



SHOULD I BE TITHING?

A BIBLICAL PHILOSOPHY OF TITHING: THE BIBLE TEACHES IT

Tithing is a foundational biblical principle that reflects obedience, trust, and gratitude toward God. While some view it as an outdated Old Testament practice, a careful examination of Scripture shows that tithing is a timeless act of faith, designed to acknowledge God's provision, support His work, and bless others.

TITHING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

TITHING BEFORE THE LAW

Tithing is first mentioned in Genesis 14:18–20, where Abraham gives Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of God Most High, “a tenth of everything.” This act of worship revealed Abraham's recognition of God's provision and his gratitude for victory and blessing.

Similarly, in Genesis 28:20–22, Jacob vowed, “Of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you” (28:22b). This voluntary act of faith further demonstrates that tithing predates the Law and is rooted in devotion to God.

TITHING UNDER THE LAW

The Mosaic Law formalized tithing for Israel. In Leviticus 27:30, it is written, “Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the LORD's; it is holy to the LORD.” Tithing acknowledged that everything belongs to God and reflects His holiness.

The Law specified tithes for distinct purposes:

Supporting Ministry: Numbers 18:21 states, “To the Levites I have given every tithe in Israel for an inheritance, in return for their service that they do, their service in the tent of meeting.” Tithes provided for those devoted to ministry.

Celebration and Worship: Deuteronomy 14:22–27 outlines how a portion of the tithe was used for sacred feasts, reminding the people to rejoice in God’s blessings.

Caring for the Needy: Deuteronomy 14:28–29 designates a tithe every third year to provide for the poor, widows, orphans, and foreigners.

Tithing functioned as an act of worship, a means of supporting ministry, and a provision for the vulnerable.

TITHING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

JESUS AFFIRMS TITHING

In Matthew 23:23, Jesus addresses the Pharisees: “For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.” While rebuking their hypocrisy, Jesus affirms tithing as a practice that should not be neglected alongside justice and mercy.

A CALL TO GENEROSITY

The New Testament emphasizes generosity as a defining principle of giving. In 2 Corinthians 9:6–7, Paul writes, “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

While not presented as a strict law, tithing serves as a helpful starting point for generosity. Under the new covenant, believers are called to give freely and joyfully in response to God’s grace, often going beyond the tithe.

THE PURPOSE OF TITHING

ACKNOWLEDGING GOD’S PROVISION

Tithing acknowledges God as the source of all blessing. Deuteronomy 8:18 reminds believers, “You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth.” By returning a portion of what has been given, dependence on God and gratitude for His provision are expressed.

SUPPORTING MINISTRY

In the Old Testament, tithes supported the Levites and the work of the Temple. The New Testament continues this principle in 1 Corinthians 9:13–14: “Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple?... In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.”

BLESSING OTHERS

A portion of the tithe was used to care for the poor and needy. The early church reflected this same heart in Acts 4:34–35: “There was not a needy person among them... it was distributed to each as any had need.”

THE BLESSINGS OF TITHING

Tithing is not only a command but also an invitation to experience God’s faithfulness. In Malachi 3:10–11, God declares, “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test... if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil.”

This passage reveals several key blessings of tithing:

Provision: God promises to pour out blessing, both spiritual and material, when His people honor Him with their giving.

Protection: God promises to restrain the devourer and preserve what has been entrusted.

Faith Development: Tithing deepens trust in God, reminding believers that He is the ultimate provider.

While tithing does not guarantee wealth or remove hardship, it aligns the heart with God’s purposes and invites His faithfulness into everyday life.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

TITHING TO THE LOCAL CHURCH

The local church serves as the modern place where tithes are given. These resources support pastors, ministries, missions, and outreach, fulfilling biblical patterns of stewardship and service.

TITHING AS A STARTING POINT

For some, giving ten percent may feel difficult, but it serves as a starting point for disciplined generosity. As faith grows, generosity often grows as

well, reflecting the grace of God at work in the heart. Rather than focusing only on an amount, the focus shifts to obedience and a growing desire to give in a way that reflects God's nature.

CONCLUSION

Tithing is a biblical principle that reflects obedience, trust, and gratitude toward God. From Abraham's worshipful giving to the structure of the Law and the affirmation of Jesus, Scripture consistently reveals the importance of generosity. It flows as a response to God's work within the heart, acknowledging His provision, supporting His work, and blessing others.

The blessings of tithing are significant. God promises provision, protection, and spiritual growth for those who faithfully give. Through tithing, believers align their hearts with God's priorities, experience His faithfulness, and demonstrate trust in the One who provides all things. Let tithing be embraced as an act of worship and a pathway to deeper faith.



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