

THE DUTY AND BLESSING OF GIVING

I. THE EXAMPLE OF TITHING AND GIVING FREE WILL OFFERINGS

A. Genesis 14:19-20. Genesis 28:13-17. 2 Chronicles 31:4-6. Malachi 3:8-12.
Tithing was what the Jew did – he would give 10% of all he received to God.

B. Zechariah, Elizabeth – Luke 1:6. Joseph, Mary – Matthew 1:19, Luke 2:24, 39.
Jesus – Matthew 5:17-20. They were righteous, and therefore tithed and gave offerings.

C. The Pharisees - Matthew 23:23, Luke 18:9-14. The people were to tithe, but they were to also do everything else God wanted, like being loving, righteous and faithful. Jesus wasn't negating or abolishing tithing, but He was affirming it. Hebrews 7-10

D. Paul – Philippians 3:4-6. Paul tithed before he was saved, and no doubt after he was saved, but it was only after he was saved that he gave out of a good and righteous heart.

E. God commanded the Jews to give, and He never did away with this command to tithe and give free will offerings, either to the Jews or the Christians. There is no place in the New Testament where we read that we shouldn't tithe or give free will offerings, no place where we are commanded to not do these things.

II. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TITHES AND FREE WILL OFFERINGS

The tithe was more like a tax, but the free will offering went above and beyond the tithes. The tithe was mandatory, what they ought to give, but the free will offering was voluntary. The tithe was 10% of all you received, but the free will offering was whatever you wanted to give, whatever you were led to give.

III. SOME REASONS WHY I BELIEVE GOD DOES NOT COMMAND PEOPLE TO TITHE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

A. God doesn't want us to think that giving money is a means of righteousness.

We tithe not to get saved, but because we are saved.

B. There are times when you have no income, and you just cannot give.

C. Your monthly income is fixed and very low, and you can't tithe and pay all your bills.

D. If you are married, you and your spouse are not united when it comes to giving.

E. A missionary is jailed, or a person in jail gets saved – and neither of them can give.

F. Your debt: I would suggest always giving, but maybe your conscience says you have to pay off your debt first. The debt may in part have been incurred because the person wasn't first giving to God.

G. The reason God may not command people to give is that He commands people to do what they can always do, but not what they may not always be able to do.

IV. MORE THOUGHTS ON TITHING AND FREE WILL OFFERINGS

- A. When you give to others, you are giving to God. Proverbs 19:17
- B. Giving is a way to recognize God's ownership, and all that we have is His. Luke 19:11-27
- C. Giving is a way to recognize that God gives us all the good things that we have.
It's a way to show our gratitude to God, to honor Him. 1 Chronicles 29:10-16
- D. God gives us Biblical examples of those who tithed and gave free will offerings to show us the principle, the pattern we should try to follow. Church fathers
- E. People need direction when it comes to giving, and God gives direction in His Word.
- F. You should give as you receive income, as God blesses you. In the Old Testament days, people tithed off their crops. In these days, people receive a regular paycheck, a dividend or interest, or they may sell off some of their assets.
- G. When it comes to the tithe, I believe 10% is a base amount, the floor and not the ceiling. I believe it is a minimum amount, and as God blesses you, then give even more.
- H. Suggestions on giving: Give to the church. In the Old Testament it was for the priests and the temple; and in these days it is for the church, for the elders, for people's needs and for building maintenance. Give to people in need. Give to missions.
- I. Give first to God and His work - do not give God your leftovers. Numbers 18:12
- J. The spiritual condition of a person's life (country) relates directly to his (its) giving.
- K. Gives shows your faith in God, your love for God and people, and your wisdom.
- L. This message is not given so the church gets your money, and it is not to be self-serving. It is taught because it is Biblical. It's for your good, the church's good and God's glory
- M. Right Attitudes in giving – sincerely, willingly, joyfully, wholeheartedly – 2 Cor. 8-9
- N. Giving is an important way to worship God. 1 Chronicles 29:10-1

FOR JUST AS YOU ABOUND IN EVERYTHING,
IN FAITH, UTTERANCE, KNOWLEDGE, IN ALL EARNESTNESS,
AND IN THE LOVE WE INSPIRED IN YOU,
SEE THAT YOU ABOUND IN THIS GRACIOUS WORK ALSO.
2 Corinthians 8:7

SOME QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

1. What is the main thing you believe that God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. What do the Biblical examples tell us about giving?
3. What is the difference between tithes and free will offerings?
4. Why do you think God does not explicitly command you to tithe in the New Testament?
5. How does giving show your heart for the Lord, and for His work?
6. Why is giving related to faith in God, love for God and to being wise?
7. What is your attitude in giving to the Lord? Can it improve in any way?