

Having Open Hands
1 Chronicles 29:1-9
Al Gascon | November 19, 2023

“Tithing isn't the ceiling of giving; it's the floor...”

Malachi 3:6-12

⇒ In the NT, the only times tithing is mentioned is when Jesus is schooling the Pharisees on their hypocrisy, when Jesus tells a parable about a Pharisee and a tax collector, and one reference in the book of Hebrews, which is making the point that Jesus' priesthood is greater than the priesthood in the Law of Moses. We don't see tithing as a New Testament command.

⇒ Tithing is not a New Testament Command for Christians.

⇒ You had 3 Tithes, not 1.

- Tithe for the Priests
- Tithe for the Feasts
- Tithe for the Poor

⇒ Tithing was more like a tax than a freewill offering.

1 Chronicles 29:1-9

⇒ Putting God first and having open hands in every area of your life is what tithing and giving all boils down to.

Tithing isn't the ceiling of giving; it's the floor. It's not the finish line of giving; it's just the starting blocks. Tithes can be the training wheels to launch us into the mind-set, skills, and habits of grace giving.

— Randy Alcorn

⇒ The tithe is not commanded, but does provide the believer discipline and a change in state of mind.

- a. The tithe helps us to always put God first.
- b. The tithe reminds us our money isn't really our money.
- c. The tithe reminds us who our provider is.
- d. The tithe trains our hearts to give freely.
- e. The tithe trains us to have open hands.

Discussion Questions

- a. Did the partial quote of the week (Tithing isn't the ceiling of giving; it's the floor) make you uncomfortable when you first heard it? It's ok if it did and I hope it encouraged you by the end of the sermon.
- b. Which of these do you believe makes it harder for us to have open hands as givers, our bills or our mindset?
- c. Have you ever received a financial blessing of any kind when you needed it most? What was it?
- d. Share about the last time you blessed another person by giving to whatever needs they had.
- e. How do you plan on giving and or blessing someone this Christmas season?