

Tithing

God speaks to His people. *“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 Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the flood gates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room for it.” Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

The New Living Bible calls it cheating God when we withhold tithes and offerings. The nation of Israel was under a curse at the time Malachi spoke because they had cheated God. We see the promise of abundant blessings if they returned to bringing the tithes into the storehouse. The blessing would be on their crops, all nations would call them blessed and their land would be a delight.

The Biblical pattern for giving ten per cent is demonstrated by Abraham in Genesis 14:20. He returned from battle and presented ten per cent of the goods secured in the battle to Melchizedek (King of Salem and priest of God most high). Hebrews 7:1-10 gives a more complete account of this. Scripture tells us Jesus was a priest after the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:17). Another example of

giving ten per cent is in Genesis 28:22, which recounts Jacob vowing to God to give ten per cent of everything God gave him. The Genesis 14:20 scripture establishes tithing as ten per cent of our increase. This, in our day, translates into ten per cent of our income. In the opinion of the author, this is income before taxes.

Tithing honors God. It is an act of responding to the object of our worship out of love, reverence and obedience. Tithing demonstrates that we recognize that our wealth does not belong to us. We are simply managers of God's resources.

It is not wise to withhold from God ~ in fact it is dangerous. To do so is to refuse to follow His instructions (Malachi 3:10). It sets us up for God's storehouse of blessings to be withheld. We end up cheating ourselves if we fail to tithe.

A beautiful scripture on giving (not restricted to the monetary tithe) is found in Luke 6:38 (NLB). *“If you give, you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more and running over. Whatever measure you use in giving ~ large or small ~ it will be used to measure what is given back to you.”*

II Corinthians 9:6-8 (NIV) tells us, *“Remember this. Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver and God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”*

Read on in verse 9 & 10 we receive further revelation on the benefits of giving. Those who give to the poor are promised an enlargement of their harvest of righteousness and that their righteousness will endure forever. Verse 11 (KJV) promises we will *“be enriched in everything to all bountifulness which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.”* Verse 12 speaks of *“many thanksgivings unto God.”* The NLT version promises, *“God will generously provide all you need and plenty left over to share with others.”*

When we compare God's mighty hand of blessings with the little we can offer back to Him, we see clearly that there is no way we can ever out give God.

The tithe belongs to God and is to be brought to the storehouse. Many Bible scholars interpret this to be the local church where your spiritual needs are met. Anything above the ten per cent is a gift.

Matthew 6:19-21 (NLB) tells us
*“Don’t store up treasures here on earth,
where they can be eaten by moths and get
rusty, and where thieves break in and steal.
Store your treasures in heaven, where they
will never become moth-eaten or rusty and
where they will be safe from thieves. Where-
ever your treasure is, there your heart and
thoughts will be also.”*

Give cheerfully !
Tithe your ten per cent regularly !
Give generously above the tithe !
Honor your heavenly Father with
your tithes and gifts !

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