

### Chapter 1 : 10 Reasons To Tithe! - Tithe And Offering Scriptures . com

*Giving to any other ministry is not tithing; it is offering. C. Tithe with the right attitude: I. This is Very important. The attitude matters as much as the act. 3 unhealthy attitudes: II. Tithing out of obligation: Wrong attitude. Remember, Abraham tithed out of free will, long before God even commanded tithing, (Genesis ). III.*

Email Introduction Lately, I have been thinking very much about the act of giving and studying what the Bible says about it. During these times the Holy Spirit of God brought a couple of truths to my attention. The attitude of giving A. To show that we are thankful to God B. Not out of obligation, 2 Corinthians 9: Not to impress others, Acts 4: Motive behind giving A. To support the ministry of the church, Malachi 3: Not to gain control over the Pastor C. Not to earn a position in the church 3. Discipline in giving A. Need to be disciplined in giving, ex: We must give faithfully, 1 Corinthians We must give sacrificially, 2 Samuel The attitude of giving is important. Giving what we have with the right attitude is more important compared to giving a lot with the wrong attitude. God looks at the heart before releasing his blessings. Therefore when we give it is important that our giving is motivated by the right reasons. It is important that we discipline our giving. Undisciplined giving too is a sign of giving out of wrong attitude and motives. HU If this sermon was helpful to you please consider leaving your feedback in the comments section at the bottom. It would be a great encouragement to me personally.

### Chapter 2 : Tithing - Resources on Giving & Stewardship in the Church

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I do not have that authority. The people who pay ten percent, or a tithe, of their income do so because they want to. The reasons are many. A study of these reasons will help us to understand the great blessing of tithing and the biblical responsibility to tithe.

**To Honor the Creator.** Acquisitiveness is one of the basic drives of mankind. It is God who gives people the power to obtain wealth Psalm We are not to glory in what God has given us, but to glory in Him Jeremiah 9: Why should I be grudge God ten percent when everything actually belongs to Him? If it were not for Him, there would be no land, no seed, no strength, no income, and no life.

**To Acknowledge My Heritage.** Abraham was the first tithe payer of record Genesis My heritage of paying a tithe precedes the law of Moses. As a child of Abraham and an heir of the promise of Abraham. I acknowledge my family relationship by paying tithes. I pay my tithes as a spiritual descendant of Abraham, the father of the faithful.

**To Fulfill the Covenant.** In every comparison of the law of Moses and the new covenant that came by Jesus Christ, the new covenant stands supreme. The characteristic word in the Book of Hebrews is better, and everything is better about the new covenant. In actuality, we honor our father and mother and we give our tithes because the principles of the law are written in our hearts by the Spirit of God. We give willingly and liberally because the Spirit motivates us to give what God has said is His.

**To Show My Love.** Love is the strongest motivation in the world. He gives not only his tithe, but also offerings plural, not grudgingly and not of necessity, but cheerfully with love.

**To Fulfill an Obligation.** Jesus did not criticize the Pharisees for paying tithes. The word ought expresses an obligation or duty. It is one of the strongest words in the English language. To pay tithes is something every Christian ought to do. The word ought has three meanings: It is desirable for him to pay his tithes, he is expected to pay his tithes, and he has a duty to pay his tithes. How sad it is that people who are honest in business and who pay their debts to the bank, the store, and the government will not pay God what belongs to Him! He does not give us the authority to use His tithes for other purposes, but we have the power to spend it as long as it is in our hands.

**To Spread the Gospel.** God has ordained for people to be saved by the preaching of the gospel I Corinthians 1: In the New Testament, God has called people to minister the gospel. These ministers can be more effective if they do not have to provide for their livelihood by working on a secular job but can devote themselves full time to the work of God. They need time to give themselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word. It is not wrong for a man to labor with his hands, nor should a minister feel too good to engage in honest labor. When God inspired Moses to write that the people should not put a muzzle on the ox that labored, God was not as concerned with the ox as He was with the principle that a laborer should receive his livelihood from his work. The application of this principle is that the minister of the gospel should earn his living from his ministry. See I Corinthians 9: Some ministers have endured financial hardships and deprivation in order to proclaim the gospel in needy areas. If the tithing income insures that the minister can live in a good house, drive a good car, and buy sufficient clothes for his family, why should I begrudge providing these things to a man who would preach the gospel even if he had to work on a secular job to do it? My tithing can help to spread the gospel.

**To Avoid a Curse.** They do not give God His tithe, but they eventually spend the money for automobile repairs, medical bills, and a thousand other things that they might have avoided if they had been faithful to God in their giving. God said that the whole nation of Israel was cursed because they had not given God His due. God asked Israel to dedicate the gold of Jericho to Him, but Achan took a wedge of gold and hid it in a tent. It became a curse to him and his whole family. I do not want God to curse my blessings. I want to give Him His tithe. See also Luke 6: God blesses the people who pay tithes. They do not always have the most money or the best clothes, but they are blessed. And His richest blessings are not necessarily monetary. But I do want God to notice me and remember me. He noticed that the window put money into the treasury at the Temple. He noticed what Cornelius was giving. He noticed what Israel was not giving. He knows what we give and He notices when we give. God has asked us to prove Him and see if He will not give us His blessings. I have trusted Him, tested Him, and tried Him, and I

have concluded that it is better to give God what belongs to Him. For most of my ministry. I have lived on tithing income. How could I receive tithes and not pay tithes? I could not do so and be consistent. The Levites, who received tithes, also paid tithes on what they received Nehemiah Preachers who receive tithes should be most faithful to pay them. Paying tithes will not save a person-everyone must be born again to be saved. But paying tithes will reap a blessing. Genuine Christian not only pay tithes, but they willingly pay tithes.

**Chapter 3 : Baptism Practice - Bible Prophecy and Truth**

*Therefore, Old Testament tithing was more closely related to taxation and a vacation fund rather than to free will giving (which, again, was a separate category).*

We have been given commandments to help us prepare in every way to live in the presence of our Heavenly Father. He has given us a way to thank Him for our blessings. Willingly paying tithes and offerings is one way we thank Him. As we pay these offerings, we show that we love Him and will obey His counsel. In what ways does the payment of tithes and offerings help us thank our Heavenly Father? Obeying the Law of Tithing What is an honest tithing? Use questions at the beginning of a section to start a discussion and send class members or family members to the text to find more information. Use questions at the end of a section to help class members or family members ponder and discuss the meaning of what they have read and apply it in their lives. Anciently, Abraham and Jacob obeyed the commandment to pay a tithe of one-tenth of their increase see Hebrews 7: When we pay tithing we show our faithfulness to the Lord. We also teach our children the value of this law. They will want to follow our example and pay tithing on any money they receive. In what ways is tithing a principle of faith more than a principle of finances? What can parents do to teach their children to pay tithing and understand its importance? We Should Give Willingly Why is our attitude important as we pay tithing? It is important to give willingly. The Apostle Paul taught that how we give is as important as what we give. Tithing and Other Offerings In what ways does the Church use tithing funds and other offerings? As members of the Church, we give tithing and other offerings to the Lord. Tithing Tithing is used by the Church for many purposes. Some of these are to: Build, maintain, and operate temples, meetinghouses, and other buildings. Provide operating funds for stakes, wards, and other units of the Church. These units use the funds to carry out the ecclesiastical programs of the Church, which include teaching the gospel and conducting social activities. Help the missionary program. Educate young people in Church schools, seminaries, and institutes. Print and distribute lesson materials. Help in family history and temple work. Other Offerings Fast Offerings. Church members fast each month by going without food and drink for two consecutive meals. They contribute at least the amount of money they would have spent for the meals. They may give as generously as they are able. This offering is called the fast offering. Bishops use these fast offerings to provide food, shelter, clothing, and medical care for the needy. See chapter 25 in this book. As part of the fast day, members attend a meeting called the fast and testimony meeting, where they share with each other their testimonies of Christ and His gospel. Church members may donate to other efforts of the Church, such as missionary work , the Perpetual Education Fund, temple construction, and humanitarian aid. Members also offer their time, skills, and goods to help others. This service allows the Church to help needy members and nonmembers around the world at community, national, and international levels, especially when disasters occur. Latter-day revelation tells of another blessing for those who tithe: The blessings we have been promised are both material and spiritual. If we give willingly, Heavenly Father will help us provide for our daily needs of food, clothes, and shelter. I do not see any other solution. Those who pay their tithes and offerings are greatly blessed. They have a good feeling that they are helping to build the kingdom of God on earth. What are some blessings you, your family members, or your friends have received through the payment of tithing and other offerings?

### Chapter 4 : Tithing Quotes (32 quotes)

*Tithing and Other Offerings. In what ways does the Church use tithing funds and other offerings? As members of the Church, we give tithing and other offerings to the Lord. Tithing. Tithing is used by the Church for many purposes. Some of these are to: Build, maintain, and operate temples, meetinghouses, and other buildings.*

When you have a prosperity need, study his miracles of abundance, and you will become attuned to that same bounty. You can use this prayer method for others with good results, too. Because words of truth have life in them. The words of Jesus Christ have moved men for nearly two thousand years to dare to demonstrate as have no other words ever uttered on this planet! This method leads to a life of infinite satisfaction. Eat and drink the words of Jesus! I know a lady who was once healed of a chronic, nagging ill by writing out one of the healing promises of Jesus and wearing it next to the skin over the diseased area of the body. There is fantastic power and vitality in the words and promises of Jesus now, as in His time. They are also the only 2 countries that observe an annual Day of Thanksgiving. No wonder they have prospered so! The people of the Old Testament had a special Thanksgiving success formula that can prosper you. In Bible times, giving thanks was not done through mere lip service. It always took definite financial form. They felt that the act of thanksgiving protected their health, wealth and happiness and made these blessings permanent. Before embarking on a journey, going into battle, or facing any challenging situation, they gave "faith offerings" to their priests and temples in the faith that their mission would be successful. After returning from any challenging experience, they went directly to their priest or place of worship and gave a "thank offering" in appreciation for the blessings received, and in order to seal their new good and to make it permanent. Giving was not only considered the first step in financial increase. It was the last step, the one that resulted in a permanent prosperity that would be divinely protected. When was the last time you gave a "faith offering" in anticipation of answered prayer? When was the last time you gave a "thank offering" in appreciation for blessings already received, in order to seal that good and to make it permanent? Please note that these special offerings were bestowed over and above their regular tithes which were given consistently and automatically. The people of Israel gave numerous other offerings too, including a daily offering both morning and evening; a sabbath or weekly offering; a monthly offering; special offerings for Passover; first fruit offerings; meat, drink and sin offerings, etc. The purpose Of these offerings was to keep them In touch with God as the Source of their unlimited abundance, and to remind them that there was nothing automatic about the vast blessings they enjoyed. Did such lavish giving deplete them? On the contrary History reveals that the more they gave, the more they prospered. They never complained about their vast giving. Instead, they gave graciously and with "holy joy. At this Season of Thanksgiving, let us gladly join the ancient people and share our "thank offerings" for good received; let us gladly join them in sharing our "faith offerings" in anticipation for good on the way! This is a great way to protect our good and to make it permanent. For this purpose declare often, "At this Season of Thanksgiving, I gladly join the ancient people and share my "thank offerings" in appreciation for good received. I gladly share my "faith offerings" In anticipation of good on the way. This is a great way to protect my good and to make It permanent. I joyously use this ancient thanksgiving success formula now. To picture health Is one of the quickest roads to healing. How often I have heard people wail, "I have prayed and prayed for healing. Still my health has not improved. Thus their prayers had seemed in vain. One must first image or conceive it. The image makes the condition. Without the image there can be no condition. The French doctor, Emile Coue, proved the healing power of the imagination at the turn of the Century. After more conventional methods of treatment had failed, people from all over Europe sought out Dr. The success of his cures became so widespread that at his height, he treated as many as one hundred people a day. By changing those mental pictures, one could quickly change the subconscious, and consequently the body which houses it. He proved that the imagination is a much stronger force than the will; that when the imagination and will are in conflict, the imagination can always triumph. Thus, if your imagination is picturing health, it is possible for that health to manifest in your body, regardless of a diagnosis to the contrary or a previous history of ill health. Knowing this, you should deliberately picture yourself as whole and well. The reasoning power of your will

may insist that you cannot be healed, but pay it no attention. If you will dare to picture health consistently anyway, then your imagination is free to work for you to produce that health. Whatever the mind pictures and expects, that it will also build and produce for you! For this purpose you will enjoy declaring often: Whatever the mind pictures and expects, that it will build and produce for me. As I get busy picturing the good I want to experience the happy results astound and delight me. For this purpose I declare that vast improvement comes quickly in every phase of my life now. Every day, in every way, things are getting better and better for me now. A business woman proved this. She was between jobs. Her grocery supplies were so low that the only food she had in the house was a small amount of hamburger, some coffee, and a half carton of cream. This hungry woman started blessing her pocketbook and financial affairs, but nothing happened. She decided to bless the small amount of food that was left, remembering how Jesus had multiplied the loaves and fishes by taking them in his hands and blessing them. This did not happen, but the power of blessing worked anyway. After the act of blessing the hamburger, cream and coffee, she used a portion of them for her evening fare. The next day, when she again inspected the food, she realized that there appeared to be just as much there as had been before using a portion of it the previous evening! That food was like the manna in the wilderness that had been gathered by the Hebrews on the sixth day and had lasted through the seventh day, when no more appeared. As she continued to bless what was at hand, it met her needs until more money arrived. Through the continued act of blessing, she secured a job and the crisis passed. As I bless what is on hand, this opens the way for it to increase mightily. So I bless and increase my health, wealth, and happiness now! For a time, I worked with the laws you described and they brought dynamic good into my life. But suddenly, I am frightened and discouraged. The last few weeks, everything seems to have gone in reverse. Chemicalization sounds like a negative process, but actually it is a very positive one, a natural, normal one. Though it is an uncomfortable experience, it is worth going through, because it is always a sign that cleansing is taking place. Something higher and better always results from this experience. When these periods come, remind yourself, "This is nothing to fear. This is not evil. There Is only good at work In this experience. Healing Is now taking place In my world. I rest, relax and let It. Emmet Fox has described the healing process of chemicalization: It seems as though everything begins to go wrong at once. This may be disconcerting, but it is really a good sign. Suppose your whole world seems to rock on its foundation. Chemicalization means that things are coming out In a better state of affairs than ever before. Regardless of what seems to be happening, It never means anything else. When a physical or mental disturbance arises after your deliberate use of right thinking, it is always a sign that your right thinking is at work clearing out the negative, so that the positive power of good can gain complete dominion of your world. As you practice the prosperity laws given in my books, faithfully writing out your desires, making a wheel of fortune, commanding your good to appear, creating a master plan for success, and as you practice the healing laws faithfully invoking denial, forgiveness, release, and affirmations of love, praise, etc. When it does say to yourself, "This Is good! Those laws are working for me In a dynamic way. Only dynamic good shall come from this cleansing experience. How To Be Blessed With Forgiveness If you have not gained the peace of mind or satisfying results you feel you are entitled to as a child of God, it may be because you have unfinished business in the department of forgiveness. Most of us do! Jesus Christ came to heal not only the conscious but also the subconscious mind, which contains all the memories and emotional blocks that stop our prayers from being answered. Since there is no human element on the spiritual plane, you can invite Jesus Christ into your childhood, into your prenatal life even, into your teens, young adult years, etc. I invite you, Jesus Christ, into my subconscious memory to heal whatever needs to be forgiven, released, redeemed. Cleanse me and free me from it now! Thereafter, whenever you think of the process that is taking place, just say, "Thank you, Jesus Christ. The forgiving love of Jesus Christ has now set me free from the unhappy experiences of the past or present or get specific, "That unhappy marriage, that health problem, financial loss, etc. Your prayers will probably then be answered in a rush of happy events!

### Chapter 5 : Giving: Tithes & Offerings | Overlake Christian Church

*"The family is the world's greatest welfare agency, and the most successful. What the federal government has done in welfare is small and trifling compared to what the families of America do daily, caring for their own, relieving family distresses, providing medical care and education for one another, and so on.*

Guest Tebandeke Daniel I thank you so much for this Sermon. Its really a good lesson because sometimes I fail to Tithe due to different situations. Sometimes I even forget but now because of this sermon I can trust God to me tithe faithfully. Reply June 22, 9: Keep up the good work. Reply July 2, Very wonderful teaching Sir. Keep up the Good work. Reply May 12, Evangelist Gideon Asiam Korsi I used your sermon on tithing today at church and it brought understanding and a great revival to the congregation. I and my congregation made a solemn vow not to depart from it. Thank you Yohan for your sermon. Reply April 17, 7: Reply March 22, I will definitely pay my tithe. I have been having doubts. Your sermon has helped me. I will be giving God what belongs to him. Reply March 7, 1: But one thing we Christians need to know is, that Christ Jesus paid everything on the cross for us to rest. He even made Himself poor at the cross so that through His poverty we might become rich. See, what the Lord Jesus says in Matthew 6: These Birds neither sow nor reap, but the heavenly father feeds them and now how much more under this New Covenant. Preachers have twisted the word of God to enrich themselves. I am not biased against tithing, I am biased against the way it is taught. Go to any modern church the tithe is presented before the Cross, as if the tithe pays for our salvation. That for me is the greatest falsehood God will judge us by. The biblical Jews tithed, first fruited, circumcised and it never got them saved, only the blood of Jesus. I cannot believe that believers who have a heavenly hope would place the tithe and law oriented offerings before the greatest gift God ever gave mankind, salvation through the sacrificial blood of his only begotten son, someone so precious to him that I and you may be saved, have life and have it more abundantly. You are twisting scriptures to support you warped view. Who told you Malachi 3 was addressing the New Testament church? We might as well take on the mandate of going to preach to Nineveh since that too is in the Bible. We can tithe out of freewill? Do you also encourage people to get circumcised out of freewill, offer burnt offerings out of freewill, observe the Sabbath out of freewill etc. That is exactly how we sound when we stealthily promote the law. If you are trying to prove that we can observe tithing out of freewill, the book of Malachi is not the place as this was clearly written to the Old Testament Jews. We have been encouraged to hold on tight to what we believe. I am a Tither, because I delight in obeying the word of God and I stand on Malachi simple commandment. Abraham did not ask me to pay tithes but God commanded me. If we are children of God, why do we find it difficult to obey His instructions. Signs of the end times. Reply January 8, 4: But ye said, Wherein shall we return? Those ordinances are in Numbers 18 which no one follows today; thus, everyone must be robbing God. However, now read Colossians 2: They never did belong to the Israelites.

### Chapter 6 : Sermon on Malachi | The importance of tithing

*Tithing is a basic principle of blessing that brings us into a place where we discover that it is impossible to outgive God. It is the only principle in God's Word where He challenges us to prove Him in this matter.*

This philosophy has seeped into what is taught about money, namely that we must tithe a certain amount or God will curse and punish us. The truth is, because of what Jesus did we are now under grace and no longer under the Law, and therefore no longer under the threat of punishment or condemnation. God wants us to give freely and from a grateful heart, not out of a sense of obligation. The concept of giving and tithing is not based on money itself, it is about trust. When we give, it is no longer just giving money—it is authenticating our trust in God. The Scriptures teach us to give generously, with a cheerful, joyful heart 2 Corinthians 9: We give because we want to, not out of necessity. It is of the mindset of giving, not paying. Another reason to give is because it is a way to express our thanks for what Jesus did for us by His grace. If love is not our motivation, whatever we give equals zero and amounts to nothing 1 Corinthians True giving, the way the Scriptures teach us, has nothing to do with our works and everything to do with the state of our hearts. Under the old covenant, the people would be cursed unless they did everything just right, remembered every detail, and did not leave out any steps in the process of following the letter of the Law. The idea of tithing, which is giving 10 percent back to the Lord, originated in the Old Testament when the people lived under the Law. We still tithe, even though we are under grace. Abram tithed by choice even before the Law established that it should be done Genesis He did this as a way of thanking God for delivering him from his enemies. It was done out of gratitude. In this way, Abram acknowledged that the king was not his supply source, God was. God declared this after Abram deliberately tithed, to publicly demonstrate his trust in Him. The idea that we will be punished if we do not tithe can be traced back to the book of Malachi—“failing to tithe and give offerings can be seen as robbing God Malachi 3: However, if we continue reading we will see that trusting God enough to give opens the storehouses of blessings from heaven. The Law does not justify. We are to live by faith in grace. By its nature, the Law is not of faith, but rather of works. The blessings come from Jesus, not from works. Even though there is no more punishment for not tithing, it is still in our best interest to do so. Giving is spiritual, not natural. The natural person is not attuned to things of the spirit 1 Corinthians 2: We can use the analogy of the parent raising the young child not able to think rationally at first. The Law was given so that we would have boundaries to keep us safe, until we automatically chose the things of the spirit. Now that Jesus lives in us and we are under grace, we no longer need the Law. God causes the increase in our lives so that we can have over and above what we need, in order to bless others 2 Corinthians 9: God loves when our hearts are so grateful and thankful that we purposely give 2 Corinthians 9: We should give according to what we are led to give, and what we have decided in our hearts and minds to give. We receive in the same proportion to what we choose to give Luke 6: Then when we give in the right spirit and with the right heart, God takes this several steps further. He abundantly increases our giving, and blesses us.

**Chapter 7 : Sermon on Principles of Giving (The Attitude, Motive and the Discipline of Giving)**

*The practice of tithing provides a regular reminder of your dependence on God. In good times, tithing helps you remember that God is the source of all blessings, and it allows you to demonstrate your gratitude for His care.*

But Nancy decided to begin giving to God from her little bit of grocery money and trust Him to provide. Shortly after, she got a job with a cookbook company. The company paid Nancy to go grocery shopping and prepare meals so they could take photographs for their cookbooks. When they were done taking pictures, Nancy could keep the food she had purchased and prepared. He told me the story of how children in his village were going blind because of a disease that could be prevented with medicine that only cost 50 cents. He began to pray and ask God to send a rich person to their village to help give the money for the medicine, but no one ever came. As he kept praying, the Lord told him he should give the money to buy the medicine. But he and his family prayed and decided that every month they would buy the medicine to help one child. And his family saw God meet all of their needs. What each of us needs to learn is how to become more generous with whatever God entrusts to us. He went to a conference where Dr. Bright it would be impossible for his family to give a million dollars. Within several years, they gave over a million dollars! John Bechtel, a missionary in Hong Kong, wanted to start a Christian camp to reach people for Christ. A bankrupt multimillion-dollar hotel and conference center became available for sale. He made an offer to purchase the property and then traveled around the world to raise the millions he would need. But no one was willing to help and he returned to Hong Kong discouraged. Since the camp first opened, over a million people have come and over , have accepted Christ. The pastor ultimately left his church so he could direct the camp ministry full-time. For the next 40 years, Ressa and Al sent money to the camp every month. The first year, only 19 children attended the camp, but now thousands come to the camp every year. While the camp director was on the the front lines, Ressa and Al helped man the supply line with their monthly gifts. In heaven, Ressa and Al will get to meet thousands of people they helped lead to Christ through their faithful and generous giving that helped start and sustain that camp for many years. After the seminar, one of the people came and told me how much the teaching helped everyone. He said during the 70 years communism was in their country, people were told the Communist government owned everything and the government would provide for everyone. He went on to say that communism fell, and people came from America and said that capitalism was the way to go--where people own everything and they have to provide for themselves. He then said, today I learned the best news of all. God is the owner of everything and He is our provider. He learned people must be faithful and generous with whatever God gives them. Nik, from Bulgaria, said he learned for the first time that everyone is to give to God from whatever they have. When he got home, a church group called him and asked if he knew any rich people who could give money to their church to buy firewood to keep their church building warm. But you need to learn to faithfully give from whatever God has given you! Then I came across 1 Corinthians Each Sunday, we discovered that in addition to our small income, there would be special financial blessings that happened nearly every week. Within a few days, she got a call from her pastor asking her to go on a church prayer retreat with all the expenses paid by the church. After she began tithing again, she was amazed at the unexpected provisions she received from the LORD. When winter hit and the snow started to accumulate, I realized I only had city shoes and no warm boots. One morning, I prayed and asked God to send me money so I could buy winter boots. When I checked my mail, I received 3 letters from friends but there was no money in the envelopes. I was a bit discouraged; but then my friend, Larry, came into the camp office carrying a pair of boots and he wondered if anyone needed some warm boots. I told him I did and when I tried them on, I felt like Cinderella because they were my exact size! After I was told my salary, I sat down and wrote up a budget. That same day, someone invited me to their house for dinner. It was a large home where 6 single Christian guys lived. After dinner, they invited me to move in with them. I was blown away. You, too, can learn to honor God and see Him provide. At first, he was scared to start doing this, but as time went on he discovered how faithful God could be in providing for his needs. Bob was learning to give to God first when he got paid, and he was experiencing God as his faithful provider. He told everyone that God even

knew his bus! One Sunday, Bob came to church with his check already written out. By giving this check today, I have no idea how my family is going to make it this week. I jokingly told Bob that this was truly a bona-fide answer-to-prayer financial miracle since no Christian school in the history of the world had ever sent any parents a refund check! But Amanda squeezed her fingers tightly around the quarter and would not let it go. Much to the embarrassment of her parents and the snickers of people around them, they finally had to carefully pry each of her fingers off the quarter before it finally clinked into the offering plate. Later that afternoon, Jean heard Amanda playing on the back yard swing. God, I want my quarter back! Do you sometimes have a hard time giving to God? My first thought was: How can I use this financial blessing to help someone at the ends of the earth? That night in my small-group meeting, I was talking with a young woman who was going on a mission trip to a small island in the Philippines. That sure sounded like the ends of the earth to me. So with Psalm A few weeks later, I got a letter from a young Filipino man telling me he received the money and that it met a great need in his life.

### Chapter 8 : Chapter Tithes and Offerings

*Tithing We hope our tithing resources help inform and encourage Christian believers about following biblical giving that is not bound by tithing, but is sacrificial and cheerful. Our desire is to break all from the bondage legalism and encourage everyone to embrace sacrificial giving led by the Spirit of God.*

Likewise, powerful spiritual tools and the "know how" to use them are needed to build a larger consciousness that makes us a welcoming space for our highest dreams and desires. Today, we continue the process of turning up the heat on our answer to the Divine Invitation, by giving you some spiritual tools that will help you build that welcoming consciousness. What are the tools for building this higher and bigger consciousness? Well, there are so many that I could be up here speaking about them all day, all night and into tomorrow. In fact, I could probably rival the longest sermon on record, which was delivered by a minister in West Richland, Washington, in Any idea how long it lasted? Want to take a guess? It lasted - are you ready for this?! A transformed life is the life in answer to the Divine Invitation. I also want to give you a little heads up here. These are all tools you have been exposed to before. You have heard about each and every one of them. You may even have practiced one or two or more now and again. The question of the day is, do you practice them on an ongoing, regular, consistent basis? Remember last week, when we talked about bridging between here and there and how along the way, because of our upper limits, the bridge can get shaky and we can even appear to fall off it?! Well, it is through the ongoing, regular, consistent application of these Sacred Seven spiritual tools that we can get across the bridge despite its rocky nature. Not because I am telling you to do that, but because they will get you where you want to go, and they will make the journey which is really all that counts - really! Through meditation, we gain not only mental discipline, but clarity, peace and a deep sense of connection with God, and it is because of this clarity, peace and a deep sense of connection with God that we can keep putting one foot in front of the other to cross the bridge when it starts to rock! You will be radiant with life. You will rest in the Tao. There was a study that appeared in an online edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science some time ago in which researchers compared the brain activity of eight long-time Buddhist monks and 10 healthy students. The average age of the monks was 49, and each had undergone mental training in meditation for 10, to 50, hours over the course of 15 to 40 years. They had no prior experience in meditation and received one week of meditative training before the start of the study. Both groups were asked to practice compassionate meditation, which does not require concentration on specific things. Instead, the participants were instructed to generate a feeling of love and compassion without drawing attention to a particular object. Researchers measured brain activity before, during and after meditation using electroencephalograms. They found striking differences between the two groups in a type of brain activity called "gamma wave activity," which is involved in mental processes including attention, working memory, learning and conscious perception. The Buddhist monks had a higher level of this sort of gamma wave activity before they began meditation, and this difference increased dramatically during meditation. In fact, researchers say the extremely high levels of gamma wave activity were the highest ever reported. The monks also had more activity in areas associated with positive emotions, such as happiness. Researchers say the fact that the monks had higher levels of this type of brain activity before meditation began suggests that long-term practice of Buddhist or other forms of meditation may alter the brain. Although age differences may also account for some of the differences found by this study, researchers say that the hours of meditation practice, rather than age, significantly predicted gamma wave activity. When we live in harmony with that vision, our lives are enriched. So spend time in the meditative silence and get one! We do our prayer work after we do our visioning. This type of prayer is not beseeching, not pleading, not bargaining with God, but rather accepting that our good is already here and aligning with it. That is what they are here for. That is what they do. Having your own Prayer Chaplain is an amazing gift you could give yourself! Right now, we have one Prayer Chaplain, but by the first of next month we will have two. Maxine has been our Prayer Chaplain for some time now, and Jarrett will be our newest Prayer Chaplain. All it takes on your part, is to give us your phone number, and we will hook you up with a Prayer Chaplain. Do we know that they are quick

and effective ways to refocus the mind to bring it into immediate alignment with our Spiritual Truth as well as with our highest dreams and goals? Do we have in our mental toolbox a variety of affirmations that automatically pop into our minds the instant -- before we consciously think to have them pop into our minds --the instant we get scared? The instant we get discouraged? The instant we ask a low caliber question? What is a low caliber question, you might ask? Stay tuned next week and you will find out all about that! Physiologically, we literally groove our brains with the patterns of our thoughts. We lay down tracks or ruts in them that get deeper and deeper every time we think the same thought. So, moving out of old ways of thinking and into new ones may take a bit of doing. We have also spent time this month talking about this practice, but the question of this morning is - who actually does this? Who actually spends time daily, if only for a few minutes, seeing, feeling and experiencing themselves answering their Divine Invitation? If not, do it. Remember, I am not saying do these things because your minister said so. We have two more tools to briefly look at and they both align us with a powerful, powerful Divine Quality, but that we often think we do for someone else - not true. We do them for ourselves and others are blessed in the process. Remember a line from our definition of success last week: You are richly and profoundly blessed by blessing the world with all you have to offer. These last two tools of our Sacred Seven do just that. Who can tell me? Yes, it is a Sanskrit word meaning Sacred Service. Through Seva or Sacred Service, we reenact the powerful quality of God within ourselves called Generosity. But the man who in service loses his own life in this larger life has his own life increased and enriched a thousand or a millionfold, and every joy, every happiness, everything of value coming to each member of this greater whole comes as such to him, for he has a part in the life of each and all. Are you still with me? Good stuff so far?? Ready for the final of our Sacred Seven? This final tool also aligns us with the powerful, powerful Divine quality of loving Givingness or Generosity that we really do for ourselves, although we often think we do it for others. In my one minute to talk about this, I want to share a real life example from a tither. So what is wrong? I had completely forgotten about those sales. The perfect amount for what I needed plus my new tithe! God is Good all the time! Yes, my friends, God is good all the time. You really can take that to the bank and you can also take to the bank these Sacred Seven spiritual tools to support you in bridging between your blueprint and building the life that is in answer to the Divine Invitation:

### Chapter 9 : Tithing, Tithe, Giving, Christian Stewardship Bible Sermons Outlines

*Editors' note: This is a two-part TGC Asks series weighing the question, "Are Christians today required to tithe?" The Bible Commands Christians to Tithe (William Barclay) Many think believers in Christ should tithe (defined as giving 10 percent of one's income), and many use the language of "tithes and offerings" in worship services.*