

# Handling Finances: Tithing

Session 6

Let's Pray

Lord, money is something most of us have concerns about. Help us to use the scriptures from this lesson to begin to recognize that money is a tool not a master.

As we go through these scriptures choose one that really “speaks” to you and write it on a slip paper.

At the end of this session you can put this “scripture slip” in your wallet or purse and use it to help you remember what this “step” is in learning to walk with Christ.

Deuteronomy 10:14

The Bible clearly states that everything belongs to God, its creator.

Psalm 24:1-2

He who laid the foundation owns it all.

## Matthew 17:27

To avoid causing problems with the issue of taxes, Jesus sent Peter to get a coin for the taxes imposed by the laws of man. How ironic that Jesus had Peter get the coin by catching a fish (made by God) and taking from its mouth a coin (made by man).

Acts 8:20

This points out how useless man's riches are when compared with the riches of God and God's gifts to man.

## 1 Corinthians 10:24

This verse tells us clearly that we are to put the needs of others before our own.

## 2 Corinthians 8:9; 9:6-8

Verse 9 reminds us that Jesus had it all. He was in heaven with God and the riches and glory of heaven. He gave all that up to come to earth, grow up in the house of a carpenter, learn a trade as an apprentice to Joseph, travel around teaching about God, and having no earthly place to call home.

Verses 6-8 explain that we are to give cheerfully, that this is our way of “planting” a generous crop and that God will reward us with everything we need and enough extra to share with others.

Hebrews 4:16; 13:5

Verse 16 tells us to come boldly (but still with reverence) to the very throne of God. Unlike kings of old God will not have us killed for this boldness, but will hear our petition.

Verse 5 reminds us not to love money or pursue it to satisfy our “wants”.

We have looked from the beginning to the end at verses that tell us clearly who owns everything and the need to treat earthly wealth as an opportunity to serve God.

Now we will turn our attention to God's instructions for managing our earthly possessions.

## Genesis 28: 22

God eventually used Jacob to be the founding father of the nation of Israel but even as a young man Jacob decided to dedicate a tenth (a tithe) of his possessions.

Leviticus 27:30

We are instructed here to set aside one tenth of everything to God for His use.

## Deuteronomy 14:22-23

Again we are instructed to set aside a tenth of our gain for God's use. In Old Testament times a whole section of the Israelites were set apart as priests and temple workers. They were in full-time service to God and His house of worship. They did not own land, or raise crops and livestock so much of the crop and livestock tithe brought in by the people was used to feed these priests.

## Nehemiah 13:12

Because of their lack of obedience to God, the entire Israelite nation had been taken into captivity for a number of years. They have now been allowed to return from captivity to re-occupy Israel and rebuild their nation. In this verse they are shown to be returning to their habit of dedicating their tithes to God.

## Malachi 3:7-12

Here God accuses the entire nation of Israel of disobedience and sin including the sin of robbing God by withholding their tithes. God instructs them to stop robbing Him and then promises them that their obedience to bringing in the tithes will result in blessings so great that the people will run out of room for storing these blessings. WOW!

## 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Cautions us to be careful not to place too great a value on money. We are to use money to do good deeds and remember that our money doesn't store up treasures in heaven but our good deeds do.

**These two verses, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament summarize this lesson.**

**I Chronicles 16:29 and Luke 6:38.**

**Chronicles and Luke both tell us to give.**

**One thing we have to know and believe is that God expects us to bring our tithes and offerings to Him.**

There is a difference in tithes and offerings.

A tithe is, by definition, one-tenth. Offerings are what you give above and beyond the tenth.

Giving reminds us of who owns what.

Giving is an act of praise and worship.

Giving is part of our spiritual warfare against Satan.

## Five myths of tithing: (Paul Robertson, Pastor)

1. Tithing is an option
2. I cannot afford to tithe
3. The church has plenty of money
4. I can give my tithes any where I choose
5. I should not EXPECT a reward when I tithe.

## The truths:

1. Tithing is commanded
2. You really can't afford not to tithe
3. There is never enough money to reach everyone for Christ
4. Your tithes go to your local church; you can make offerings elsewhere if you are directed by God to do so
5. Expect God to honor His promises but remember it is not a bargain with God

A further word on affording to tithe. If you think that there is absolutely no way you can afford to tithe, think again. Even if you are in the “red” each month be careful not to sell God short. Take the matter of your finances to God. Make the changes in your spending habits that you need to make but, above all, trust God. If you give God control of your money, put your tithe in your local church, and truly trust God to honor His promise to bless you beyond measure HE WILL! It may not be instamatic but it WILL happen. Remember God CANNOT LIE.

You cannot allow yourself to be enslaved to money and the things it can buy. Evaluate what you have and see if YOU own IT or if IT owns YOU. Everything belongs to God anyway. We are STEWARDS not OWNERS.

If you are married then you and your spouse MUST agree on tithing. You must not tithe just because you expect to get something from God and it seems like a good trade. You tithe because God says to and you count on his promise to take care of you if you obey Him.

*We surrender control of our money and other worldly possessions because we trust God.*

**WE SURRENDER TO GOD OUT OF OUR VICTORY**  
**–NOT OUR DEFEAT!!!!**

Everything that we have examined in this session is summarized in the assurance that follows.

Assurance 6:

***I WILL BRING IN MY TITHES AND  
TRUST GOD!***

This concludes session 6

Let's pray.

Money is hard to control, Lord. Help us to learn to give money and our other resources to You and to place them under Your control. Help us to realize that You are a better manager than we are.