

“Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver” (1 Chronicles 29:3, NKJV)

- David is preparing money and resources for the temple that his son Solomon would build
- David gave up and above what he had already given
- King David regularly offered extravagant gifts unto the Lord

David understood that if he was going to give something to God, it needed to be something that cost him something or it wasn't a sacrifice at all

- If we give what is comfortable to give it never truly qualifies as a sacrifice

“I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc., is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small.” – C.S Lewis

“Then the leaders of the fathers' houses, leaders of the tribes of Israel, the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the officers over the king's work, offered willingly.”

(1 Chronicles 29:6, NKJV)

- The people responded to David's call and they gave upwards of 400 M (Today currency)

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
(Matthew 6:21, NKJV)

- Jesus’ teaching is quite clear
- What a person does with their money reveals what’s on the inside of their heart

You may say you love the Lord

If you don’t give the way the Lord commands what does that say about you?

If we don’t give the way the Word of God teaches us we are either ignorant about giving, afraid to trust Him, or we don’t truly love the Lord with all of our heart, soul, and strength

- Words are cheap and easily spoken
- If a person loves the Lord what he does with money will reflect that deep love for Him

When a person gives sacrificially as the Lord asks of him, that person is demonstrating that his words of love for God are authentic

Giving to the Lord is not about the amount it’s about the sacrifice – *Luke 21:1-4 (Widows two mites)*

- It's about giving in proportion to your means
- When a person doesn’t have much but gives sacrificially God sees that as generous

“Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the first fruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.”

(Proverbs 3:9–10, NKJV)

- It always requires faith to give first
- This is why tithing is so important it's the primary way we acknowledge that God is first

When the first portion is given to God and the rest is redeemed
– Exodus 13:2, 12-13

Exodus 23:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ The **first** of the **first fruits** of your land you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God.

- The first of your first fruits
- Not the last
- Give it before you pay the bills
- Bring it to the House of the Lord – The first day of the week!
- It doesn't say to give your first fruits wherever you want
- The tithe comes to the house of the Lord
- The place where a community of believer's worship together

Malachi 3:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, *even* this whole nation.

Did God Change?

Malachi 3:6 (NKJV)

⁶ “For I *am* the LORD, I do not change;

Life, Not Law

- Tithing is a principle that runs throughout scripture
- Before, during, and after the law
- God accepted Abel’s offering yet rejected Cain’s on the principle of first-fruits

The principle of the tithe (*or first-fruits or firstborn*) was in operation when Abraham was asked to offer his son Isaac, as well as when he gave a tenth of the spoils to Melchizedek

Genesis 14:18–20 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he *was* the priest of God Most High. ¹⁹ And he blessed him and said: “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; ²⁰ And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” And he gave him a tithe of all.

- Melchizedek is a representation of Jesus – **Hebrews 5-7**

Hebrews 6:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ where the forerunner has entered for us, *even* Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

In fact, the principal of the tithe goes back to the Garden of Eden

Genesis 2:15–17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

- God gave them stewardship over the whole garden
- They could eat of every tree except one
- They were not to take of the fruit of that tree and consume it
- Being faithful stewards meant *life* to Adam and Eve

By choosing to eat the fruit they were acting like owners, not stewards

- This is exactly how the principal of the tithe operates in our lives
- He gives us all things freely to enjoy – **1 Timothy 6:17**
- “*The tithe and the first-fruits are mine,*” says the Lord – **Exodus 13:2**

We demonstrate faithful stewardship when we give God the tithe

We are showing Him that we realize we are stewards, not owners

If something is right under the law, it's still right under grace?

If something was wrong under the law, it's still wrong under grace?

- Adultery
- Murder
- Theft

Imagine what you would think if one evening you invited me over to your house for dinner and as I was walking out the door after a great meal, I grabbed your television and took it home. What if when you asked, "Why did you do that? The Bible says you're not supposed to steal," my response was, "Well, 'Thou shalt not steal' was part of the law. I'm not under the law. I'm under grace." – Robert Morris – The Blessed Life

What most Christians fail to understand is that tithing is a test

- Your heart follows your treasure – **Matthew 6:21**
- The tithe is a test for every Christian
- Where your tithe goes, your heart will follow
- The tithe will cause you to be more heaven minded
- 80-20 principal

The word "*tithe*" literally means "*tenth*" or "*tenth part*"

The number ten in the Bible represents *testing*

- 10 plagues to test Pharaoh
- 10 commandments
- God tested Israel in the desert 10 times
- God tested Jacob's heart by changing his wages 10 times
- Daniel was tested 10 days in the first chapter of the book of Daniel
- **Matthew 25** Jesus tells a parable of 10 virgins having their preparedness tested
- 10 days of testing are mentioned in **Revelation 2:10**
- How many disciples did Jesus have?
 - Just checking, He had 12

Our Attitude in Giving makes a difference

“Who is there even among you who would shut the doors, So that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you,” Says the LORD of hosts, “Nor will I accept an offering from your hands.” (Malachi 1:10, NKJV)

- Apparently, the Israelites were tired of sacrificial giving
- The fact that their hearts had drifted from giving was an indication that their hearts had drifted from the Lord
- God called them into account

“And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?” Says the LORD of hosts.” (Malachi 1:8, NKJV)

- The Israelites were giving God the leftovers
- They loved themselves more than God – **Matthew 6:21**
- Follow the money, because it always tells the truth
- God didn't need their offerings and He doesn't need ours
- What God always wants is our hearts
- The way a person handles money always reveals their heart condition

““But cursed be the deceiver Who has in his flock a male, And takes a vow, But sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished— For I am a great King,” Says the LORD of hosts, “And My name is to be feared among the nations.” (Malachi 1:14, NKJV)

- God is serious about the attitude of our hearts when we give our tithes and offerings to Him

“Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances And have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” Says the LORD of hosts. “But you said, ‘In what way shall we return?’ “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings.” “You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation.”

(Malachi 3:7-9, NKJV)

God was telling them they needed to get things right with Him
The people were robbing God of what rightfully belonged to Him

- When we rob God of what belongs to Him we remove ourselves from the realm of His blessings
- This verse doesn't say God brings a curse
- We bring it through our attitude in giving

“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try 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 such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.” “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,” Says the LORD of hosts;” (Malachi 3:10-11, NKJV)

- God was telling them they needed to get things right with Him
- The people were robbing God of what rightfully belonged to Him
- This is the remedy
- Of course, not every financial difficulty means a person's heart is wrong
- We have an enemy
- God will rebuke the devourer
- He hasn't changed – **Malachi 3:6**

Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ Bring the **whole tithe** into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

God doesn't need a test, we do

- Tithing is a test
- Some may say, “*why is this in the old testament?*”
- Maybe that makes it more of a test – Just saying!
- It's simple – if I tithe I'm blessed, if I don't I'm cursed
- Blessing or cursing? You choose

Some people will say, I can't be cursed because of what Jesus has done

- Let's talk about that

Galatians 3:13–14 (NKJV)

¹³ Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “*Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree*”), ¹⁴ that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

- Without a doubt, Jesus bore all the curses of the law
- Having become a curse for us

1 Peter 2:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

- Jesus bore all our sins
- Let me ask you – Have you sinned since you’ve become a believer?
- Even though Jesus bore your sin you have still sinned
- Have you been sick since you believed?
 - Of course

We must appropriate, by faith what Jesus has done

- The tithe is our act of faith that we believe that God will keep His word

Some may say that because I’m under grace I don’t have to give a tithe

Matthew 5:17–20 (NKJV)

¹⁷ “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. ¹⁹ Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

²⁰ For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

- Righteousness through grace exceeds the law
- When Jesus was questioned about an old testament standard he always raised the bar
 - **Matthew 5:22, 28** – “*if you even look at a woman*”

Do you really want to give according to Grace?

That would mean you would have to tithe much more than 10 %

In **2 Chronicles 31** King Hezekiah decrees that all of the tithes be brought into the house of the Lord and given to the Levites

2 Chronicles 31:10 (NKJV) “*Laid in heaps*”

¹⁰ And Azariah the chief priest, from the house of Zadok, answered him and said, “Since *the people* began to bring the offerings into the house of the LORD, **we have had enough to eat and have plenty left**, for the LORD has blessed His people; and what is left *is this great abundance.*”

- When God’s people bring the tithe, the storehouse is full and the people are extremely blessed in the process
 - When you go to Church, do you enjoy the spiritual food you get?
 - Someone is paying for it
- Would you go to a nice restaurant, eat and then not expect to pay for it?

God is a giving, generous God, and wherever He is working in people's hearts, their hearts burn with a desire to give

Every person who desires to be like Him begins to flow in a spirit of generosity

“Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.” (Acts 2:44–45, NKJV)

When hearts come alive with the fresh fire of God, one manifestation of that divine fire is the desire to open up wallets and purses

- Stingy hearts are closed hearts
- Open hearts are generous
- This is what we see in the Early Church
- It's what God still expects today!

“And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.” (Acts 4:33–35, NKJV)

- When people began to be generous with God and each other, God became generous to them
- Signs and wonders erupted
- Generosity ignited a cycle of blessing and power

We have been so grateful to the Lord for the facility we have been meeting in for the last nine years

- We are happy to say that we have now come to an agreement with Faith Reformed Church on the purchase price of the property
- They have accepted our offer of \$475,000 and working on obtaining financing for 80% of that

We are asking you to consider a two-year commitment to continue to fund the ministry of the Church, as well as a one-time miracle offering for the down payment of the loan

Over the past nine years, we have seen hundreds come to Christ and more than 400 people decided to follow the Lord in baptism

- Many of those continue to attend and serve in ministry here in the church
- Our current membership is about 250 with 200 attending services regularly

We have also donated more than 12% of our income to missionaries and organizations outside of our 4 walls

Because of you we have been able to preach the Gospel to tens of thousands around the world, fund disaster relief, feed the hungry, help young girls caught in sex trafficking, and help those considering abortion find alternative solutions

- We currently support 15 Missionaries and organizations globally, monthly
- Over the past nine years, we have given upwards of \$94,000 in local outreach and \$200,000 globally.