

TITHEING.

What does God's Word say on this subject

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God loveth a cheerful giver.....this I say, He which soweth sparingly, shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. Corinthians 9v7.

Lay not up for yourselves treasure upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasure in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matthew 6 v 19-21.

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, 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. Luke 6 v 38.

What is Tithing ??

Tithing, is giving share of one's money, time and talents to The Lord, for the furtherance of ***His*** work here on earth, let it be through The Church, to a Missionary, or some other Christian Ministry.

What does The Bible say on this subject?

Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come. 1 Corinthians 16 v 2.

Thou shalt remember The Lord thy God, for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which he swore unto thy Fathers, as it is to this day. Deuteronomy 8 v18.

Blessed is the man that feareth The Lord, that delighteth greatly in His Commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever. Psalm 112: 1-3.

Are you giving to God all that you should ??

The Bible says in Malachi 3: 8-11. Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me, (says The Lord.) But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye ALL the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, said 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. 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.

Thus speaketh The Lord of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the Lord's House should be built. Then came the word of the Lord by Haggai the prophet, saying, Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie in waste? Now therefore, thus saith The Lord of hosts, consider your ways. Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages, earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. Haggai. 1 v 2-6.

*Thus saith The Lord of hosts, consider your ways.
Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home,
I did blow upon it. WHY? Saith The Lord of hosts. Because of mine
house that is in waste, and yet ye run every man unto his own
house. Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is
stayed from her fruit. And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the
mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and
upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon **cattle**,
and upon all the labour of the hands. Haggai 1 v 7-12.*

These Scriptures are some strong words from *The Lord*, regarding 'Titheing.' We are warned to '*consider our ways*' and pay attention to '*our giving to Him.*'

Generally speaking Tithes and Offerings are given to the Church, Fellowship or Ministry where you receive your Spiritual nourishment of good sound Biblical preaching and teaching of the *Gospel of Jesus Christ*. In turn *they* should be giving *share* of their total income to the support of needy Families, Missionaries or others involved in Christian Work.

There may be occasions when someone you know is in great need, and you may decide to give your titheing money to that person or Family. It is my personal opinion that this is just every bit as pleasing to God. Whatever way you decide, there is absolutely no doubt that in giving faithfully and generously to God you will be blessed over and over again. However, *if God is neglected*, then that blessing is forfeited, and even though you may be unaware of it, you are living under a curse.

*Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me, (says The Lord.)
But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.
Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed Me, even this whole
nation. Malachi 3 v 9.*

The choice of living under God's blessing or curse is yours. God is not so much concerned with the amount you give, but whether your giving is sincere and genuinely *consistent with your income*. Most Christians believe that, *one tenth of your total income* should be the *minimum* given *willingly* to The Lord.

*Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay
by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there
be no gatherings when I come. 1 Corinthians 16 v 2.*

From the young person who has pocket money, to the Pensioner on Income Support, *no one* is exempt. Everyone has a duty to 'Give to God' – just as God gives and has given to us.

The Bible speaks of *Tithes & Offerings*. It is our duty to give God our *Tithe*, but our *Offerings* are separate. If, for example there is a special collection, let it be for Missions, or some other Christian work or Outreach, we should give what *Offerings* we can, but this amount should *not* be deducted from *our weekly Titheing money*.

Giving in itself, will never get you into Heaven. It is *only* Faith and Trust in The Lord Jesus Christ and His Salvation that ensures eternal life with Him in Heaven. Many believe if they give generously to God, that, somehow He will look favourably upon them and give them a place in Heaven without Salvation or personal commitment to HIM, but, it doesn't work that way !!

The Bible, gives us the the key to God's Blessing:-

*Seek ye **FIRST** the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added on to you. Matthew 6 v33.*

*Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.
John 3 v 3.*

God gave His only begotten Son Jesus, to die on Calvary's cross for our Salvation. So needless to say it is HIS greatest desire that we might be *saved*, that He in turn might bless us, not just for our personal gain, but that we *might excel* in the giving to Him of our time, our money, and our talents for the furtherance of The Gospel and the extension of His Kingdom.

Give, give, give and give again to God, the more you give the more you will be rewarded. Think of the harvest fields in autumn, the farmer cannot expect to reap an abundance of crops, if he has sown just a few seeds. The exact same principle applies in giving to God. However, you must *not* give with the motive of getting back. God looks on the heart – He also knows your thinking – so don't disappoint Him by giving 'in order to get reward.' Oh, how well it would be for us *if* only we could grasp the principle of *Titheing and giving sacrificially to God, as He has given sacrificially to us.* In the writer's opinion, there are three great Christian duties:

GIVING - PRAYER - FASTING

IF we first of all *gave* our lives over completely to The Lord by Salvation.
IF we *gave* of our time - at least 2 - 3 hours a day to Prayer and Bible Study.
IF we *gave* at least a tenth of our Income. IF we *gave* our extra Offering.
IF we *gave* a specific time each week for Fasting, *as led by God's wisdom of course*, then, there is absolutely no doubt about it, *God* would move in our lives in a very special way.

Right now, you may be thinking, - that all sounds fine in theory, and I would love to give God of my time and talents *but* my life is in such a mess, I am so busy and my finances are all tied up. When I keep the house and pay the bills, I have nothing left - maybe if I could get myself sorted out I would consider these matters.

Unfortunately this is the devil's trick of negative thinking. Millions of people, through lack of faith, are robbing God of Tithes and Offerings, simply because they do not put God - *first*. The secret is, *make time* for God, put Him first and He will help you sort the rest.

Again, the same applies to Salvation, so, so many people are forfeiting their Salvation, simply because they believe they must 'first' get their lives sorted out before they can come to God. **This is nonsense - a lie of the devil.**

Jesus says, Behold now is the accepted time, behold now, is the day of salvation. 2 Corinthians 6 v 2.

Come to The Lord Jesus Christ just as you are, repent of your sins and accept His free offer of Salvation. Then just simply 'Trust Him' with all your problems, including your finances.

This is the secret - seek God first, give to God first.

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added on to you. Matthew 6 v 33.

No matter how difficult your circumstances, ***always put God first,*** This may sound ridiculous. However, if you put it into practice, you will discover, as you honour God, He will honour you. You will be amazed just how He will work on your behalf to help you be debt free and to stay that way.

It is not God's will that His people should be in debt. He desires that they should live in 'His freedom,' having houses, cars etc. paid in full, with enough left to give to every good work. However, God is merciful and even though you may have debts, He will help you get them sorted if you honour Him and look to Him to meet your needs.

Owe no man anything, but to love one another...Romans 13 v8.

God knows your need and has made full provision for it. ***IF you commit your life to Him and trust Him*** - He will help you sort out *every difficulty.* Give to Him his share *first* and He will give back to you, sufficient to meet *all* your needs.

My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philippians 4 v 19.

But, you may say, I am struggling with my circumstances, will God *really* help me? Turn in your Bible to 1 Kings 17 v 1-16 and read the story of Elijah, - how The Lord provided for him during the drought in Israel!

This story is just one of *the many* which proves how God provides for his people. He is still the same God *today.*

God's provision comes when you 'walk in obedience' and complete dependence on HIM. Sometimes He may lead you through very difficult circumstances before a breakthrough. This is to test whether your faith is 'truly' in Him. So keep on praying and keep on trusting. He will not let you down !!

The just shall live by Faith. Romans 1 v 17.

How much should I tithe ??

In order to calculate how much your tithe should be, work out one tenth of your *gross income*, or very simply, *for every £10 - you should give £1 willingly to God*. It's really not much to ask if you think of it realistically. So many people think nothing of paying out £20 or £30 per week on cigarettes, magazines, confectionery, newspapers etc., yet when it comes to giving to God - how tight-fisted they become - cannot afford it, is the cry, or, sorry we have no change. No change!! Image offering God your small change !!

He which soweth sparingly shall also reap sparingly; he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 2 Corinthians 9 v 6.

When you get your wages, does the taxman ask how much you can afford to give? No, of course he doesn't. He *takes* his percentage from your gross wages. You have no choice in the matter, you just have to put up with it. Furthermore, he never gives you interest on what you pay.

**God's work - done God's way - will always have God's supply.
God is no man's debtor.**

At some time or other, all of us will have heard the remark, 'The Church is always begging for money.' The truth is, if everyone gave to God as they should, there would be no lack. Hence there would be no need for begging, fund-raising or any such thing.

God's work can only be blessed and be a blessing when the money for it, comes wholeheartedly from a people who have a genuine desire to see God's Name glorified and His Kingdom extended. Such people will give sacrificially. They will have no ulterior motive such as - To be seen by others, or to receive a reward. eg. Having their name published in Reports, Magazines or Newspapers etc.

It is a sad fact that many Churches *have to* publish names in their Reports, otherwise the giving would drop dramatically.

You will never be blessed, if you only give to impress.

When thou doest alms, (that is, give money) let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: that thine alms may be in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret, himself shall reward thee openly. Matthew 6. v 3-4.

***The Psalmist David said:- Psalm 37:25.
I have been young and now I am old, yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.***

Trying to finance God's Work with money raised from *a worldly source* or a *worldly activity* will *never* see God's hand of blessing, nor will The Holy Spirit move in conviction of sinners, in a place which has been built with tainted money collected from pubs, clubs, raffles, concerts, dances etc. or in this present time – *the lottery*. Shame on any people in charge of Church affairs who will turn to 'the lottery' for funds.

The Bible says, But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, HOW turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Galatians 4 v 9.

Too often, having received money from worldly sources, Churches or Ministries can find themselves in that vulnerable position of obligation to the source of the income. This can lead to all sorts of problems, which are best avoided.

God, gave His best for us. He gave His Only Begotten Son **Jesus**, to die upon that cruel cross of Calvary, that through His precious shed Blood, His Death and Resurrection, we might *be saved* and have the very best reward possible, that is, Everlasting Life in Heaven with Him for all who repent of sin and trust Him as their Saviour. It is only what is done *for The Lord* in this world that counts for eternity.

What a fate to have everything this world can offer, then suddenly death comes and you have to meet a Holy God. *What a fate* to stand before Him *unsaved* with your hands empty having done *nothing for Him* here on earth. That is a decision *you* have to make. When *you* stand before The Lord will He say,

*'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.....
....enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.'* Matthew 25 v 21.

or

will He say, 'I never knew you, depart from me, ye that work iniquity.' Matthew 7 v 23. **Think about that !!**

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Matthew 16 v 26.

EVERY one of us shall give an account of himself (or herself) to God. Romans 14 v 12.

Today, may all of us '*consider our ways*' and give our hearts and our lives *wholeheartedly* to The Saviour who loves us and gave Himself for us. May this be the day we will decide to: put the Lord first in our lives, first in our giving, first in everything.. Living a true Christian life may not always be easy but it is the only way to know real peace. The peace of God which passes all understanding. He will help you and see you through every difficulty *if you walk in His ways and completely trust in Him.*

Trust in The Lord with all thine heart, and lean not on thine own understanding. In ALL thy ways acknowledge HIM and HE shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3 v 5.

I beseech you therefore, brethern, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. Romans 12 v 1-2.

Matthew 25. 31-46.

When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall he sit upon the throne of His glory. And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Then shall the righteous answer Him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethern, ye have done it unto me.

Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

Then shall they also answer Him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall He answer them saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

IF, after reading this booklet, you are *genuinely convicted* of your sins - if it is your sincere desire to *repent of those sins* and give your life over completely to the One and Only true Saviour, The Lord Jesus Christ, then simply come to Him now and Pray. The following prayer is for your guidance.

Dear Lord Jesus, I come humbly and sincerely before your throne of grace this day. I am so convicted of all my sins. I genuinely feel ashamed. I have not given to you as I ought, either of my life, of my time nor of my money. Right now I say, Sorry, Lord Jesus, will you please forgive me and help me to do what is right in your sight from this day forward?

I acknowledge I am a miserable sinner in need of your great Salvation. I earnestly *repent* of all my sins and turn away from them. I ask you to please forgive me. You shed your own precious blood, died and rose again that I might be saved, so from this moment I trust You as my Lord and Saviour. Will you please help me to walk in newness of life, obeying your Word and your Commandments? I truly want to be a new creation in you, not only giving of myself, but also of my time, my money and my talents. Thank you Lord Jesus for saving me. Amen.

If you have sincerely prayed this Prayer and accepted Jesus into your heart, then - you must confess it. Don't be ashamed to tell others.

If thou shalt confess with thy mouth The Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. Romans. 10 v 9

Your next step is to get A Bible. The Authorised Version is best. Read it every day. Just as your body needs food. - So your soul needs spiritual food - which is - The Word of God.

***It will be a lamp unto your feet, and a light unto your path.
Psalm 119 v 105.***

Get involved in a good Bible-believing Church or fellowship. If we can be of any help to you, please do not hesitate to get in touch.