

## **Q) Is it New Testament to tithe?**

**A) There is a teaching floating around that it is not New Testament to tithe, and that we are no longer obligated to follow any of the teachings of the Old Testament. This line of thinking has produced rebellion, brought down a curse, robbed believers of the blessing of giving, and in some cases has caused shipwreck in peoples lives. In most cases I have seen this teaching stem from a stingy and religious spirit that seeks justification and rationalization not to give. Having been taught the virtues and the blessing of giving since my early Christian days, I cannot relate to this way of thinking. In the church today I have heard statistics that less than 8% of those who claim to be Christians and attend a fellowship actually tithe. Because of this doctrine of devils it is no wonder that many believers suffer needless financial hardship under a closed heaven and the ministry has been hindered. In most churches in America today pastors live at or below the poverty level. You will reap what you sow, or you will not reap what you have not sowed.**

**What you believe is important and can determine whether you live under an open heaven-blessing or a closed heaven-curse.**

**1 Timothy 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.**

**Malachi 3:8-11 "Will a man rob God?**

**Yet you have robbed Me!**

**But you say,**

**'In what way have we robbed You?'**

**In tithes and offerings.**

**9 You are cursed with a curse,**

**For you have robbed Me,**

**Even this whole nation.**

**10 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.**

**11 "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes,**

**So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground,**

**Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,"**

**Says the Lord of hosts;**

**Scripture gives us examples that tithing was established before the law, under the law, and encouraged by Jesus beginning the New Testament era.**

### **Before the Law:**

**Genesis 14:18-20 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he [was] the priest of God Most High.**

**19 And he blessed him and said:**

**"Blessed be Abram of God Most High,**

**Possessor of heaven and earth;**

**20 And blessed be God Most High,**

**Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.**

## Under the Law:

Leviticus 27:30-32 `And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's. It is holy to the Lord.

31 `If a man wants at all to redeem any of his tithes, he shall add one-fifth to it.

32 `And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the Lord.

## New Testament Example:

Luke 11:42 "But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

## Q) Where should your tithe go?

A) To the local storehouse; the local church; The place where you are fed spiritually. It is not your choice as to where the tithe goes. You can't just decide one day that you want to help a poor person so you are going to give your tithe to them. When I was a traveling ministry I encouraged people to give the tithe to the local church and support the traveling minister out of the offering. In many cases, as pastor, I have given supplemental support to traveling ministers from the general funds of the tithe. Because of the lack of teaching, a tight wad mentality, and withholding offerings there has been unnecessary competition between traveling ministries and the local church.

## Q) Should I give the tithe based on the gross amount or the net amount of my paycheck?

A) Since the word exhorts us to seek first the kingdom of God, it would be honorable if we placed Him first before above the government. In our country we are blessed to have tax write offs, but that in itself should not be our motive in giving. Our motive should be to obey God and advance His Kingdom.

Deuteronomy 8:18 "And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

## Q) What should I tithe?

A) Anything of value that the Lord has blessed me with. We have given tithes on gifts that have been given to us, vegetables from our garden, even clothes.

New testament giving examples:

Luke 18:12 `I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'

Matthew 23:23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

## Q) Isn't the tithe all we should give?

**A) Tithing is the beginning point of our giving. The Bible talks about giving offerings. The tithe is a set, non negotiable amount – 10%. Offerings are sacrificial giving above the tithe. This requires you to be lead by the spirit and have a revelation of the power of giving. One man who had the gift of giving gave 90% of his income and lived on 10%. God blessed that man with inventions and he was wealthy on the 10%.**

**In our fellowship we give people the opportunity to sow into the following offerings:**

**Missions:**

**Philippians 4:10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.**

**Philippians 4:14-19 Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress.  
15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.  
16 For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities.  
17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.  
18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.  
19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

**Guest Speakers:**

**3 John 5-8 AMP Beloved, it is a fine *and* faithful work that you are doing when you give any service to the [Christian] brethren, and [especially when they are] strangers.  
6 They have testified before the church of your love *and* friendship. You will do well to forward them on their journey [and you will please do so] in a way worthy of God's [service].  
7 For these [traveling missionaries] have gone out for the Name's sake (for His sake) and are accepting nothing from the Gentiles (the heathen, the non-Israelites).  
8 So we ourselves ought to support such people [to welcome and provide for them], in order that we may be fellow workers in the Truth (the whole Gospel) *and* cooperate with its teachers.**

**Benevolence:**

**Proverbs 19:17 He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord,  
And He will pay back what he has given.**

**Building and Special projects:**

**Exodus 35:21 Then everyone came whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, and they brought the Lord's offering for the work of the tabernacle of meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments.**

**Vows:**

**Psalms 76:11-12 Make vows to the Lord your God, and pay them;  
Let all who are around Him bring presents to Him who ought to be feared.  
12 He shall cut off the spirit of princes;  
He is awesome to the kings of the earth.**