

### **1. Isn't the concept of tithing a part of the law that is not taught in the New Testament?**

Tithing actually predates the law by about 400 years. Abraham tithed to Melchizedek all the way back in **Genesis 14:18-20**.

Jesus endorsed the paying of tithes in the New Testament in **Matthew 23:23**. Paul the apostle also taught weekly giving of offerings in **1 Corinthians 16:2**.

### **2. Where should I pay my tithe? To my Church, a variety of missions organizations, to needy people or various ministries?**

That is a great question and fortunately the Bible gives us a very clear answer on this question. **Malachi 3:10** God didn't say bring some of the tithe or part of the tithe, but the whole tithe into the storehouse "so that there may be food in My house." The storehouse was actually a place in the temple where the provisions that God's people brought to the Lord were kept. Those provisions were distributed to take care of God's house, God's priests, God's work in general, as well as the needs of the poor. Storehouse, actually means "treasure house," and God didn't want His treasury to be empty as many needs arose in the congregation. The storehouse was to hold the abundant provisions presented to God for His work, and they also housed equipment used for worship. We give special offerings to ministries in need, and we are to give alms to needy individuals.

### **3. Is it wrong to give with an expectation of getting something in return?**

Would a farmer plant corn without an expectation of a harvest? Would a laborer go to work without expecting to be paid? Sometimes people feel a sense of guilt when they give and expect God's blessing in return. I believe the Bible is very clear in teaching us "No Deposit, No Return" and about the "Laws of Sowing and Reaping." **Psalms 35:27** says "The Lord takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servants." **II Corinthians 9:6,7** says, "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." God wants us all to give (tithe) cheerfully. Not only is it "a good feeling" to give to the Lord, but it makes good sense to invest in His kingdom as He blesses us with "many happy returns."

### **4. What kind of blessings should I expect if I tithe?**

When a farmer plants corn he expects to reap corn. If he sows wheat he expects to reap wheat and when we sow our finances into God's kingdom we should expect a financial harvest and even more. Tithing is designed by God to bring us into an "overflow" of blessings and provisions. God speaks of the "overflow" twice in regards to tithing in what I call the 3/10 principle.

**Malachi 3:10 & Proverbs 3:10** says God blesses us through tithing to be a blessing, and He promises to provide "seed for the sower" (extra finances to give Him from our own harvest) and "bread for the eater" (finances to meet our personal needs) **II Corinthians 9:10a** I have experienced God's blessings spilling over to my relationship with God and others. Also, I've received divine favor in business deals, being at the right place at the right time, peace of mind that I'm doing the will of God, and a deep sense of satisfaction that I'm reaching the lost, as well as an overall greater sense of righteousness. **(II Corinthians 9:10B)** Tithing gives us "prosperity with a purpose" and a vision for the proper use of money!

### **5. Do I tithe on my gross or on my net pay?**

Jesus said in **Matthew 22:21** that we are to render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's. **Proverbs 3:9** says, "Honor the Lord from your wealth and from the first of all your produce." The Bible teaches us "first fruit" giving which means God is first before the government, our bills, or anyone else. When we put God first we can never go wrong whether it's in our giving or in any other part of our lives.

### **6. If I own a business how do I tithe from my business income?**

Tithing is based on our increase or profit. **Proverbs 3:9** says to "Honor the Lord from your wealth and from the first fruits of all thine increase." Our Church Finance Director produces a monthly P&L statement in conjunction with a local CPA.

A monthly profit/loss statement is a great way to track your business and determine your tithe if you are a business owner. I believe God is going to call many committed Christians to start and succeed in businesses to further His Kingdom.

### **7. "If I'm having financial problems, should I stop tithing?"**

Let me answer this question with two questions.

- 1) If I'm having financial problems, should I quit working?
  - 2) If a farmer had a small harvest one year, should he not plant seed the next Spring?
- The answer to all three questions is obviously no. Some have foolishly said "I can't afford to tithe." No, you can't afford *not* to tithe. Tithing isn't a man made idea but in fact comes straight out of the Bible and it's part of God's plan to increase us, not decrease us. Tithing is both a great financial plan to increase our income and decrease our debts. **Malachi 3:10-11**

### **8. What do I do if I have not been tithing?**

In the Old Testament if you weren't tithing you had to pay a 20% surcharge when you brought in tithes that you were late in paying. In the New Testament Covenant of grace, we should repent and purpose in our heart to give the tithe to God henceforth.

**II Corinthians 9:8** What do you do if you have not been praying? You start praying! What do you do if you have not been reading the Word? You start reading the Word! What do you do if you have not been tithing? You start tithing!

### **9. Should Pastors pay tithes?**

Yes, for 2 reasons!

1. Because a leader must lead by example.
2. The Bible says they should.

**(Numbers 18:26)**

Patti and I have been tithing for 21 years and have seen God work many a miracle in our finances because of it. All of our Pastors on staff tithe!

### **10. What are tithes used for?**

The tithes are used to fulfill the Great Commission. Because we receive tithes we can support over 30 missionaries and missions organizations with monthly support of between \$25 - \$400 each. We can reach out and evangelize our city through two 38 ft. signs on the highway, pass out sports Trivia Tracts, advertise in various papers a month, reach out through radio, T.V., and direct mail. We also have a permanent place to worship and we can support 3 full-time Pastors and a Church staff. Because of the tithe we are able to give to the poor and help in emergency situations to meet emergency needs. Tithing isn't a good idea, it's a God idea!

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## **Pastor Paul's Top 10 Tithing Questions**



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