

Common Questions on Tithing

A. Old Testament Questions

1. Isn't tithing under the Law?

The Law was from Moses to Jesus. Read Rom 5:12-14.

Abel (First Fruits in Gen 4:3) and Abraham (Gen 14:20) both tithed. Cain tithed incorrectly and it was rejected.

2. Isn't tithing only in the Old Testament?

Heb 7:8 in the New Testament says that Jesus receives tithes in Heaven.

3. Isn't tithing only under the Old Covenant?

Our New Covenant was sealed with the Blood of Jesus and is presented in the New Testament. Today, men receive tithes on earth but present them to Jesus, our High Priest, Who lives forever.

B. New Testament Questions

1. Doesn't everything we have already belong to God?

Yes, we and everything we have belongs to God. We were purchased with a price.

He asks us to give everything to Him, to die to self and to live totally for Him. However, we cannot give everything to Him unless we first give something. Why not let that first something be that which He asked, which is ten percent of everything that you earn or receive.

You are willing to give the government 20 to 35 percent. What is so hard about giving ten percent to God? Especially since you say that it all belongs to Him anyway, which by the way is also what HE says. He continues on to say that, if you do not give him what belongs to Him, then you are stealing (Mal 3:8-10).

2. Since we are under Grace, why do we need to tithe?

Grace is a potential. It provides everything that we need at Christ's expense; it also provides forgiveness for all of our sins. However, Grace does not replace obedience; it merely provides the means of avoiding the punishment/penalty of the sins. Obedience is what allows the blessings of Grace to manifest in our lives (John 14:21).

3. We are redeemed from the Curse of the Law, so why tithe?

Tithing was before the Law and is designed to break the curse that is upon the earth, which also preceded the law (Gen 3:17). Today, because of man's ongoing sins, the earth is still cursed; also cursed is everything that comes out of the earth (Rom 8:19 Amp).

4. Money is the root of all evil, so why give it to God?

This Bible verse is often misquoted. The Bible actually states that the **love** of money is the root of all evil (1 Tim 6:10). God says that He delights in the prosperity of His servant (Ps 35:27) and that wealth and riches are in the house of the righteous (Ps 112:3).

5. Isn't it true that God wants us poor to remain humble? God does not want us to have money because Jesus told the young ruler to give away all his riches.

The Scriptures state that, if you give your money to the Gospel, God will return it 100 fold in this lifetime (Mark 10:30). Since Jesus is the Gospel, the rich young ruler would have increased his fortune 100 times. God does not like poverty. Pro 19:22 states that a poor man is better than a liar.

C. Individual Questions

1. I can't even make ends meet right now, so how can I afford to give away ten percent?

You cannot afford "not to give". It is way more expensive not to give than it is to give to God.

For, if you do not give the tithe to God, the devourer will eat your lunch and ask for seconds.

You with 90% and God will do better than you with 100% without God.

In Haggai 1:6, the process of not tithing is described in this way, "You work to put money in a bag with holes". Not tithing will result in your spending a lot of money on repairs, replacements, medical and other emergencies, etc.

2. I give my money to an organization which supports orphanages. Isn't that good enough?

It is good enough that Jesus said that when you give to the poor, you are giving to Him (Mt 25:40).

The Bible also states that whosoever gives to the poor lends to God and God will repay him.

(Pr 19:17). However, this is not a substitute for tithing.

The purpose of tithing from the perspective of the minister is to support the spreading of the gospel by providing physically to those who are teaching you spiritually (1 Cor 9:11). The purpose of tithing from the perspective of the tither is to break the curse on the earth and its products (Mal 3:8).

3. I tithe to a TV ministry. Isn't that acceptable?

Tithing must be to **your** church family, which is typically your local church. You support the local church and the local church supports you. A TV minister is an evangelist or teacher. The local church has a pastor whose job is to shepherd you, including teaching, counseling and praying.

This assumes that your local church ministers the gospel, especially regarding salvation but also from Mat 10:7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Mat 10:8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give..

4. Do I need to tithe on the money which I received as birthday gifts?

The tithe is ten percent of ALL money that comes in, whether you earn it, find it, or it is gifted to you or you win it in a company picnic bingo.

5. Am I supposed to tithe on the gross amount of my paycheck or just on what I receive?

If you have the faith for it, you should tithe on the gross. If you choose to tithe on the net, then you also need to tithe on any income tax refunds.

6. All my friends deduct their tithes and offerings on their income tax statements. Is this correct?

The government allows tax payers to deduct the interest expenses on their home mortgage payments. They do this to subsidize the purchasing of homes (i.e., to encourage the buying of homes by assisting with the expenses). Do you really want the government to help you pay your tithe; and, if the government helps by refunding some of the tithe money, then are you really giving the tithe to God, since, by definition, the tithe must be ten percent of your money?

7. My church is a 501c3 non-profit corporation. Does that affect my tithing to them?

Yes, it does. There is a host of challenges with tithing or giving offerings to a 501c3 church corporation. Many of these challenges stem from the fact that your money is contaminated. The contamination is because the first responsibility of any corporation is to be obedient to the state (and Federal government); therefore, by definition, its first responsibility is not to God. It is actually illegal for your pastor to preach certain truths from the Bible!

8. Do you think that, in the ending days, tithers will be especially likely to be persecuted?

I believe that widespread persecution of Christians and Jews will soon be common throughout the world. It is clear that the government will have a record of all those who deduct their tithes.