

Tithing

The tenth of all the income we receive belongs to God. Abraham was the first one to bring his tithes to the Lord. ***“17 And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale. 18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. 19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: 20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all. 21 And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself.” (Genesis 14:17-20 KJV)*** When God blessed Abraham with a victory and he was able to recover the people of Lot along with the goods, he offered the tithes of his spoils. Bringing the tithes to God was Abraham's acknowledgment of God bringing the plunder to him. Giving our tithes is an act of expressing our faithfulness and trust in God that He is in our lives and is the one to help us through our struggles.

Before Melchizedek king of Salem met Abraham, the king of Sodom went out to meet him. ***“And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale.” (Genesis 14:17 KJV)*** Satan always comes to tempt God's people to spend the money on other things before giving the tithes. Therefore, I instruct people that once they receive their salary or their income, the first thing they should do is to take the tithes out and put it in an envelope, and bring it to the church. Then they can spend on what they need. It is important that once we receive our earnings, we separate the tithes and bring it to His storehouse, the church.

Giving the tithes is not giving to man but to God. Abraham gave the tithes to Melchizedek, who was a type of Christ, and he was the priest of the Most High God, King of peace, and King of righteousness. ***“1 For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; 2 To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; 3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually. 4 Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.” (Hebrews 7:1-4 KJV)***

When Abraham gave his tithes to Melchizedek, Levi also paid his tithes, ***“9 And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham. 10 For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchizedek met him.” (Hebrews 7:9-10 KJV)*** Therefore when we give our tithes, our children who are still not yet born are giving their tithes to God. Therefore we need to take the responsibility to teach and discipline our children, to be honest and to tithe their income correctly. ***“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6 KJV)***

There are reasons for not giving the tithes and as the following:

- Unfaithfulness
- Ungratefulness
- Rebelliousness
- Bad stewardship
- Lack of faith and not trusting God
- Greed
- Worldliness and leisure activities
- Lack of knowledge
- Lack of trust in the church

We need to be honest with God and tithe all that we receive in the form of salary and privileges like rent allowance, transport allowance, food allowance, etc.. ***“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.” (Leviticus 27:30 KJV)*** Therefore, we need to be honest with God and tithe all that we receive. Also, if we neglect or withhold our tithes for a time then when we bring it

back to God we need to add a fifth of its value. ***“And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof.” (Leviticus 27:31 KJV)***

When we tithe, it should be as an act of repentance and turning back to God, an expression of our faith and faithfulness, and by doing that, we will receive His reward.

“6 For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. 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 delightful land, saith the LORD of hosts.” (Malachi 3:6-12 KJV)

God is the same and His Word never changes. In the Scripture verses above, He assured His people that He will never change, so the people would not be consumed. He had mercy on His people. God is still giving us chances to return to Him. He is calling us to repent, turn away from our sins, and turn towards Him. Now since we know that God was calling His people to go back to Him and follow His decrees and commands, then the question is, ‘What had they done wrong?’ Adultery, fornication, idolatry, or witchcraft; sure they had done these grievous things against God that made Him ask them to return to Him. They had turned away from His decrees and had not kept them. But they may ask, ***“Wherein shall we return?” (Malachi 3:7 KJV)*** This question will be asked by people who worship God and even serve Him but God is telling them to return to Him.

What had they done wrong that God was not happy with them? The charge against them was that they were robbing Him in terms of tithes and offerings. Lack of tithing is robbing God and God will not bless thieves unless they repent and restore what they had stolen. Withholding our tithes and offerings from God’s Church is considered a robbery. The tithes are the first ten percent of whatever we have received as income or other material blessings. After we bring our tithes to God, then we give our offerings according to what we have decided to give to the Lord. God’s children should not behave like thieves with God. Thieves or robbers will not enter the Kingdom of God, or in other words, there is no salvation for them unless they repent.

When people or believers rob God in this way, they will be under a curse; themselves, their families, the church that does not teach or admonish about this matter, and the whole society will be under a curse because the people of God are robbing Him. ***“Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.” (Malachi 3:9 KJV)*** God had sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to save us and to deliver us from sin and death. People who believe in Christ must repent of their sins and commit their life fully to do His will. But then how can they say they have offered their lives fully to Jesus when they are not yet bringing their tithes and offerings to God’s storehouse on earth? How can they say that they love God with all their hearts when they haven’t offered their money to Him?

Tithes and offerings are used to support God’s work through His church. The tithes and the offerings will also support the workers especially those who do full-time ministry and don’t hold a secular job. God’s work needs financial support that comes from the tithes and offerings so that the spiritual food that is needed to supply and support the flocks is there. By giving our tithes and offerings, we receive greater blessings in the following ways:

1. ***The windows of Heaven shall be opened: “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.” (Malachi 3:10 KJV)*** Those who practice tithing regularly and live a holy life, face no financial problems and receive blessings in such abundance that they have no room to hold. I can personally testify about this for God has blessed me bountifully when I give my tithes to His church. God will surely pour out many blessings in our lives as we diligently practice tithing. The windows of Heaven will be opened after we give our tithes. In fact, the income we have may not be enough for us, but after we bring our tithes, what we have left along with God’s blessings will be more than enough. Everything we receive needs to be tithed to

the Lord by bringing it to the church that God has placed us in. Those who do not tithe their income or tithe regularly or incorrectly are robbing God. If we rob God, how can we expect God to bless us and grant us wealth? The windows of Heaven will be opened only when we bring our full tithes to the Lord. When we bring our whole tithes to the Lord, then we are renewing our covenant with God along with proclaiming our trust in His Providence. Who can give us wealth? Only God can give us that. It is not our salary, our smartness, or our business that will aid us in life; it is God and only God.

2. **The devourer will be rebuked:** *“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.” (Malachi 3:11 KJV)* As we bring our tithes to God, He will be the one to rebuke the devourer and save us from being buried in financial pests like tax raises, accidents, sudden sickness, penalties, scams, unnecessary bills and so on. Therefore, once we get our salary or whatever income we have, we need to take the tithes out, so that God will open the windows of Heaven to cover the bills and block the unnecessary expenses. Why do we need to bring the whole tithes? *“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.” (Malachi 3:11 KJV)* Those who fail to bring their tithes are exposed to mishaps as I said earlier. Not only do they encounter material hardships, they often fall victim to spiritual hindrances like fear, doubt, anxiety, demonic attacks, and even exposure to death. This happens because God is not rebuking the devourer and is not preventing the devil’s work in the lives of those who cheat God by not bringing to God’s Church their whole tithes.

People who rob God in this manner lose their partnership with God, live in lack, and never are in plenty. Many people complain and lament that they had worked so much, and labored hard, but at the end they lost everything, and they wonder why things have gone wrong. What God has said is the following: *“Neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.” (Malachi 3:11 KJV)* The fruit of the vine is the grapes and as they grow, they become green, then gradually acquire sweetness and as they mature, change color. If the grapes fall to the ground before they are ripe, then it will be of no use and all the labor of the farmer will be in vain. And that will be the outcome of the hard work and labor of those who do not bring their tithes to the house of their Lord, His church that they have been placed in. All that they had collected will disappear without a trace.

3. **The vines in the fields shall not cast their fruit before the time:** *“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.” (Malachi 3:11 KJV)* The vine is the fruit of our hard work and labor in the fields. Suppose we work hard to plant a vineyard, when the fruit appears, God will not allow it to fall when it is still green. God will see that your hard work over the years is not wasted but will be established and stabilized on your behalf.
4. **We will be called blessed:** *“And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.” (Malachi 3:12 KJV)* One way our faithfulness to God is revealed in us is when we bring our tithes and offerings, and He will reward us in such a way that everyone will notice and say that we are blessed by the Lord.

Christ also spoke about tithing and He recommended to not leave it undone. *“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.” (Matthew 23:23 KJV)*

Let us commit ourselves to God, to obey Him and bring our tithes and our offerings in full. Let us trust Him and His promises in us and be assured that He will fulfill what His Word says. Let us walk in the light of His Word so that we may live the life to the fullest and receive great blessings from God without the devourer knocking at our finances.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death on the third day to give me eternal life.*

Lord forgives me my sins _____.

Let us confess and renounce our sins to the Lord. Let us confess and renounce all our pride, our own ways and our non willingness to follow the ways of God.

Lord, I thank you for your Word to me that explains to me that I need to bring my tithes and my offerings to you so that you will open upon me the windows of heaven and that you will rebuke the devourer from my life. Lord I commit myself to bring my tithes and my offerings to you. Lord I commit my life to be set a good example to others. Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit and give to me the spiritual gifts that I need in order to evangelize and make new disciples. Lord protect me and provide all my needs so that I can continue to go on and serve you.

Lord, I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who had humbled themselves before your Word and committed themselves to do your command and to bring their tithes into your store house. Lord, open the window of heaven and bless them. Please rebuke the devourer in their lives. Stabilize their jobs, their resources of income, and prosper them oh God! .

Lord, I pray for us as a church to help us to go on in serving you and doing your work and your will. Lord, we commit ourselves to do what right and just in your eyes. Continue to reveal your will to us. Lord, fill us once again with the Holy Spirit and enable us to evangelize and reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with the Word of God. Lord, we pray that you will enable us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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