



Tithing and Giving

A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE, A MATTER OF HEART

Money and the Bible

60% of Jesus' parables involve money

1 in 8 Gospel verses involve money

Is it ok with you if we talk about money in church?

Tithing

What does *tithe* mean?

A *tithe*: is a one-tenth part of something, paid as a contribution to a religious organization or compulsory tax to government.

Tithing does not mean Contribution

Origins in the rural Old Testament

Agricultural peoples weren't tithing salaries, but livestock and harvests

A Tithe Is a Tenth Part, photo © iStock

Old Testament Tithing

WHAT THE SCRIPTURES SAY

Old Testament Tithing

1. Numbers 18:24 // Annually // For the Levites // 10%

“For the tithe of the people of Israel, which they present as a contribution to the LORD, I have given to the Levites for an inheritance. Therefore I have said of them that they shall have no inheritance among the people of Israel.”

2. Deuteronomy 14:22-ff // Annually // For the Jewish Festivals // 10%

“You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the LORD your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always.”

Old Testament Tithing

3. Deuteronomy 14:28-29 // Every third year // For those in need // 3.33%

“At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. ²⁹ And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.”

$$10\% + 10\% + 3.33\% = 23.33\%$$

Sorry to get all math-y on you!

But wait... there's more!

More Old Testament Tithing

4. Leviticus 19:9-10 // *During the harvest // Leave some for the poor //*
5. Exodus 23:10-11 // *Every seventh year // Do not harvest so the poor may eat //*
6. Exodus 30:13-14 // *Annually // Men over 20 pay the temple tax //*

$23.33\% + X\% + X\% + X\% = 25\%-35\%$

NOTE: These calculations are based on the *involuntary* requirements in the Old Testament. They don't include the voluntary offerings of thankfulness or required offerings of sin.

Old Testament Giving

The Bible certainly does not teach 10% under the Old Testament law, but much more!

As we are not bound to food or Sabbath laws,

- **Christians are not bound to follow Old Testament law**

The New Testament does not discuss tithing as a Christian requirement!

[This is a good thing. Gift giving should be from the heart, not an obligation]

So, biblically speaking, should we give? How much should we give?

Why should we give?

1. Giving is not for God, it's for us.

Matthew 14:13-21

“

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.¹⁴ When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵ Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶ But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”

Matthew 14:13-21

“

¹⁷ They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” ¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

We learned it from Jesus.

Galilee had 204 towns and villages with a population of 15,000 –
People everywhere!

Jesus headed to the other side of the lake to rest, pray, and eat

His followers followed him **everywhere**

Jesus was **unfailingly** compassionate – it was his nature

Jesus prayed and the **disciples** fed the crowd

Proverbs 11:24-26

“

²⁴ One person gives freely, yet gains even more;
another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.

²⁵ A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

²⁶ People curse the one who hoards grain,
but they pray God's blessing on the one who is willing to
sell.

God doesn't need our money.

[**Heaven doesn't have currency**]

God knows it's beneficial to us when we give

Reminds us to not be selfish-we teach it to our kids!

Helps others who are in need

Helps us connect to the needs of others-see HOPE

2. Giving helps us overcome materialism

Matthew 6:19-24

“

¹⁹ Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²² The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

²⁴ No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

What do you treasure?

Being rich with life does not always deter from the temptation to serve money

What do we focus on?

We live in a world that loves money

Wealth and greed are not mutually exclusive

The more money someone has, the more worried they are that someone will take it away

What makes us rich?

3. Giving helps promote the Gospel

1 Corinthians 9:1-14 [Paul's Defense]

“

¹ Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not the result of my work in the Lord? ²Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely I am to you! For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

³ This is my defense to those who sit in judgment on me. ⁴ Don't we have the right to food and drink? ⁵ Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas? ⁶ Or is it only I and Barnabas who lack the right to not work for a living?

Corinthians 9:1-14

“

⁷ Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink the milk? ⁸ Do I say this merely on human authority? Doesn't the Law say the same thing? ⁹ For it is written in the Law of Moses: “Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.” Is it about oxen that God is concerned? ¹⁰ Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because whoever plows and threshes should be able to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest.

Corinthians 9:1-14

“

¹¹ If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? ¹² If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more? But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ.

¹³ Don't you know that those who serve in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? ¹⁴ In the same way, **the Lord has commanded** that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

Paul makes the case for support

Paul makes a point not to take monetary support from developing churches, only from ones he's already built

He's not in it for the money – but needs it to carry on his work

Being on staff is a blessing and a challenge

Giving should be: [Willing, cheerful, and sacrificial]

Are you giving **sacrificially**?

Families support each other and share in their responsibilities. The church is your family!

There is no such thing as “minimum contribution,” but there is also no maximum.

All of us need to participate. We give because we have been given to.

God wants his children to give.

