



Tithing: a
universal
principle of
giving

My Central Premise: Giving at least a tithe of all income is aligned with God's kingdom (spiritual and natural) laws

Law of Reciprocity/Sowing and Reaping/Giving & Receiving

Matt. 5:7--“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

Luke 6:38--“**Give, and it will be given to you.** They will put into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you in return.”

Gal. 6:7--“You will reap whatever you sow.”

Note: Sow first, reap second! Don't expect harvest if you don't plant seeds! Farmer 101



2) Law of Increase (and Decrease) When we wisely use (sow) what we have been given, we receive back more than we originally had (sowed).



Matt. 25: 29—“To everyone who has (and sows it), more will be given; and that person will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have (does not sow what has been given), even what he does have shall be taken away.”

30-60-100-fold increase (or decrease?) potential!

30X = 30-fold

Prov. 11:24—“One person is generous (gives income away to God) and yet grows **more wealthy**; ; but another withholds more than he should (from God-directed causes) **and loses everything.**”

Tithing: giving the first fruits (10%) of all “income” what “comes in”: gross income)



the basic metric of giving built into the laws of the universe, the laws of creation (of nature) and the laws of God’s kingdom (spiritual laws)

The Tithe's Enduring Basis – the debate over tithing...

1) In Pre-Mosaic Natural Law--400 years before the Law of Moses

Abraham tithed to Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of God Most High--Gen. 14:20—"He gave him a tenth of all."

Jacob tithed—Gen. 28:22—"Of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to you." – tithing (10% giving) is common-grace-motivated "good deed" with reward *built into the laws of creation—testimony of Warren Buffet, Bill Gates – many non-Christians tithed and gave above the tithe – The Giving Pledge—the super wealthy give away half their wealth—research shows that American millionaires give away 9 percent of their income to charity – do they sense something, even if not Christian?*

2) In The Mosaic Ceremonial Law—Pentateuch – 613 laws of Judaism governing the religious and community life of ancient Israel

Lev. 27:30- “The tithe is the Lord’s.”

Malachi 3:10-11 (specific benefits of giving tithes/offerings: 1) open windows of heaven—overflowing blessings; 2) rebuke the devourer—freedom from the curse of disobeying God’s ritual Law but not His created spiritual law of giving

Invited To Test God! Only passage of the Bible where God invites us to test and prove Him to find Him faithful – “the tithing challenge”



Jesus has freed us from the curse of the Mosaic Law (the consequences of breaking the Mosaic law), but has He freed us from the consequences of breaking God's natural laws? Gravity? Natural death (entropy)?

Ga. 3:10--“Cursed is everyone who does abide by everything that is written in the Book of the Law, to do them.” (Deut. 27:26) **Gal.3:13**—“Jesus has redeemed us from the curse of the Law” and given to us “the blessing of Abraham” and the blessings of keeping The Law (Ga. 3) The curse of the Law consists of the penalties levied for not keeping the Law. (Deut. 28:15-68)

Our belonging to Jesus qualifies us for the “blessing of Abraham” (**Ga. 3:14,29; Deut. 28: 1-14**)

Ga. 5:1—“*Stand firm in your freedom* from being under the Law; do not put yourselves under bondage to the slavery the Law requires of you!” *Jesus has freed us from the curse of the Mosaic Law (the consequences of breaking the Mosaic law), but has He freed us from the consequences of breaking God's natural laws? Gravity? Natural death (entropy)?*

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Tithes for Israelites ;

Three tithes in scripture—

The Levitical Tithe, The Festive Tithe, The Poor Tithe--
total of **24.3 percent** of annual agricultural income for
landowning Israelite

Prov. 3:9-10—“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with **the first fruits** of your crops; then your barns will be overflowing, and your vats will brim over.” first fruits=tithe

Note: Offerings given too, more than tithe—In both OT and NT



3) In the NT--no 10% requirement specifically stated in the NT, but direct and indirect references to tithing show that *neither Jesus nor NT writers ever rescinded tithing*

Indirect scriptural references to tithing--

Matt. 5:17-20—“Don’t think that I have come to destroy the Law of the Prophets. I have come to fulfill them.” Higher standard of righteousness expected, same with giving—tithing and more...

Matt. 22:21—“Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.” What is God’s? – “The tithe is the Lord’s.”

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Direct scriptural references to tithing--

Luke 11:42—“...You pay tithe of mint and rue and every garden herb...”

Luke 18:12—“I give tithes of all that I receive.”

Hebrews 7:1-22—Abraham’s tithe to Melchizedek mentioned positively—**analogy** to giving to Christ, who is “*a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek*” (.21)

So: Abraham tithed to Mel; we tithe to Jesus!

Romans 11:16—“If the first fruits of the dough are holy, the entire lump of dough is also” – principle—giving the first 10% to God “sanctifies” (makes holy) the remaining 90%-- removes it from the neutral/unblessed” category to the “blessed” category

Robert Morris: *The Blessed Life*



Evidence the early church gave generously: *tithing plus*—

NT *The Didache*—*The Teaching of the Apostolic Fathers*
(probably 2nd century) -the oldest surviving manual of
Christian church order

Irenaeus—(2nd century)

John Chrysostum (4th century)

Medieval Church – “tithe barns” maintained to support the
Catholic priests and the church structures in 585 the Roman
Emperor Charlemagne made tithing legally mandatory, true
for most of church history—Catholic and Protestant:
mandatory tithing



Tithing and Giving—Some Best Practices

--Three NT principles governing giving to the Lord (specifically offerings— Co. 16:1-2))—2 Co. 9:6-7 -- generosity, and joyfulness (worship and honor toward the Lord, the Owner of all!)

--First fruits principle—give to God first, before using money for other purposes – giving the 10% puts God's blessing on the 90%! Gross, not net. Proportional Giving? – maybe; my suggestion: jump into the ocean!

--Where to give tithe—into God's "storehouse" – where you are spiritually fed and cared for by Jesus through His Body; offerings to other good causes

--Tithing Plus Wisdom Mixed with Faith = blessings from God



Tithing Testimonies

--**Billy Graham:** “We have found in our own home...that God’s blessing on the nine-tenths, when we tithe, helps it to go farther than ten-tenths without His blessing.”

--**John D. Rockefeller**—“I never would have been able to tithe the first million dollars I ever made if I had not tithed my first salary, which was \$1.50 per week.”

--**Sir John Templeton**—founder of high-yield mutual funds—“Tithing is the single best investment anyone can make.” He eventually gave away to good causes \$10 for every dollar he kept for himself.” – reverse tithing

--**Christian Givers**—Kraft, Colgate, Heinz – started as strict tithers, ended up tithing nearly 100% of income to the Lord’s work



Conclusion: “Give, and it shall be given back to you...abundantly.” Luke 6:38

“Give to God what is God’s.” –Matt. 22:21

And what is God’s, you ask?

“All the tithe...is the Lord’s” Lev. 27:30 *God answers
This answer has never been rescinded in scripture! Still valid
today.*

Tithe All Earned/Unearned Income-- entry-level giving:
this “blessed minimum” in the OT has never been rescinded
or adjusted by Jesus or a NT writer through further revelation;
therefore, tithing stands as a baseline for Christian
stewardship, from which we give offerings and alms as well.

