankruptcy, maybe you can just give what you can, if anything. That's not to say if you have a good income but have had excessive spending habits, that you shouldn't give to the Lord. In that case, you should probably sell some stuff or downsize and get your income/debt ratio more on track, ready to give to the Lord appropriately.

So, why tithe? That's easy. Tithe to give back to God and help others in need. Just think of all the Lord has done for you. Wouldn't it make you happy to give some of it back? Have joy in that and be generous.

jenaministries – Part 2 15. Why Should I Tithe?

Scriptures 1. Offer One Tenth

Leviticus 27:30 “ ‘A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.

Numbers 18:26 “Speak to the Levites and say to them: ‘When you receive from the Israelites the tithe I give you as your inheritance, you must present a tenth of that tithe as the LORD’s offering.

Deuteronomy 14:22-29 Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and olive oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always. But if that place is too distant and you have been blessed by the LORD your God and cannot carry your tithe (because the place where the LORD will choose to put his Name is so far away), then exchange your tithe for silver, and take the silver with you and go to the place the LORD your God will choose. Use the silver to buy whatever you like: cattle, sheep, wine or other fermented drink, or anything you wish. Then you and your household shall eat there in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice. And do not neglect the Levites living in your towns, for they have no allotment or inheritance of their own. At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year’s produce and store it in your towns, so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

Exodus 34:29-31 When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them.

Scriptures 2. Give Cheerfully

2 Corinthians 9:7 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 9:8-15 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.” 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. 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. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!