

A Life of Giving



Outline

- Introduction: 2 Tests
- Origin of Tithing
- Why God Wants Us to Tithe?
- Several Common Practices of People Giving to Church
- Reflection: Have We Robbed God?
- Conclusions

Malachi 3:7-12

⁷ Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty. "But you ask, 'How are we to return?'

⁸ "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.

"But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?'

"In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me.

Malachi 3:7-12

¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. ¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the LORD Almighty. ¹² "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty.

Two Tests of Our Love for God

- 16.8 hours/week

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

(Matt 6:21)



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Origin of Tithing

¹⁸ Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, ¹⁹ and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.

²⁰ And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

(Genesis 14:18-20)

Origin of Tithing



- "I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the tent of meeting. (Numbers 18:21)



Does it Apply only to the OT time?

- ²³ "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. (Matt 23: 23)

The Principle of Giving in NT

- Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (II Corinthians 9:6-7)

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Why God Wants Us to Tithe?

- Practical Needs
- Faith, Hope and Love
- Life of Giving

Different Concepts of Giving: Buddhism vs. Christianity

- The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; (Psalms 24:1)



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Several Common Practices of People Giving to Church

- Seldom
- Irregular
- Regular but Inadequate
- Regular and Faithful
- Gift of Giving



Several Common Practices

- Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. (Malachi 3:10)

Several Common Practices

- On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. (I Corinthians 16:2)

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Can't Afford the Tithe?

...Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. (Malachi 3:10)

Why God Wants Us to Tithe?

- Practical Needs
- Faith, Hope and Love
- Life of Giving

Life of Giving

- ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"
- "Here I am," he replied.
- ¹² "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." (Genesis 22:10-12)



Conclusions

- Giving with Faith
- A Life of Giving

