

How To Tithe

The Tithe Is 10% - It is impossible to “tithe” 2% or 7% or even 9½% because the word tithe means tenth, or 10%. A man once was greatly frightened by a nightmare: he dreamt that God took his church giving, multiplied it by 10 and gave it back to him to live on! Such a dream holds no threat to the faithfully obedient tither.

Obedying God in the Tithe Brings Financial Prosperity - Nine-tenths of our income *with* the blessing of God goes further than ten-tenths of our income *without* His blessing. Even though this makes no sense to the natural mind, it is the clear truth of God's word. God will “rebuke the devourer” from our substance (Malachi 3:11), making the obedient more prosperous.

The Tithe Is Based on the Gross Income, Not the Net - On IRS Form 1040, income is listed on which taxes are to be paid. Someone who lists his net (after-tax) income is in violation of the law. God does not have a lower standard than the government (see Malachi 1:8). Even though we don't get to handle the money taken out of our pay, we have still earned it and God has still provided it.

The Tithe Is Based on All Income, Not just Salary - Amazingly, some Christians who faithfully give God His tenth of their regular paycheck, neglect giving Him His due portion of Christmas bonuses, bank interest, tax credits, house equity (sale price minus earlier purchase price) and other irregular financial blessings. Even though refunds differ from income, God wants to be acknowledged as the provider of *all* our income, not just the regular paycheck.

The Tithe and Church Attendance Are Totally Unrelated - Some Christians are faithful to give God a tenth of

their income, but only for the weeks they attend church. So if Joe Christian does this and attends church 8 of 10 Sundays, he has not obeyed God over that time period, giving only 8% of his income. One helpful idea is to set aside the tithe whenever the income is received.

The Whole Tithe Goes to the Lord into the Storehouse (Local Church) - Some occasionally give their tithe to a missionary, a faith-based drug rehab program, a church they visit on vacation, or some other worthy ministry. Whereas we are free to give *offerings* wherever God leads us, the entire tithe goes to the Lord into our home church. God's teaching on this subject is clear: “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse” [not storehouses] (Malachi 3:10).

The Tithe Is To Be Undesignated - Some believers take their tithe, or a portion of their tithe, and give it to a particular ministry or cause within their home church (i.e. Boys' Ministry, the carpet fund, missions, etc.). The main reason not to do this is because we should never tell God where to spend His money.

If We Give God More, He Won't Give Us Less - I would rather make an error in giving God more than I owe Him, than making an error by not giving Him enough. God will not be any man's debtor. “Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Galatians 6:7).

The Best Time To Start Tithing Is Now - If you have not yet committed yourself to tithe, start today. It will never get any easier, but it will get harder the longer you put it off. God has not given you a spirit of fear, including the fear of not having enough. Let faith arise in your heart that He will provide as you obey him. You'll be glad you did.