

TITHING WHY?

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Tithing has been a source of contention among parishners for centuries, mainly because the church has used money as a source of manipulation and guilt among its congregants since the inception of the Catholic Church. In many cases tithing has been forced on people out of obligation and such turns people off and most either don't tithe or do it grudgingly. In this discourse we will look at 5 main reasons why we should tithe.

1. TITHING IS A COMMANDMENT OF GOD

Leviticus 27:30-35

30. And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's: it is holy unto the LORD.

31. And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof.

32. And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.

33. He shall not search whether it be good or bad, neither shall he change it: and if he change it at all, then both it and the change thereof shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.

34. These are the commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses for the children of Israel in mount Sinai.

Numbers 18:25-27

25. And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

26. Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the LORD, even a tenth part of the tithe.

27. And this your heave offering shall be reckoned unto you, as though it were the corn of the threshingfloor, and as the fulness of the winepress.

2. TO SEPARATE US FROM THE POSSESSIVENESS OF POSSESSIONS

Tithing itself has a more in-depth purpose than simply the commandment. The tithe is designed to separate man from his possessiveness of things, by giving the first ten percent of all your increase, the material obsession of mans character is broken.

Luke 18:24-26

24. And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

25. For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

26. And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved?

It is NOT that God is against wealth, He is against wealth having you. In this exchange about the rich man, his possessions had him.

There are many examples of God blessing man with obscure wealth beyond the imagination, like Solomon and Abraham. Consider this exchange with God and Solomon. This beyond a doubt demonstrates that God is not against wealth. It is the misuse of wealth God hates.

1 Kings 3:5-14

5. In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.

6. And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

7. And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.

8. And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.

9. Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

10. And the speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing.

11. And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;

12. Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

13. And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.

14. And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.

3. TO CREATE COMMUNITY

Part of creating the community of the Church, is when the people come together to worship and serve in the church. Serving and worshipping in the church is putting your treasure in the church. Your treasure is all that you are including spiritually. The teachings and worship relationship with the church sets up your eternal life.

You have to be certain that the church you go to God has chosen to put his name there NOT the church or its leaders putting Gods name there. The exposure to any teaching and worship over time is what you will come to know, believe and practice as a Christian.

Your resources are part of the worship and service relationship we have with God, and your resources or treasure includes your time, talents, tithes and offerings. Therefore, as the people come together and invest their resources, the interest and feeling of belonging create the community.

Matthew 6:20-22

20. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

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

22. The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

4. AS A VEHICLE FOR GOD TO BLESS US

God is not interested in our money, it is more about the character development of man. As we become more inclined towards God in our obedience and separate ourselves from the possessiveness of our monetary existence and tithe, God gives you more monetary wealth. The less you possess the more possessions you will have, so to speak.

Malachi 3:7-12

7. Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

8. Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

9. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

10. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

11. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

12. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

5. FINANCING THE MINISTRY

As a practical matter, the work of ministry cost money, evangelistic work, writing books, television, travel, buildings, lights, flyers, communion, staff, phones and all the expenses involved in ministry. The tithe and offerings are the principle methods the church at large pays bills and supports itself. Therefore, the obligation for us as parishners is to ensure that the church we go to is fact doing the work of God and not the work of men.

Many churches are in business to make a living, and the church is a non profit way to extract money from people and to line the pockets of the leaders of the church and feed their egos.

This is not the purpose of the church, as a Christian we have to discern that God has drawn us to a place and that because our friends or family attend, they sing well, the message from the pulpit is engaging, they have a pretty building and the people are nice, these things are NOT indications of God leading you to a church.

When you find a church, you must first WATCH, examine if the WORD that is taught is Gods word, you will know this by your spirit agreeing with the teaching. Watch the leadership in the church, meet with the Pastor, see if the church is growing.

Finally, to really dial into a church, you have to be filled with the Spirit of God in order for the Spirit to confirm itself in that place. You have to determine if the church teaches all the gifts of the spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:1-13

1. Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.
2. Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.
3. Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.
4. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.
5. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.
6. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.
7. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.
8. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;
9. To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;
10. To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:
11. But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.
12. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.
13. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

This confirmation will make it possible to be lead by the Spirit as you seek Gods direction in ministry.

NOTE:

There are 32 scriptures in 11 books of the Bible that reference tithing.

Genesis 14:20

Leviticus 27:30 -32

Numbers 18:24

Numbers 18:26

Numbers 18:28

Deuteronomy 12:6

Deuteronomy 12:11

Deuteronomy 12:17

Deuteronomy 14:22-23

Deuteronomy 14:28

Deuteronomy 26:12

2 Chronicles 31:5-6

2 Chronicles 31:12

Nehemiah 10:37

Nehemiah 10:38

Nehemiah 12:44

Nehemiah 13:5

Nehemiah 13:12

Amos 4:4

Malachi 3:8

Malachi 3:10

Matthew 23:23

Luke 11:42

Luke 18:12

Hebrews 7:5-9