



The Tithe As Cornerstone

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We will have to learn to say “No!” to:

1. Sales, we have not budgeted for
2. Impulse and on the spur of the moment buying
3. Get rich quick schemes
4. Buying something new for special occasion when we have things in our closet that are more than sufficient, that are still basically new
5. Spending money when we are uptight or upset, to make ourselves feel good
6. Things we must have and can't live without even though we have been living without them very well all of our lives
7. Deals we must agree to right now and can't walk away from because they are a once in a lifetime opportunity. Once in a lifetime opportunities to buy things are like buses; if we miss one, another will be coming around soon enough
8. Things and people which are just too good to be true, because that's what they usually are--- too good to be true
9. Our pride and ego needs to keep up appearances
10. Our pride and ego needs to keep up with somebody else
11. Friends and relatives who come asking for loans and /or co-signers (Note: As you begin to save and accumulate abundance the less said and the less shown, the better. Again the words of Jesus are helpful, even if quoted out of context, “do not let your right hand know what your left hand is doing.” Matthew 6:3b)
12. Anything or anyone who interferes with our long term goals of debt reduction, wealth accumulation and financial freedom.

What is my debt?

| | | |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. | 2. | 3. |
| 4. | 5. | 6. |
| 7. | 8. | 9. |
| 10. | 11. | 12. |
| 13. | 14. | 15. |

What are my strategies for reducing or eliminating debt?

| | | |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. | 2. | 3. |
| 4. | 5. | 6. |
| 7. | 8. | 9. |
| 10. | 11. | 12. |
| 13. | 14. | 15. |

The Main Reasons a Number of Believers Will Not Achieve Financial Freedom (Haggai 2: 15-19)

- God is not our first love based upon our financial and budget priorities and giving
- God's principle of diminishing returns
- The inflation factor in the divine economy.

Blessed But Cursed: Malachi 3:8-12

Curse is not damnation. People of God never lost status as being people of God.

Curse is not bad luck. Luck is a capricious occurrence in cosmos with no inerrant, moral guiding principles

Curse is a deliberate act that can only happen in a system where there is power to make things happen

Curse is the withholding of blessings and breakthroughs

Curse is the failure to reach potential

God's Principle of Abundance

From Survival to Abundance

Luke 6:38

The Blessing That We Are Not Able to Receive

The Tithe is the Key That Unlocks Heaven

Why is giving the cornerstone for financial freedom? (**Matthew 6:21**)

The Revelation of Cancelled Checks

We Really Do Not Believe What We Say We Believe- GOD IS OWNER:

Genesis 3; I Chronicles 29:14; Haggai 2:8; Psalms 24:1; 50:12-15; 89:11; 5:3-7; 100:3 and Matthew 6:25-34

If God is the Owner, Then We are Stewards and Managers

Biblical understanding of steward or manager

Delegated authority: **Genesis 39:1-6**

Trustworthiness: **I Corinthians 4:2**

Interim possession: **Job 1:20-21**

Accountability: **Matthew 14:14-30, II Corinthians 5:10**

Tithing and the Scriptures

Grace and Faith: The Basis of the Tithe (Genesis 14:17-20)

Abraham's response to God's goodness/thanksgiving and praise

Abraham's belief in God's continuing faithfulness

Genesis 28:18-22

God's initiative

Jacob's response

(NOTE: Tithing is always conditional. We tithe on the condition that God first gives to us.)

Tithe as Law (Leviticus 27:30-34)

Purpose of the Law

Establishes Order (Judges 17:6 and 21:25 will *not* work for us)

Doesn't regulate all behavior, but establishes a minimum standard of obedience.

Provides Protection. Those who tithe are under the protection of Almighty God (**Malachi 3:11**). The Destroyer will attack, but will not decimate. There will always be some kind of harvest.

Benefits of the Law

Receives whatever benefits, rights, privileges and protection a community, organization, association, or government can bestow.

The Tithe Establishes Order

The Church as community must have order in all things including fundraising, with everyone doing what is right in their own eyes, creates confusion, conflict and disharmony.

The Tithe establishes a minimum standard of giving that is fair to all.

The Tithes protects the integrity of the church and individual believer.

Keeps focus on mission and growth rather than fundraising and survival.

Benefits of Tithing

One receives the fullness of God's blessings. (**Malachi 3:6-12**)

Tithes and Offerings

Giving in the Old Testament

The Lord's Tithe: (Leviticus 27:30-33; Deuteronomy 12:6-7, 11, 17-19; 14:22-23)

Levite's Support-- The Levites received their own tithe of support since they were involved in fulltime ministry and received no inheritance of land (**Numbers 18:25-32**)

Poor Tithe—Given every three years and kept in storage to be distributed to the Levites, fatherless, foreigners, refugees and widows (**Deuteronomy 14:28-29**)

Gleanings—This offering allowed the needy to pick up grain and fruit that had fallen to the ground during harvest (**Leviticus 19:9-10; 23:22; Deuteronomy 24:19; Ruth 2**)

Temple Tax—Stipulated amount (1/3 shekel) used to pay for the ongoing operations of the temple. (**Nehemiah 10: 32-33**)

First Fruits—Given to the Levites at the time of harvest, in lieu of the whole crop, symbolizing God's ownership of the entire harvest (**Exodus 23:19**)

Freewill Offerings—Given during feasts such as Passover, Pentecost, or special projects (**Exodus 23:14-17; 35:4; 36:7**)

Cancellation of Debts—Every seven years, creditors were to forgive debts of Israelites or believers who were needy. The loss of income was an offering that honored God and was a sign of thanksgiving for the remission of sins (**Deuteronomy 15:1-11**)

Summary on Offerings

Giving in scripture has never been limited to the tithe, but also offerings beyond the tithe. ***The tithe is the foundation that the giving house is built upon. It does not constitute the entire giving responsibility.*** Our giving of offerings beyond the tithe follows the Biblical standard of giving.

Since the tithe already belongs to God, ***we are blessed abundantly as we give thanks and praise to God and as we obey God's word in our giving. However, the offerings beyond the tithe bring the overflow.***

*****Tithes= Testimony (God's faithfulness)***

Offerings beyond the tithe= Overflow (from God's fullness)

How Do We Tithe? (Deuteronomy 14:22-29)

Tithing is obedience to the word of God (vs.22)

Set Apart—Tithing is systematic and disciplined

A Tithe—Ten (10) percent; amount is non-negotiable; standard set by the word of God.

Of All the Yield-- Tithing is off the **GROSS**

Based upon gross yield of the field and not merely salary. ***It comes off the top.***

Tithe is not based upon what we have after the government takes its share.

God trusts us more than the government.

That is brought in yearly— We tithe when our incomes come in whether weekly, biweekly, monthly, or quarterly.

In the Presence... In the Place (vs. 23 & 26)

The tithe is brought to the church. We do not do missionary work with the tithe.

We do not contribute to other charitable causes with the Lord's tithe

Being fed by the tithe— (ex. Mother Hannah Harris)

The Convenience of the Tithe— (vs 24-25)

The situation in ancient Israel and ours.

Whatever is best for us—cash, check, payroll deductions, etc.

Remembering the Levite— (vs. 27)

Who were the Levites?

The biblical principle of the just and generous compensation of God's servants.

(Numbers 18:24; I Corinthians 9: 13-14; I Timothy 5:17-18)

Biblical Promise to Those Who Know How to Bless the Servants of God. (Philippians 4:15-20)

Neither cheap churches nor cheap preachers receive the fullness of God's blessings. The fullness of God's blessings is not poured out upon thieves (Malachi 3:8-9)

Resources for Mission (vs. 28-29)

Every third year- provision for local mission

All needs of the church can be met through tithing.

The Time to Tithe is Now!!

The Law of the Tithe was instituted when Israel was ***still*** in the wilderness.

They had not even reached the Promise Land. However, God already had a track record of faithfulness and provision.

Tithing and New Testament Christians

Grace and Faith: The Basis of Our Salvation (**Ephesians 2:5**)

God's Initiative and Our Response

Grace and Law

What is a Christian's relationship to the law? Does Jesus and does the New Testament nullify the law or go beyond it? Do we live under a perspective that says grace versus the law, or grace **and** the law? What does giving under grace mean? Does life under grace abrogate the tithe? Is tithing an Old Testament standard that has no validity for New Testament Christians?

The Teachings of Jesus (**Matthew 5:17-20; 23:23**)

Other New Testament Examples (**Luke 17:18-30; 19:1-10; Acts 2:43-47; Philippians 3:4-10**)

What do we learn from these examples?

- Grace living and giving do not nullify or invalidate the law, but go beyond the law.
- The tithe is the minimum established by law. Giving under grace should go beyond the tithe. ***The tithe is the minimum, not the maximum.***
- Nowhere in the New Testament has the Old Testament law of the tithe repealed.
- The dichotomy between the Old and New Testament regarding the eternal and essential truth of scripture is false. There is a consistency in the word of God, regarding the Old and New Testaments. The word of God is the word of God, both Old and New Testaments.

Is the tithing of money the only way we give as Christians under grace?

Don't neglect other matters that also carry weight. We cannot buy our way to heaven. (**Matthew 23:23**)

The Tithe of Time

The Daily Tithe

2.4 hours or 2 hours and 24 minutes

The Weekly Tithe

16.8 hours or 16 hours and 48 minutes

The tithe of Talent

Service versus Pay

Principles of Savings:

1. **God will and does provide in abundance. God always gives more than we need to simply survive.** A number of us cannot save because we have not made a distinction between needs and wants. A need is about survival; a want is about comfort.
2. **If we do not have the sufficiency, the problem is not God's provision but our management or system of distribution.** Unless we learn to manage what we have, we have no right to ask God

for more. Unless our management or our system of distribution is changed, more will only complicate our situation. ***Those who cannot manage little will only squander much.***

3. **The amount left from survival needs should be saved or invested; not used unnecessarily or wasted.** Saving is intentional, not accidental. Saving is a discipline, not just a desire. Having a goal is helpful. Every saver should be able to ask and answer the question(s), “Why am I saving?” or “What am I saving for?”

4. **Amount saved should not interfere with our daily needs.** As with any new discipline, one may feel some awkwardness at the beginning. As with any discipline, one’s level of proficiency increases over time. If savings continues to be drudgery rather than delight due to continued struggles with meeting basic needs, then the discipline of savings will soon dissipate. One should revisit the amount being saved.

5. **Savings ought to come after the tithe. Or in other words, after we give to God out of a spirit of thanksgiving and praise and with an attitude of faith, we should pay ourselves next.** Suggestion—The dime/dime plan. If the dime/dime plan is not doable because of our present financial situation, then try the dime/five plan, ***but start somewhere and have a plan.***

6. **Saving represents an orientation towards the future.** When we save, we look beyond the needs and all of our problems of today. The act of saving means that we believe that we have a future. ***The future begins today, right now, right where we are with whatever we presently have.***