

The Need for Revival:
The Heart of Giving

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Giving is indeed an action of the heart. What we do with our resources has much to say concerning what we value or treasure; an indicator of what we have set our heart upon; “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:21

The bible is not silent about giving. However, it’s one of many other things that religious leaders have obliged themselves to alter and distort and confessing Christians have readily and eagerly accepted.

Matthew 5:17–19 (NASB) 17“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. 18“For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19“Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

They are **two basic types of giving in the bible** as it pertains to one’s giving to the Lord, and they are the tithe and the offering. Some have determined that the tithe belonged to the law, and since we are no longer under the law the tithe has been done away with. However, it may be important to note that the tithe existed way before the law was ever given.

The first mention in the bible of the tithe was when Abraham was returning from the rescue of his nephew Lot, who had been taken captive in a war between several Canaanite kings, and he gives a tenth of the spoils of war to Melchizedek, who was the king of Salem, a priest of the Most High God. Melchizedek met Abraham, blessed him, and ministered to him and his men. Abraham recognized that the spoils which he had gained came from the hand of God, and he chose to return to the Lord a tenth portion of what he had received.

Jacob, the grandson of Abraham, and the father of the twelve tribes of Israel, also pledged his tithe to the Lord when he encountered Him at Bethel.

Genesis 28:20–22 Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will keep me on this journey that I take, and will give me food to eat and garments to wear, and I return to my father’s house in safety, then the LORD will be my God. This stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be God’s house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.”

“If God is going to do all of this for me, then I am going to return a tenth portion of all that He gives to me back to Him.” Like Abraham, he would return a tenth portion to God. There is a sense here of worship and gratefulness without any commandment or obligation.

Then, of course, there was the law given to Moses, in which they were 3 separate tithes. One was for the ministry of the priest (Levitical tithe), one for the worship gatherings of the pilgrim feasts (celebratory tithe), and another was for the benevolence for the poor, the widows, and the orphans (welfare tithe). Failure to observe tithing was met with harsh consequences, after all, as Malachi the prophet spoke on behalf of God asked, **will a man rob God?** (Mal. 3:8)

The tithe belongs to the Lord. It was required under the law. It was **the minimum God would accept**. In his book, *Managing God’s Money*, Randy Alcorn refers to the tithe as **the “Training wheels of giving.”**

In the New Testament, Giving Transcends the Tithe.

Regarding giving, Jesus said, *“Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a **good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over.** For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”* Luke 6:38

Jesus' teaching about the tithe was peripheral. In Matthew 23:23 He mentions tithing but focuses on the "weightier matters." However, concerning the tithe He says, "This you ought to have done."

In Lk. 18:11-12 He condemns the pride and self-righteousness of the Pharisees which is concealed behind their tithing and other good works, "I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector." However, in no way does He set aside the tithe.

The True Heart of Giving Was Revealed in Jesus Christ.

John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

There is no teaching from Jesus nor the Apostles as to the setting aside of the tithe. However, the giving of the church rose way beyond the giving of a tithe.

Now, under grace, giving is not limited to the minimum of a tenth or tithe. Most of the what we find in the activity of the NT church has to do with free-will offering. The tithe can be assumed or understood.

Acts 4:32 And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them.

2 Corinthians 8:1-4 1 Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, 2 that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. 3 For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, 4 begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 ⁶Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

The heart of giving to the Lord is one of love for God; of recognition as to everything we have comes from His hand; giving is done in worship to God in returning to Him a portion of what He has given us; giving is done from faith in God as to His provision to supply all our needs; giving comes from obedience to fulfill all righteousness unto the Lord.

Giving is second nature to the Spirit-filled life of the child of God. "God loves a cheerful giver." When we close our heart from giving to the Lord, spiritual decay will be soon to follow.

"When we close our hearts from giving to the Lord,
God closes the window of His blessings."

Malachi 3:10 ¹⁰"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.