

# Common Questions About Tithing: Part 1

## Series: Questions about Stewardship

### Galatians 6:7-10

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The real question about tithing is, “Whose money is it? Yours or God’s?”

“God does not ask us to give until it hurts. He simply asks us to give it all.”

~ Bill Milliken

Truth: Tithing is an act of worship to God giving back to God a portion of what God has given to us. When you tithe, you are being obedient to God.

### What is Tithing?

A tithe literally means “a tenth”. In the Bible, tithing was a way to honor God by giving back a portion of what He had given them (Lev. 27:30). God’s people honored Him with the first and best they had to offer, and God expected them to give with the right heart (Isa. 29:13).

#### Old Testament

- Abraham gave a tenth to Melchizedek to honor God for His blessing (Gen. 14:18-20). In Heb 7:1-10, Melchizedek is compared to Christ as priests and kings of righteousness with Christ being superior. Abraham’s tithe was honoring the Lord.
- Mosaic Law teaches giving a tenth of everything to God (Numbers 18:24-26).
- Tithing is a command from God and reflects your vow to honor Him (Deut 12:5-6, Prov. 3:9-10).

#### New Testament

Jesus emphasized giving as a spiritual act of worship with the right heart because the Pharisees focused on the amount (Matt 23:23). Jesus wanted people to do more than 10% indicating they gave their all to God. An example was the widow who gave her all even though it was a small amount (Mark 12:41-44). Paul focused on the heart of giving with three basic lessons.

- Give generously, voluntarily, and sacrificially (2 Cor. 8:2-3, 9:6) – God needs His people to do His work.
- Give consistently (1 Cor 16:2) – consistent giving indicates your spiritual walk with God and your obedience to God.
- Give with a joyful heart (2 Cor 9:7-8) – it expresses your life for God rather than your obligation to God.

## What Does Giving Reveal About You

1. Your giving reveals your priorities in life (who you serve, who is in control of your life, and where you place your trust) – Who is Lord of your life? (Matt 6:19-21)
2. Your giving honors God and demonstrates your love for God – Do you honor God through your giving? (Matt. 6:19-21)
3. Your giving reveals your commitment to God – What does your giving reveal about your relationship with God and your desire to fund His work? (Gal 6:7-10)

### Bottom Line

God expects us to use the money and resources He has given us to bring Him glory and to carry out the work He has given us through the local church.