

want God to rebuke the devourer as He promises in Malachi 3:11. It is about understanding that we are to return to God that which is already His. Therefore, one could say that tithing isn't about giving as much as it is about returning, being a good steward!

An offering is truly about giving. And it is in the offering that we find God's principle of multiplication. The tithe redeems, but the offering brings the blessings of multiplication. We see in scripture that God can only multiply that which has been given for the purpose of blessing. A great example is the boy who offered up his two fish and five loaves. (Mt 14) When we present our offerings, we are saying to God, not only do I trust you, but I understand how multiplication works.

If you haven't come to a place of returning to God what is His, then start with an offering; sharing what you have and trust that He will give you the strength and wisdom to understand His ways and thoughts.

When should I tithe?

We are called to give to God first, so take the first 10% of your income and return it to God.

Our tithing is meant to follow the firstfruits revelation of the Bible. Meaning, God set up His plan of redemption for mankind by instructing the Israelites to consecrate (set apart) their firstborn, both of man and beast, because they are His. (Ex 13:2) The firstborn and firstfruits are His.

Jesus was the first born of God, a pure and spotless lamb. His sacrifice redeemed all of mankind. This is the foundation of our tithe. We are to give our firstfruits in order to redeem all the rest. That's what tithing is all about - giving our firsts to God, it is His and it is holy. It's how we live a blessed life.

Where should I tithe?

The tithe was meant to bless God's people, but also take care of God's house where the people were educated and encouraged. The same is true for us today. Our tithe is a blessing for the people who gather in their local house of worship.



Tithes were to be brought to the "storehouse" or place of worship for the purpose of taking care of the needs of the people. Your local church is that storehouse. If you are being equipped and built up in your faith, you should be giving your tithe to that place.

Now, your offerings are to flow out of your abundance and be given where the Holy Spirit leads you, sometimes in the local church, but usually into ministries reaching beyond your local church. Remember, your offering is what is going to be multiplied. Sow your offering where you want multiplication. It is best to always know where you are giving your offering and how they handle it. When we put it in the hands of the Lord, we can expect Him to multiply it.

Who should tithe?

I believe anyone who works and receives pay should tithe, including our children. Imagine if your children understood the incredible blessing of God in their life that comes through tithes and offerings, not to mention what a little hard work might do for them.

The teaching of others to tithe needs to stem from our relationship with God and not a religious act. It's never too late or too early to engage in tithing and discover the blessings that it brings. The sooner we start with our children, the better off they will be.

Should I tithe, even if I can't pay my bills?

Maybe the bills cannot get paid because the tithe is not being returned to God? Or maybe tithing has been acted out in an Old Testament manner and not a New Testament heart. We give to God the first of our income, so that all the rest can be redeemed and blessed.

But let's go back to our New Testament truth; God desires a cheerful giver. (2 Cor 9:6-12) If you can't give cheerfully of your firstfruits, your attitude is going to open up the door for the devourer. So before you decide to say, "I'll tithe first and then pay my bills," make sure you've dealt with your heart and attitude. Do you have an understanding of the redemptive nature and blessing in tithing? If so, you'll be able to approach paying your bills with a joy and expectation that they will be paid in full.

You may also need to address some spending habits, but that's another topic.

What if my spouse doesn't believe in tithing, but I do?

The truth is many find themselves in this situation and want to know what to do so that they can receive God's blessings. Remember, God is fully aware of your heart and is fully aware of your situation. In times like this, patience and the desire to love and honor your spouse reflect the true nature of your heart, and that is what God is after.

So with that in mind, here's my suggestion. Read Genesis 28:20-22 where you find Jacob discovering the presence of God at Bethel. In the midst of this revelation he makes a vow that if God will be with him, and guide him, and give him bread to eat, he would return to this place and all that God has given him, he would give a tithe unto Him.

The Lord will bring you and your spouse back to "Bethel" as He did Jacob. Until then I want to encourage you to continue walking in faith, allowing God to pour out His blessings and let your life reflect His promises. As you do this, pray and find other things to offer as a tithe that doesn't take away from the family's finances, but truly is a sacrifice that God can bless to redeem you and your family. My prayer is that your spouse will take notice, allowing a door to be opened at which time you can begin tithing as a couple.

Are you ready for a blessed life?

Malachi 3:10 reads, "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it." NKJV

Wow! Can you picture living a life that is so blessed you won't have room to receive it all?

"Father God I commit to living a blessed life that stands under a window of heaven that has been opened up through my tithes and offerings and is pouring out blessings beyond what I have room enough to receive. Amen!"

How to Give and Receive the Blessings of Tithes and Offerings!

By Pastor Jephrey Chavez

It is my hope that through this pamphlet you will discover truth about tithes and offerings that deepen your trust in God and open doors for you to walk in new realms of blessings dreamt about.

In order for us to fully take a hold of Him, we must understand Him. His ways are not always our ways and His thoughts are definitely not always our thoughts. Yet, we have been given His Spirit and it is His Spirit that reveals the deep and mysterious things of God that we are privileged to know. (1 Cor 2:10)

The Kingdom principle that we must live our lives by, whether it's in the realm of finances, relationships, or dreams, is that God responds to faith. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen (Heb 11:1). Faith comes by hearing the word of God (Rom 10:17). And without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb 11:6).

What is tithing?

The word tithe means a tenth or 10%. Tithing is the act by which an individual gives 10% of his/her possession to God as a statement of trust and understanding. You may be saying to yourself right now, why 10%, that's a lot. Let's examine where 10% is introduced and how to overcome the feeling of it being too much.

Where did the tithe come from?

The act of tithing is first mentioned in Genesis 14:20 with Abram (who later becomes Abraham). Abram is honored to be found in the presence of King Melchizedek, the priest of God Most High. While in his presence and honored by his grace and blessing, Abram gives him a tithe (or 10%) of all his possessions. Abram is responding to Melchizedek's grace by giving out of his own possessions. The exact reason for 10% is not clearly stated here, but an important principle is revealed that we must understand. God blesses those who honor Him. When we are honored, as Abram was, we respond with honor; in this case 10% of all he had. Now that is quite a statement. But see it from Abram's perspective: he was so overwhelmed by the King's grace, giving him 10% was his expression of gratitude.

Isn't tithing just an Old Testament thing?

No. We will miss the blessing of the tithe if we don't understand its Old Testament and New Testament purposes.

Tithing is actually a part of God's firstfruits blessing. When the sons of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, brought their offering before God, it was Abel's that God received and respected. (Gen 4:3-5) What was the difference between their offerings?

Cain, the farmer, did not bring the "firstfruits" of his crop; whereas Abel, the shepherd, brought the "firstborn" of his flock. In other words, Abel knew that all he had was from God and honored God by giving to Him first and his best. Cain took his time to bring an offering, probably not caring too much about God's provision or even honoring God.

The insight to all of this is that God has always been and always will be looking at our hearts. To say that tithes and offerings are just an Old Testament practice, is so dismiss the fact that God is concerned about your heart and attitude toward Him and His desire to bless you.

When did the actual tithe get put in place?

Under the leadership of Moses, God established some rules, not just the 10 commandments, but a set of laws that were intended to bless and guide the people of Israel. One of these laws that God instructed the Israelites to obey regarded this issue of giving a tithe unto

the Lord.

In the book of Leviticus we find that tithing was an act of giving to God what was already His. In Leviticus 27:30-32 God instructs His people to give Him a tithe (10%) of all that they gather from the land, for it is holy to the Lord.

The word holy means "set apart." God is simply letting His people know that 10% of everything they have is His. In truth, 100% of everything we have is His; He's only asking for us to give Him back one tenth of that.

So tithing became an act of worshipping God and acknowledging His holiness. This is also where we see God begin to lead the Israelites into a place of understanding God's redemptive nature through giving of their firstfruits.

What is the "firstfruits" offering?

The firstfruits (as well as the firstborn) offering was a commandment that God gave His people. From the very beginning God has been speaking to mankind about redemption; restoring the broken relationship between us and Him.

But before He ever established it as a commandment in Exodus 13 and 23, we see God establishing it through relationship with Abraham. God provided an offspring for Abraham in his son Isaac. Abraham knew Isaac truly belonged to God and was a sign of God's faithfulness. So when God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, Abraham rested in God's faithfulness. You'll find the story in Genesis 22 where God stopped Abraham at the very last moment and provided a ram to replace the sacrifice of Isaac.

God has declared that all the firstborn and firstfruits are His (Ex 13 & 23). Because they are His we are to offer them up to Him. It is in this offering that God sees our faith and restores our possessions. This is the kingdom principle to why we tithe.

Isn't tithing more of a religious act of worship? Don't I live in grace now?

Though tithing itself was established in the Law, it actually began as an act of worship hundreds of years prior to the law as we have briefly seen.

Abram's (400 years before the law) tithing was a response to God's goodness. Another who expressed and committed to giving a tithe was Jacob (Gen 28:16-22) three hundred years before the Law.

As it's told in Genesis, Jacob fell asleep on a rock and discovered God's amazing presence in a place he would call Bethel. It was in this place that Jacob vowed to give God a tithe of everything he had if God took care of him and gave him food and clothing.

This response of Jacob flowed from seeing how faithful God is and will be. Just as Abel desired to please God by offering the firstborn of his flock, Jacob desired to honor God with a tenth of all he would ever possess. May we see God as Abel and Jacob did and commit our tithe and offering unto Him!

How do we move from Old Testament tithing to New Testament tithing?

Simple. God is still dealing with our hearts and desires us to worship Him in spirit and truth and not just works, and the firstfruits principle still applies today.

Leviticus presents tithing as part of the law, so many dismiss tithing as a legalistic, religious act of the Old Testament. Since we're no longer under the law, but grace, some would think we aren't bound by the law, therefore there is no need to tithe. Well, you're not bound by the law if you are born-again; you are bound by the Spirit which means more is required of you than when we were under the law.

Prior to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our spirits were separated from God; therefore our expression of worship was confined to obeying the law. But now that the Holy Spirit dwells within us we can no longer just do an act as if it pleases God, we must actually believe it in our heart.

To approach tithing as a religious act, whether you tithe or not, is a great deception of what the purpose of tithing is really about.

When God instructed the Israelites to give to Him a tithe, He was setting in place an understanding of how He was going to redeem mankind from the curse of death.

The sin of Adam and Eve left mankind in a place of

separation from God's presence and protection. Sin exposes us to the nature of death and destruction. This is a spiritual and physical death that all of mankind now faces. (Rom 5:12-21)

The Kingdom principle in tithing is that God takes from Himself and restores all things. When He asked the Israelites to give Him a tenth of their possession, He was showing them that if you will take from what is Mine and give 10%, I will redeem, restore and protect the 90% which you get to have and enjoy. Not a bad deal.

This is the firstfruits principle again.

How does the New Testament address tithing?

The New Testament must first be understood with this in mind: God never changes; He is the same yesterday, today and forever. (Heb 13:8) What God honored in Abel and asked of the Israelites, He's still asking of us today. The tithe is holy and is His. It is meant to establish His presence and blessings in our lives.

Jesus makes it clear in Matthew chapter 23 that tithing is still required and that it is still about the heart. The key to all of this is still found in the connection between the tithe and God's firstborn principle of redemption. (Ex 13:2) Tithing is an act similar to taking communion. We all know that God sent His Son to redeem us through His body and blood and we obey God's command "to do this in remembrance of" Him every time we take communion. Are we saying that Jesus has to die on the cross again? No, we are declaring and appropriating the blessings of His death and resurrection into our lives because we still engage in sin and need His healing. Tithing is the same thing.

When we tithe, we are declaring that all things are His and the firstfruits or 10% is holy unto Him. We give it with a cheerful and grateful heart (2 Cor 9:6-11) knowing that we are applying His redemptive power to all the rest of our possessions.

Isn't tithing a form of giving?

Yes and no. Tithing is about removing the curse of death and destruction off our lives. It is about giving God His portion first so that His grace may be appropriated toward all the rest. Our tithe states that we