

# Truth About Tithing

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In this study, we will look at what the bible teaches about a very misunderstood topic on the subject of tithing. This study only covers tithing, we will not discuss church offerings as it is an entirely different biblical subject from tithing.

- The first evidence of Tithing.
- Should New Testament Christians pay Tithes?
- Modern-day myths and false teachings about Tithing.

**Oxford Definition of Tithe:** one tenth of annual produce or earnings, formerly taken as a tax for the support of the Church and clergy. – *verb*; pay or give as a tithe. "he tithes 10 percent of his income to the church"

Many people believe that tithing is a transaction that is made with God because they have paid a tithe. Some have gone as far as to say that if a person gives \$10 in their tithe, they will get back \$100 and so on. This couldn't be farther from the truth because tithing is not about what we get back in money, but about our obedience and faith in doing what God said to do, and it is also about the condition of our heart in "paying our tithes" to God. Tithing isn't about the amount of money we give, but about surrendering our hearts to God, it's about giving out of love not out of fear. When we give out of love our giving is transformed and so is the person who gives. Tithing is not about an outward performance, but an inward transformation.

Paying ones tithes is not about a financial exchange, but rather rendering our hearts to God and giving out of the joy and not out of fear and an obligation of having to pay a tithe. It is not just a "financial" change, it is a "spiritual awakening" that occurs and transforms the person that makes his or her tithes.

The Lord established tithing not because God needs financial help, but a way to establish ones faith in his word concerning tithing and the blessings that do come when one tithes. Tithing really is not about money, it is about transforming the hearts and lives of God's people because of their faith and love towards God and his word.

## THE FIRST EVIDENCE OF TITHING

The practice of tithing is first mentioned in Genesis 14:18-20, where **Abram gives a tenth of everything to Melchizedek**, the king of Salem and priest of God Most High. This act is was not obligatory, Abraham was not obligated to give Melchizedek anything, but seen as a voluntary expression of gratitude by Abram and acknowledgment of God's blessings and provision.

Melchizedek blessed Abram (Abraham) with wine and bread which is symbolic of Holy Communion in remembrance of the Lord's death, burial, and resurrection long before Christ Jesus came to earth and died for all of the world. Spiritually speaking, Melchizedek was ministering to Abram Christ Jesus and His atoning blood sacrifice, and Abram in return blessed Melchizedek by tithing (10%) of all that God blessed Abram him with. Melchizedek

also prophesied to Abram by telling him that it was God that delivered all of his enemies into his hand. These words blessed and ministered to Abram so he tithed 10% of all that he had to Melchizedek the priest of the Most High God.

### **Genesis 14:18-20**

18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: he was the priest of the most high God. 19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: 20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. **And he gave him tithes of all.**

In Genesis 28:20-22 Jacob vows to give a tenth to God if God would be with him and provide for his needs.

### **Genesis 28:20-22**

20 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, 21 So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: 22 And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: **and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.**

Tithing is also found in the Mosaic Law. Leviticus 27:30-32 states, "**A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.**" This command underscores the principle that the tithe is sacred and set apart for God and continuance of ministry work on the earth.

Tithing was **NOT** instituted by the law of Moses, tithing was instituted before the law was ever given, and when God finally gave Moses the Mosaic Law of 613 commandments, all of God's people were under the law all were required to give a tithe of 10% of their substance or it would be viewed by God as robbing God.

### **Brief summary and purpose of the Mosaic tithing laws...**

- The Mosaic Law included instructions on how to give to God and His people.
- The tithe was a tax that funded the theocratic government of Israel.
- The tithe was also a way for Israelite's to support true worship.
- The tithe was a way for Israelite's to support the Levites, who had no other source of income.
- The tithe was also a way for Israelite's to support religious festivals and feasts.
- The tithe was also a way for Israelite's to support the poor and needy.

### **Leviticus 27:30-33**

30 **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 unto the LORD.** 31 **And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof.** 32 **And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.** 33 **He shall not search whether it be good or bad, neither shall he change it: and if he change it at all, then both it and the change thereof shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.**

## SHOULD NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANS PAY TITHES?

In the book of Hebrews we find interesting statements that point to Melchizedek who blessed Abram. Melchizedek was King of righteousness, King of Salem, and King of peace who was made **like unto the Son of God** “**Jesus Christ**” which implies that when Abram gave his “*tithe*” or a tenth of all that he had he was giving it as unto the LORD because Melchizedek in the Old Testament was a type or shadow of Christ. Some scholars believe that because Melchizedek was without father, without mother, without descendants leading many to believe Melchizedek may have been Jesus himself that Abraham paid his tithe to, but there is no evidence of that in scripture, Melchizedek was a man who served God and blessed others faithfully and held the office of priest.

### Hebrews 7

**1** For this **Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;** **2** To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; **3** Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; **abideth a priest continually.**

The ministry office of Melchizedek was viewed as “great man of God” serving as priest and Abram blessed Melchizedek by paying a tithe to Melchizedek. Tithing was established when Abraham gave the first tithe of all that he had and tithing was to continue even when the Law of Moses was given. All the descendants of Abraham were to continue tithing as a “commandment” or ordinance in keeping the Law. This would mean that all had to pay their tithes as Abraham did because they were descendants of Abraham.

Some folks today think that because the “TITHE” originated in the Old Testament, they are not required to pay a tithe of their substance unto the Lord. This could not be further from the truth for three biblical reasons:

### **#1. Abraham’s descendants we all required to pay tithes.**

- Christians believe that Abraham is their faith father, not their racial father.
- Christians believe that they are blessed with Abraham because they have faith in Jesus Christ.
- Christians believe that they share in the blessings promised to Abraham by God.
- Christians believe that they are made righteous before God, just as Abraham was.
- Paul connects believers in Christ to Abraham, the patriarch of Israel.

## **#2. We are children of Abraham spiritually when we were born again in Christ Jesus.**

When we were born again we “became” the deed of Abraham and heirs of all the promises that God made to Abraham.

### **Galatians 3:27-29**

27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 **And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

## **#3. Jesus is our High Priest like unto the order of Melchizedek.**

### **Hebrews 7**

14 For *it is* evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood. 15 And it is yet far more evident: **for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest,** 16 Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life. 17 **For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.**

## **Should a New Testament Christian Pay Tithes?**

YES, because Jesus is our Heavenly High Priest and we are spiritual descendants of Abraham, and tithing under the covenant which Abraham made and continues even under the Mosaic law and into our day with Jesus in the New Testament continued this covenant in the “order” of Melchizedek long before the law was ever given. Paying tithes is a witness to the tither that Jesus Christ lives and he or she should be paying tithes to the ministry that is blessing them as Abraham did with Melchizedek or they directly or indirectly out of ignorance would be robbing from God.

### **Hebrews 7**

4 Now consider **how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.** 5 **And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham:** 6 But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises. 7 And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better. 8 **And here men that die receive tithes; but there he *receiveth them*, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth.** 9 And as I may so say, Levi also, **who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham.** 10 **For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.**

## Jesus our Priest Like Melchizedek

Tithing was never to end even in the New Testament. Tithing was to continue “”

### Hebrews 7

**11** If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) **what further need was *there* that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec**, and not be called after the order of Aaron? **12** For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law. **13** For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. **14** For *it is* evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood. **15** And it is yet far more evident: **for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest**, **16** Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.

**17** **For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.**

In the book of Malachi we can learn more about the ordinance of tithing made to the descendants of Abraham, Issac and Jacob who's name was later changed to Israel.

### Genesis 32:

**28** And he said, **Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel**: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

This ordinance of tithing was for the purpose of ministry and to meet the needs of the assembly and the poor who were in need. God asked “will a man rob God” and tells them they are “cursed” for not paying their tithe. God then tells them to bring all their “**tithes**” into the “**storehouse**”.

### Malachi 3

**6** For **I am the LORD, I change not**; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

**7** Even **from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances**, and have not kept *them*. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

**8** **Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me.** But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. **9** **Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.** **10** **Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.**

Lets look at the meaning of both words tithes and storehouse in the original Hebrew language to better understand what is saying to us in scripture.

## tithe

הַמַּעֲשֵׂר (ham·ma·'ă·śêr)

Article | Noun - masculine singular

Strong's Hebrew 4643: 1) tithe, **tenth part** 1a) tenth part 1b) tithe, **payment of a tenth part**

## the storehouse

בַּיִת (bêt)

Noun - masculine singular construct

Strong's Hebrew 1004: nm 1) house 1a) **house, dwelling habitation** 1b) shelter or abode of animals 1c) human bodies (fig.) 1d) of Sheol 1e) of abode of light and darkness 1f) of land of Ephraim 2) place 3) receptacle 4) home, house as containing a family 5) **household, family** 5a) **those belonging to the same household** 5b) **family of descendants, descendants as organized body** 6) household affairs 7) inwards (metaph.) 8) (TWOT) **temple** adv 9) **on the inside** prep 10) **within**

### To translate what the Lord is saying in the original Hebrew language would mean:

Make your tithe payment of 10% and bring it into my temple house of God for the family of God which is the family of descendants, descendants as the organized body.

Many people today are struggling in everyday affairs in life because they do not believe that tithing is required of God, but according to the book of Malachi we learn that God will “**REBUKE**” the things in life that hinder us and God will “**POUR OUT**” a blessing by “**OPENING**” the windows of heaven and bless those who tithe as we’ve read In verse 10.

No where in all the of the entire bible does God ever tell anyone to “**PROVE**” God meaning to “**TEST**” God about anything except for in paying our tithes unto the Lord by bringing our tithe into the storehouse, and when we do, God will pour out so many blessings that one would not have enough room to contain the blessings that God will pour out on them.

**10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it.***

The Lord continues to confirm that he will not destroy the fruits of your ground and all nations will take notice of how blessed you are.

### Malachi 3

**11** And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. **12** And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delight-some land, saith the LORD of hosts.

God address how some were saying “it is vain to serve God” in context to tithing, God also addresses how they were saying “**what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance**” about tithing.



**13** Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so *much* against thee? **14** Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and **what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance**, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts? **15** And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, *they that* tempt God are even delivered.

This is the same mentality of many today, they will say that is Old Testament law and we are not under the law not realizing the tithing was instituted by Abraham long before the Mosaic Law was ever given. Today many will also say what profit will tithing bring me so they never pay their tithes yet expect God to bless them and rebuke the “devourer” for their sake as mentioned in verse 11. Many today want God’s blessings but put no faith in what God taught about receiving their blessings.

Some today believe because they give an offering that is all that is required of God by them but an offering is just that an “offering” and not the tithe that God expects of them.

## **MODERN-DAY MYTHS AND FALSE TEACHINGS ABOUT TITHING**

While tithing is required by God, many ministers or ministries have abused and misuse tithing for their own benefits. Many today are preaching a false “prosperity gospel” that teaches and bases a persons blessings by monetary wealth. While the Lord does bless all with “money”, this should never be what a Christian will base their blessings on. For example; what if a person had enough money to purchase a state of the art modern hospital with the most advanced technological medical equipment but then dies of cancer? Could anyone say that this person was “blessed” even if they knew the Lord? Of course not.

One should never be manipulated by men to give to expect a huge increase return. One should always base their giving out of faith and obedience to the Lord and his work because they love to give cheerfully and they know that the Lord will reward them with what they need most in this life.

The bible teaches us that the “LOVE” money is the “ROOT” of all evil and that it is harder for a rich person to enter into the kingdom of God.

1 Timothy 6:**10** For **the love of money is the root of all evil**: which **while some coveted after**, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. Matthew 19:**23** Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, **That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.**

Is the bible teaching us that money is evil? No, God wants all his followers to have money but not to make it their God and idolize money. Becoming wealthy and not putting money in the right perspective that God places money in will cause a person to error because of coveting money. They become obsessive and hoard money for themselves and never give thought to what the Lord said about loving money and riches. Many people including ministers and ministries have erred because of money, their entire life is based on earthly possessions and are in danger and risk of “not entering into the kingdom of God” as Jesus taught.

Is money something that God does not want a believer to have? No, money is not bad, it is how you use your money that “turns” it into something bad. Money can be used to first and foremost to support ones family but not neglecting the family of God to help and bless others when it is in our means to do so. Money can answer a lot of problems in this life when used properly it is a blessing and help to others, and the Lord will bless those who allow their selves to be used in helping others.

### **Ecclesiastes 10**

**17** Blessed *art* thou, O land, when thy king *is* the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness! **18** By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through. **19** A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: **but money answereth all things**. **20** Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter.

Jesus taught that when we give - (this does not always include money), it shall be given back to us.

### **Luke 6**

**38 Give, and it shall be given unto you**; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

One should never give anything in order to get something back. If this is their only motive in giving, they are misunderstanding on how they should do their giving. One must look within their self and ask themselves why are they giving, or what is the motive of their heart when giving anything. Are they giving cheerfully to help or are they only doing it to get something back in return?

### **2 Corinthians 9**

**6** But this *I say*, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. **7** Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so *let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. **8** And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:

This is what Jesus said about giving or lending to others...

### **Luke 6**

**30 Give to every man that asketh of thee**; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask *them* not again. **31** And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. **32** For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. **33** And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. **34** And if ye lend *to them* of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. **35** But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and *to* the evil. **36** Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.



All of our giving including paying our tithes must always be done cheerfully and not grudgingly or we may miss the blessing in our giving.

Faith is not mere words spoke, faith acts on the will of God with action. Anyone can say they have faith, but their checkbook speaks volume of where their faith is. Many will spend their a lot of their money on earthly things that rust and decay, and never support the work of God or their local church for it to grow and reach others. Faith without participating and contributing is unprofitable.

### **James 2:15**

If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

While the gospel message is free, the means to do outreach and house those who come to the Lord is not free, it takes a lot of dedication and money to run any building where the saints of God can gather to meet and minister one to another. Without faithful tithers no church could ever make plans to grow in helping those in the community and to make matters worse, the pastor and his family could not eat or pay the expenses of the church where people come and gather.

This is a summary of what the word of God teaches concerning those laboring in the ministry and because they are helping others in need.

1. Hebrews 6:10: God remembers how hard people work for him and how they show love by caring for others.
2. Colossians 3:23: People should work hard with all their hearts as if they are working for God.
3. 1 Timothy 5:18: The laborer deserves their wages.
4. Acts 20:35: People should support the weak and remember that it is better to give than to receive.
5. Luke 10:7: The laborer is worthy of their hire.

The bible teaches that a minister be supported by the congregation so that the minister can focus on the ministry and work of the Lord. Many ministers today have no or little support because of the times we are living in, the book of timothy said that men would be lovers of "pleasures" more then lovers of God, and this would include their dedication in giving to the work of the ministry and supporting their local church where they are being fed the word of God.

### **2 Timothy 3**

**4** Traitors, heady, high-minded, **lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;**

What does the bible teach about ministers who are dedicated to preaching and teaching the gospel? Should Elders who lead the church be paid well by the congregation, especially those who preach and teach the word to the congregation?

**1 Timothy 5:17** Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine. **18** For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, **The laborer is worthy of his reward.** **19** Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. **20** Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

Those who are taught the word should share their blessings with those who teach them...

**Galatians 6:6** Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

**The Greek word “communicate” is: “must share”**

**ΚΟΙΝΩΝΕΙΤΩ** (Koinōneitō)

Verb - Present Imperative Active - 3rd Person Singular

Strong's Greek 2841: From koinonos; to share with others.

Those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

**1 Corinthians 9**

**13** Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live *of the things* of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? **14** **Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.**

Open Heaven Christian Church will never ask anyone for tithes or offerings because we know that not all have the faith or desire to give even what the Lord requires in tithing. Or they may have their own church that they are supporting already. We simply trust that the Lord will show those who are being fed the word of God by this ministry when and what to give if that is what the Lord has shown them to do. The Lord will tell them if they are to tithe or make any offerings to support this ministry.

I will also teach that anyone who does have the faith to tithe into any ministry it is because their lives are being blessed and that ministry must consider them as official members of the assembly.

We at Open Heaven Christian Church will never enforce tithing or offerings as a requirement to hear the gospel being preached from our pulpit but we will consider any person who pays their tithe to our ministry as an official member of our assembly. If they do not tithe they may still be part of the assembly but they should learn what the bible teaches on tithing or they are hindering their own blessings as we have already leaned.

A Church is a storehouse where people can come and receive help, but if the storehouse is empty then it can not bless others who are in need and it can not function properly as the Lord intended. It takes people of faith who give of their substance in tithing to keep any church doors open.

If you have a church you call home because you are being fed the word of God there, we encourage you to start tithing and you will see the Lord pour out his blessings upon you because of your faith in paying your tithe unto the Lord, if you do have a church you call home, and would like to be a part of this ministry family, we would encourage you to tithe into

our ministry and we trust that the Lord will open up the windows of heaven and pour out his blessings upon your life!

When a believer in Christ comes to the understanding about what tithing is, he or she will desire to obey the Lord and begin paying their tithe to the church that is feeding them the word of God, the church that is diligent in teaching them the ways of the Lord and disciplining them so you can grow in the knowledge of God.

If you are a believer attending a church where you are being fed the word of God, you should consider helping that church by paying your tithes. If you are a believer who attends a church and are not paying your tithes you are robbing from God and yourself of the many blessings God has in store for your life. If you are a believer who does not attend a church or fellowship where you can be fed the word of God you are in direct disobedience to the word of God and need to start looking for a good church that will help you grow in the Lord.

### **Hebrews 10**

**25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting *one another*. and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**

### **FINAL WORDS**

Many today because they do not understand tithing don't tithe. The reason for this is because they feel pressured by ministers to pay them tithes but in fact it is not really about money. Others do not tithe because they have never been taught what the bible teaches on tithing, with others have been made to believe that tithing is about what they can get back from God if they tithe.

### **Philippians 4**

**19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. 20 Now unto God and our Father *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **CONCLUSION**

The desire to pay tithes to any ministry must never be out of necessity or grudgingly in the giving of your tithes, but should only be an act of love and obedience to the ordinance that God has given to all who believe because they want to further the work of the Lord here on earth. The act of giving in love and obedience must always and only be done in faith toward God in all your giving of tithes as it is a reflection of Christ in your life and of all the blessings the Lord has already blessed you with.

I hope you have enjoyed this study!

May the Lord continue to richly bless you and your family,

Pastor Joel Martin



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<https://openheavenchristianchurch.com>