



A NOTE FROM PASTOR BRAD



Since becoming a Christian nearly 50 years ago, I have tithed and given to missions, special projects, building funds, and individuals.

Each year as I review what I have given compared to how God has blessed me, His gifts (financial alone) have exceeded what I have given. Yet, I have watched as God has blessed my life in so many other areas as well.

Please do not shortchange yourself by failing to tithe and give offerings. You will be amazed at how your finances and life improves as you give.

Got questions? GREAT! That is why this was put together. I hope it helps.

- Pastor Brad Whipple

WHY SHOULD BELIEVERS TITHE?

1. Done freely, it does bring blessing
2. It is a practical business way for us to recognize God's prior claim on our time, energy, and ability
3. It provides for the church we gain so much benefit from
4. It reminds us that God is our provider

GIVE JOYFULLY, REAP ABUNDANTLY

God freely gives His gifts to us. Our salvation comes to us freely. The Holy Spirit is given freely. The gifts of the Spirit are given freely. God expects from us the same willingness to give freely:

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. II Corinthians 9:7

The next time you give to your church, remember that the Lord desires you to give with a cheerful heart. Think of the joy your money will bring to the lives of those who will be saved or delivered through it. Allow joy to fill your heart the next time you give.

GIVING ALWAYS RESULTS IN RECEIVING

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." - Luke 6:38

1. God promises to return your gift to you. He says you will receive a good measure, literally running over.
2. God says your blessings will come from men. God uses people, and so He has no difficulty blessing you from unexpected places.
3. By the same measure you give, you will receive. Remember, the measure is not how much you give, but how much you give in proportion to your income.

THE TITHE – IS IT STILL NECESSARY?

There is probably more confusion in the Body of Christ about tithing (giving 10% of your income) than any other type of "giving."

“ Will a man rob God? Yet you rob Me. But you ask, how do we rob you? In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse – the whole nation of you – because you are robbing Me.

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord God Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. - Malachi 3:8-10”

This is an Old Testament command that God's people failed to carry out with the resulting difficulties. In the New Testament, ALL that we own is seen as from God and needs to be managed for the Lord as His!

CAN I WAIT TILL I GET OUT OF DEBT TO TITHE?

When you tithe, a couple of things happen. You tend to stop buying things you may not need because you become a bit more conscious of spending. You also release God to help you in paying down debt. Please consider taking the Financial Peace University course through Seaport.

DOLLARS & SENSE

ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS YOU'VE BEEN ASKING ABOUT TITHING

SEAPORT
COMMUNITY CHURCH

860-448-6224
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seaportcommunitychurch.org

IF I PAY MY BILLS, THERE IS NO MONEY LEFT. HOW CAN I TITHE?

Read Proverbs 3:9 -10 where we are taught to put Him first. It is strange how 90% seems to go farther than 100%. Make a practice of putting God first, and watch Him provide.

IF I TITHE, SHOULD I EXPECT AN INCREASE?

The answer is found in God's law of sowing and reaping. This means we can expect a harvest from every seed we plant. Only what a farmer sows can produce his harvest, and only what a Christian gives can provide his abundant return. Note: Unplanted seed can never increase! But the harvest is always abundantly more than the amount of the seed planted.



IF I TITHE, DOES IT MEAN I WILL NEVER HAVE FINANCIAL TROUBLES?

No. Satan brings all kinds of financial reverses to make us doubt God. There are financial troubles we bring on ourselves, when we foolishly misuse our money and run up bills, and try to blame God for our not being able to pay them. Then there are financial reverses that God sends our way to test us to prove whether we are profitable or unprofitable stewards. The difference is, if we have been faithful to Him in the time of plenty, in the time of need we can come to Him with faith and assurance that He will supply all our needs.

IF I TITHE BUT ADVERSITY PERSISTS, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Claim the promise of Malachi 3:10-11 and believe God to rebuke the devourer for your sake as He has promised in Exodus 23:25, Psalm 105:37 and 3 John 1:2. Indeed, the promise is for a three-fold prosperity for the obedient child of God. "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper (material) and be in health (physical), even as thy soul prospereth," God declares, "I am the Lord. I change not." Therefore, His divine ordinances are still in force.

DOES TITHING ASSIST IN CHRISTIAN GROWTH?

Tithing is indeed a source of Christian growth and joy. The spontaneous giver who refuses to give systematically almost always gives in spurts and gives less than those who give faithfully what God has required.

Disobedience can be caused by lack of faith in God's faithfulness, that He will do what He says. Liberality means sowing and reaping when people discover that God's financial principle not only pays them financially, but also frees the spirit from materialistic death. One who believes this will not just stop at tithing (2 Corinthians 9:6, 11).

I WANT TO TITHE, BUT THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I NEED. WON'T GOD UNDERSTAND?

"Then he (Jesus) said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. . .But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:15, 20-21).

Excerpted from "Questions & Answers About Tithing" by Crystal Clayton and "Financial Excellence" by John Avanzini

DO I TITHE ON MY GROSS EARNINGS OR TAKE-HOME PAY?

This answer is easily determined. What does the government tax you on? Your gross income of course, because that is what you earned or they would not have been able to deduct insurance, Social Security, etc. These deductions are made primarily for your benefit from your earnings. How you figure your tithes will determine your motive and your faith. We should not give according to our income or circumstances, but we should give according to our motive.

WHEN THE HEART IS RIGHT, WHAT WILL BE OUR RESPONSE TO TITHING?

1. Tithing is a joy, not a burden.
2. Tithing brings the satisfaction of living for Him and others
3. Tithing expresses love for God and moves us to praise Him for life.
4. Tithing opens the way to spiritual blessings
5. Tithing places God in His rightful position – first in mind and life.
6. Tithing puts you in a position where God can truly bless you.
7. Tithing solves money problems, by turning them over to God.
8. Tithing is an act of faith. You may not be able to see how you can afford to tithe, but God has promised to "pour out blessings" upon you if you do. He keeps His promises.
9. Tithing is a test of faith. It proves you are wholly depending upon God, believing in Him, trusting Him with all He has entrusted to you.

GOD'S GUARANTEE

If you faithfully tithe for three months and encounter financial hardship as a result, simply speak to Pastor Brad, and what you gave over those three months will be returned to you in full!