



## Lesson Eleven

# “Tithes and Offerings – Part One”

**Objective:** *To provide a proper understanding of the importance of tithes and offerings and the benefits it brings to the believers life.*

## I. The Tithe

The word **tithe** is first used in Scripture in Genesis 14:20.

**Heb 7:1-8** *MSG Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of the Highest God. He met Abraham, who was returning from "the royal massacre," and gave him his blessing. 2 Abraham in turn gave him a tenth of the spoils. "Melchizedek" means "King of Righteousness." "Salem" means "Peace." So, he is also "King of Peace." 3 Melchizedek towers out of the past — without record of family ties, no account of beginning or end. In this way he is like the Son of God, one huge priestly presence dominating the landscape always. 4 You realize just how great Melchizedek is when you see that Father Abraham gave him a tenth of the captured treasure. 5 Priests descended from Levi are commanded by law to collect tithes from the people, even though they are all more or less equals, priests and people, having a common father in Abraham. 6 But this man, a complete outsider, collected tithes from Abraham and blessed him, the one to whom the promises had been given. 7 In acts of blessing, the lesser is blessed by the greater.*

Tithe means “a tenth”. God established the tithe with Abel (Gen 4:1-5). As we saw above Abraham and Abraham’s grandson, Jacob also tithed (**Gen 28:20-22**). He later incorporated it into the law of Moses for man’s benefit because returning the tithe and giving offerings releases supernatural blessings into our lives. Tithing is a principle instituted by God, whereby we put God first in our finances. We cannot put our trust in finances because they are not certain. God is certain and trustworthy and we need for Him to be the source and sustainers of our lives. Tithing is a way that we put Him first and trust Him to be our provider.

a. The tithe \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

**Lev 27:30** *NKJV 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 to the Lord.*

**Deut 26:13** *NKJV I have removed the holy tithe from my house...*

b. Our tithe \_\_\_\_\_ God.

**Prov 3:9** NIV Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops...

c. The tithe is given to God \_\_\_\_\_ your church.

**Mal 3:10** NKJV Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house.

Tithes and offerings are used in the church to provide and maintain a place of worship and care for the pastors. Special offerings are sometimes received for vision building projects, like our children's ministry project coming up.

**1 Tim 5:17-18** MSG Give a bonus to leaders who do a good job, especially the ones who work hard at preaching and teaching.

**Gal 6:6** NLT Those who are taught the word of God should provide for their teachers, sharing all good things with them.

**3 John 8** NLT So we ourselves should support them so that we can be their partners as they teach the truth.

d. Tithing was \_\_\_\_\_ by Jesus.

**Luke 11:42** NKJV "But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

e. Paul wrote that \_\_\_\_\_ actually receives our tithes and offerings in our heavenly account.

**Heb 7:8-9** NKJV Here mortal men receive tithes, but **there He receives them**, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.

**Phil 4:14-19** NKJV Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. 15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning **giving and receiving** but you only. 16 For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek **the fruit that abounds to your account**. 18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, **a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God**.

f. God allows us to make the \_\_\_\_\_ to trust Him for blessings. (Deut 30:19)

Scriptural examples of the principle are weaved all throughout the Bible and show the blessings and curses that came from obedience and disobedience. In **Genesis**, we see that God said that **one tree** out of all the others was His and was off limits to them. They took some of it anyway and brought the curse of sin and death upon the human race.

Then of course in **Joshua 7:1** we see the story of Achan, who took some of the spoils of Jericho (**Jericho was the FIRST city** – it was holy to God) which God had forbidden them to do and brought a curse upon Israel. When they went to dispossess the next city, Ai, they got chased off and 30 or so men were killed. Joshua got on his face before God. **Joshua 7:10-12**

**1 Kings 17:9** is the story of the widow of Zarephath, who gave a tithe to the ministry first and released supernatural provision that sustained her through the drought.

**John 6:5-13** shows us how God takes our offerings and blesses it and multiplies it! We have to remind ourselves that God is a supernatural, nothing is impossible God who knows everything we need. If we are able to believe as we give into His kingdom, He is able to do amazing things in the kingdom and in our own lives.

Since the tithe already belongs to God, we don't give it, we return it to Him. Honoring God with an offering is given over and above the tithe.

## II. Affectionate Giving

a. Our giving should be done from our \_\_\_\_\_, showing love to God.

**Matt 6:21** NKJV *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

**1 Chronicles 29:3-18** – David gave affectionately (from the heart) to build the house of God. It became a beautiful day of worship. Giving offerings is worship to God when we do it from our hearts. It's between us and God. Often times, He is the only one who knows the sacrifice that it is and the stepping out in faith to trust Him that it is (**Kris**). We have the power to set our own affections and direct them where we will.

**1 Chron 29:17-19** MSG *I know, dear God, that you care nothing for the surface — you want us, our true selves — and so I have given from the heart, honestly and happily. And now see all these people doing the same, giving freely, willingly — what a joy! 18 O God, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, keep this generous spirit alive forever in these people always, keep their hearts set firmly in you. 19 And give my son Solomon an **uncluttered and focused heart** so that he can obey what you command...*

b. Our giving should be done from and \_\_\_\_\_ heart.

**Matt 5:23-24** NKJV *Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there*

*remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.*

**c. Our giving should be done from a \_\_\_\_\_ heart.**

**2 Cor. 9:7** AMP *Let each one [give] as he has made up his own mind and purposed in his heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves (He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful (joyous, "prompt to do it") giver [whose heart is in his giving].*

**d. I must \_\_\_\_\_ my heart concerning money.** (Matthew 6:24)

We cannot set our hearts on money but we should rather keep the attitude of our hearts correct concerning it. Money is a tool that serves me and the Kingdom, not the other way around. If we aren't careful, money can become a master to us instead of a servant. (Matthew 10:24-25)

God gave from the heart - For God so loved that He GAVE. When we love, we give. I cannot love you without loving you but I can never love you without giving to you. This is the highest motivation for giving. Yes there is a return and reward on giving but the highest motivation is not the return but its because we love Him! The passion of your heart gets God's attention in your giving. (John 12:1-6 & Mark 14:9)

The love motivation will anchor you in the **scarce times** (Mark 12:41-44) – *Jesus still allowed her to give.* Love motivates you to give in **surplus times** (Deut 6:10-12). If we aren't careful, we will forget God when we get blessed.

**f. When we have money in its \_\_\_\_\_ perspective, we can give from the heart – affectionately.**

**Col 3:23-24** NKJV *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.*

**g. We must \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves to obey in giving.**

**We prepare our h\_\_\_\_\_ to understand the scriptures.**

What I understand, the devil cannot take away from me! (Proverbs 8:17-21)

**We prepare our h\_\_\_\_\_ for sacrifice.**

We have to saturate our hearts with the word on giving in order to prepare for unusual sacrifice. Listen to the word on it in order to build your faith.

We prepare our h\_\_\_\_\_ with an unwavering commitment to sow. (2 Cor 9:7a)

No matter how much revelation you have on any subject, it does you no good until you act on it. **Somewhere between our hearts and our hands we can choke!** We have to make a quality faith commitment to be a tither and a giver. Boldly step out of the boat.

To be continued..... : )

