

If you are unsure what to give, don't. Seek God and pray. Wait on Him until you come to a place of peace and faith about what to give, and give joyfully as God leads you by His Spirit.

As you give in faith to God what will happen? *Lk 6:38* _____

Motivation for Giving

Giving to God is God's appointed way of involving us in a very practical way with the extension of His Kingdom on earth. In *Lev 27:30* it says that the tithe "is the LORD'S" (Jehovah's). What else does it say about the tithe in this verse? _____

What does this mean? _____

Where do our riches and provision come from? *1Chr 29:12* _____

So when we give to God what are we giving? *1Chr 29:14,16* _____

If God has given to us all that we have, is it right for us to return to Him a portion for the extension of His Kingdom on earth? _____

Why does the Lord command us to bring all the tithes into the storehouse? *Mal 3:10* _____

What will God do for us as we give to Him? *Mal 3:11* _____

In the early church, how did they care for the believers who were lacking in the basic necessities? *Ac 2:44,45* _____

How are the ministers of the Word to be supported? *1Cor 9:9,14; 1Tim 5:17* _____

How are those who are taught God's Word to respond? *Gal 6:6* _____

The Blessings of Giving

What is God's promise to those who honour the LORD with their substance and firstfruits? *Pro 3:9,10* _____

No 09

CHRISTIAN LIFE AND WITNESS COURSE

Study Nine: Honouring God with Our Wealth

In this study of God's Word, we are considering what the Bible teaches, about our responsibility in giving faithfully and systematically, to support the work of the Lord.

The Origin of the Tithe System

The first person we read about in the Bible to give tithes is Abraham, *Gen 14:13-24*. Why did Abraham give tithes of all the spoils, *v20, Heb 7:4*, to Melchizedek, King of Salem, priest of the Most High God? *Gen 14:18-20* _____

Who do you think Melchizedek was? *Heb 7:1-3* _____

So, who was Abraham tithing to? _____

Many years later Abraham's grandson followed his example. Jacob had a dream/revelation of the LORD (Jehovah), *Gen 28:11-15*, who reconfirmed the Abrahamic covenant with him. As a result what did Jacob promise to give back to the LORD of all He gave to him? *Gen 28:22* _____

Definition of the Tithe

The word "tithe" means one tenth, or 10%, of what the people received in earnings and it was "holy to the LORD", *Lev 27:32,30*. This means that it was reserved, set apart, sanctified to God's use.

The Tithe and the Law

The tithe was established in Abraham's time, about 400 years before Moses and the giving of the law on Mt Sinai. When the LORD gave the law to Israel through Moses, specific details were given about tithing. In *Lev 27:30,32*, what was to be tithed? _____

In *Lev 27:30*, to whom does the tithe belong? _____

Tithing is also mentioned in *Num 18:25-28*. To whom are the tithes to be given? *Num 18:26* _____

Actually, one family of the tribe of Levi were set apart to be priests. This was the family of Aaron, *Lev 18:20*. They were responsible to offer up the sacrifices, while the Levites looked after the service of the Tabernacle, *Lev 18:21*. [For greater detail on tithing refer to No 17, Christian Life Bible Course]

How seriously did God take the issue of tithing in the Old Testament? *Mal 3:8* _____

What was the result of disobeying God on the issue of tithing? *Mal 3:9* _____

What did God promise to those who tithed faithfully? *Mal 3:10,11,12* _____

Why were the tithes to be given to the Levites, the tribe of Levi? *Num 18:20-28* _____

Tithe and the New Testament

Jesus made one statement about tithing in the New Testament, *Mat 23:23; Lk 11:42*. The Pharisees overemphasised tithing in mint, anise and cummin but what were the more important matters that they had neglected? *Mat 23:23* _____

When Jesus said, "These you ought to have done," *v23*, what was He referring to? _____

When He said, "And not left the other undone," what was He referring to? *v23* _____

Apart from these words of Jesus, there is no other teaching in the New Testament about the "tithe"

The Command to Give

Although there is no direct command in the New Testament to tithe, what is the command of the Lord Jesus Christ? *Lk 6:38* _____

In this passage from *Lk 6:27-38*, Jesus is speaking about giving. What is Jesus saying to give in : *v27*? _____

v28? _____

v36? _____

What did Paul instruct the Corinthian believers to do? *1Cor 16:2* _____

The Spirit of Giving

To know our responsibility to give towards God's work is one thing, but to do it with a right spirit is another! The Lord requires us to give with a pure spirit out of a heart of devotion, not duty; with pleasure, not because of pressure. What was the motive of giving in God's heart when He sent His Son to be our Saviour? *Jn 3:16* _____

Does God assess our giving by the amount we give? *Lk 21:1-4* _____

When we give, who are we giving to? *Lk 21:1,2* _____

How does God assess our giving? *Lk 21:1-4* _____

Are poverty and trials an excuse for not being generous in giving to the needs of others? *2Cor 8:1-3* _____

What is to be our first act of giving? *2Cor 8:5* _____

As we abound in faith, speech and knowledge of God, with diligence and love, what other grace is Paul encouraging us to abound in also? *2Cor 8:7* _____

If we sow sparingly, how will we also reap? *2Cor 9:6* _____

If we sow bountifully, how will we reap? *2Cor 9:6* _____

What is to be our guide in giving? *2Cor 9:7a* _____

What 2 things are we to avoid in giving? *2Cor 9:7* _____

What kind of a giver pleases God? *2Cor 9:7* _____

Will we get blessed if we give grudgingly? *2Cor 9:7* _____

Will we be blessed if we give because someone is forcing us against our will? *2Cor 9:7* _____