

THE TEN MOST ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT TITHING

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In an effort to encourage the saints of God to give the Bible Way, Tithes and Offerings, and in full recognition of the misunderstanding that often surrounds it, I am submitting this dialogue of questions and answers in which I attempt to clear up some of the confusion. Tithing is Gods way and to fall short of that method is to come short of Gods perfect purpose for His church and His saints.

QUESTION #1: WHAT IS TITHING?

Answer: Tithing is percentage or proportionate giving. Scriptural References: Genesis 14:18-20 – Abraham gave tithes to the Priest Melchizedek, a Tenth part of all he had. Genesis 28:20-22 – Jacob promised God a Tenth of all he had.

Example: For every dollar, a Tenth or a dime BELONGS to God.

\$ 10.00	We owe	\$ 1.00
\$ 50.00	We owe	\$ 5.00
\$ 100.00	We owe	\$ 10.00
\$ 1,000.00	We owe	\$ 100.00

QUESTION #2: WHY SHOULD I TITHE?

Answer: God's Word commands that we do so. Scriptural Reference: Malachi 3: 6-12

QUESTION #3: BUT THAT IS AN OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE, ISN'T TITHING A PART OF THE LAW? AREN'T WE NOW LIVING UNDER GRACE?

Answer Of course we are under Grace, however, this does not exclude us from tithing. The first tithers lived and gave tithes before the Law was given. The standard for giving, that is, God's method for giving, was established before Moses was given the Law.

QUESTION #4: IF THIS IS TRUE, WHY DOESN'T THE NEW TESTAMENT PLACE EMPHASIS ON IT?

Answer:

The New Testament church and writers took for granted the practice of tithing as the declared way of supporting the house of God. Scriptural References: Luke 18:10-14: Jesus used a parable to illustrate the difference between a Pharisee and his pride, and a publican, who was blessed because of his humbleness. However, within the parable, Jesus has the Pharisee say, "I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess." It was not the fasting or the giving of tithes that brought the criticism, but rather the pride that caused the Pharisee to boast.

What he did was accepted, why he did it, was not. I believe that this is tangible evidence that Jesus accepted tithing as the established way of giving. Hebrews 7:8, "And here men that die receive tithes, but there He receiveth them of whom it is witnessed that He liveth." I Corinthians 16:2 Paul is obviously speaking of proportionate giving, a giving that is based on the amount of income. Indeed, for those who insist that the New Testament does not teach tithing, here is a good New Testament standard, which of course exceeds 10%.

QUESTION #5: TO WHOM DO I PAY MY TITHES AND WHAT IS MEANT BY OFFERING?

Answer:

Malachi tells us to bring our tithes into the storehouse, "that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts." Malachi 3:10

Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, "Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him, as God hath prospered him."
I Corinthians 16:2

These two scriptures indicate that your tithes are to be given to the place of your feeding. The pasture into which you as sheep are being nourished and fed by a shepherd (Pastor).

Secondly, the purpose of tithes has always been designated for the upkeep of the temple and priests. Numbers 18:20-21 records, “And the Lord spake unto Aaron. Thou shalt not have no inheritance in their land, neither shalt thou have any part among them: I am thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel. And, behold, I have given the children of Levi (priests) all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their services which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.”

Although the New Testament church developed into a highly structural organization and the Protestant church (among which, as Baptist, we stand) no longer hold to the Catholic concept of “priesthood,” the principle of giving remains the same. The local church becomes our temple and the pastor-shepherd the spiritual leader (or priest).

WHAT ABOUT OFFERING? Tithes are that portion that we owe to God. Offerings are of that portion of giving that we give cheerfully and willingly, but beyond the responsibility of our tithes. The amount is voluntary and the motivation stems from a generosity.

QUESTION #6: DO I PAY TITHES FROM THE GROSS AMOUNT, THAT IS, THE AMOUNT THAT I RECEIVE BEFORE ANYTHING IS TAKEN OUT (E.G., SOCIAL SECURITY, INCOME TAX, ETC.) OR AM I ONLY OBLIGATED TO PAY THE 10% FROM THAT AMOUNT TAKEN HOME?

Answer:

Admittedly, there seems to be some questions and honest difference of opinion between those who preach and teach tithing. Some believe that we are only commanded to pay from that which we actually receive. Others believe that we are obligated from the salary that we earn, regardless of what is taken from it. Proverb 3:9-10, commands that we, “Honor the Lord with thy substance and with the first fruits of all thine increase. So shall thy barns be filled with plenty and thy presses shall burst out with a new wine.”

The Word would seem to indicate that if we give God from the top (gross), He will so bless that we need never worry about meeting our financial obligations. Since there is an honest opinion on both sides of the issue. I would never become dogmatic in support of either. However, I personally lean toward giving God from the top.

QUESTION #7:

SUPPOSE MY HUSBAND OR MY WIFE DOES NOT BELIEVE IN TITHING, OR IS NOT A CHRISTIAN, SHOULD I DO SO ANYWAY?

Answer:

If you do not work, and the income for the household comes from your mate, you must not insist on tithing from that source. However, if you have a personal source of income or an allowance for your own use, it would be quite proper to give a percentage, regardless of how small. Remember, it is not the amount, but the heart's desire. Never-the-less, the Word is supporting of family harmony and God would never be pleased with any deliberate or known effort to disrupt that unity even in the name of the church.

QUESTION #8:**SUPPOSE I DON'T PAY TITHES?**

Answer:

It will not affect your salvation, but it does place you in the position of being Disobedient to a command from God. Tithing or proportionate giving is Gods will and to not make an attempt to seek that will renders us beyond the kind of blessing that comes with obedience.

QUESTION #9:**WHY SHOULD I PAY TITHES?**

Answer:

1. Because we are commanded to do so.
2. Because we honor the Lord by doing so.
3. Because we show our love and obedience by doing so.

QUESTION #10:**WHAT WILL TITHING NOT DO?**

Answer:

1. It will not save you.
2. It will not buy a special place in heaven for you.
3. It will not influence God for you.

However, it will trigger the very windows of heaven that blessings will overtake you. For there is a principal which works for the cheerful giver. Luke 6:38, "Give, and it shall be given unto you: good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete, withal, it shall be measured to you again.

In other words, as you give, so are you given. II Corinthians 9:6-7, "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly, or of necessity (forced); for God loveth a cheerful giver."

Tithing is God's way, and to fall short of that method, is to fall short of Gods perfect purpose for His church and His saints.

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