

GROWING THROUGH GIVING

“Just as you excel in everything else ... in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness ... see that you also excel in the grace of giving.”
--2 Corinthians 8:7

KEY BIBLE WORDS (NUMBER OF REFERENCES IN THE BIBLE)

272 Believe 371 Pray 714 Love 2,162 Give

WHY GOD WANTS ME TO GIVE

7 Benefits To My Life

1. GIVING MAKES ME MORE GODLY.

*“God so loved the world that **He gave** his only Son ...”* --John 3:16

2. GIVING DRAWS ME CLOSER TO GOD.

“Where your treasure is, there your heart is also.” --Matthew 6:21

3. GIVING IS THE ANTIDOTE TO MATERIALISM.

*“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to **be generous and willing to share.** In this way they may take hold of the life that is truly Life!”*

--1 Timothy 6:17-19

John Wesley: *“Gain all you can. Save all you can. Give all you can.”*

4. GIVING STRENGTHENS MY FAITH.

*“**Trust in the Lord** with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Honor the Lord **by giving him the first part of your income,** and he will fill your barns to overflowing.”* Proverbs 3:5,9

“Give and it will be given to you ... For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.” Luke 6:38

5. GIVING IS AN INVESTMENT ETERNITY.

“... Give happily to those in need, and always be ready to share whatever God has given you. By doing this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in heaven - it is the only safe investment for eternity.” 1 Timothy 6:18-19

6. GIVING BLESSES ME IN RETURN.

“A generous man himself will be blessed.” Proverbs 22:9

*“A **generous man will prosper**, he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.”
--Proverbs 11:25*

“Good will come to him who is generous ...” Psalms 112:5

7. **GIVING BRINGS ME JOY.**

(Jesus) *“There is more happiness in giving than in receiving.” Acts 20:35*

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT TITHING

WHAT IS TITHING?

“Tithe” means “a tenth part”.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A “TITHE” AND AN “OFFERING”?

- A “tithe” is giving 10% of my income.
- An “offering” is anything I give in addition to my tithe.

I. WHY SHOULD I TITHE? 8 REASONS FROM GOD'S WORD.

1. **Because God commands it.**

“A tenth of all you produce is the Lord’s, and it is holy.” -- Leviticus 27:30

2. **Because Jesus commends it.**

“Yes, you should tithe, and you shouldn’t leave the more important things undone either.” -- Matthew 23:23

3. **Tithing demonstrates that God has first place in my life.**

*“The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first in your life.”
--Deuteronomy 14:23*

4. **Tithing reminds me that all I have was given to me by God!**

“Always remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you the ability to produce wealth.” -- Deuteronomy 8:18

5. **Tithing expresses my gratitude.**

“How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me?” -- Psalms 116:12

“Each of you should bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.” -- Deuteronomy 16:17

6. **God says that refusing to tithe is robbery.**

*“God says ‘Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me!’ But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ God says ‘In tithes and offerings ... Bring your **whole** tithe to My house.’” -- Malachi 3:8-10*

7. **Tithing gives God a chance to prove He is faithful and wants to bless you!**

*“Bring your whole tithe to My storehouse. **Test me in this**” says the Lord,” and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out **so much blessing** that you won't have room enough for it! I will prevent pests from devouring your crops and the vines in your fields will be protected from plagues.”*
--Malachi 3:10

8. Tithing shows that I love Christ.

(Jesus) *“If you really love me, do what I command.”* -- John 14:15

“... I want you to be leaders also in the spirit of cheerful giving ... This is one way to prove that your love is real, that it goes beyond mere words.”
--2 Corinthians 8:7b-8

II. HOW SHOULD I TITHE?

WHAT SHOULD I TITHE?

The first part of what I earn, not the leftovers.

*“Honor the Lord by giving him the **first part** of all your income.”* --Proverbs 3:9-10

WHEN SHOULD I TITHE? On the first day.

“On the first day of every week, set aside some of what you have earned and give it as an offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn.”
--I Corinthians 16.2

GIVING WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDES

□ GIVE WILLINGLY.

“For if the willingness is there, your gift is acceptable according to what you have, not according to what you don't have.” --2 Corinthians 9:12

*“Each one should give **what he has decided in his heart to give**, not reluctantly or under pressure...”* --2 Corinthians 9:7a

□ GIVE CHEERFULLY.

“...for God loves a cheerful giver!” -- 2 Corinthians 9:7b

□ GIVE GENEROUSLY.

*“They gave as much as they were able, and even **beyond their ability**. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service...”*
--2 Corinthians 8:3-4

□ GIVE EXPECTANTLY.

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and whoever sows generously will reap generously.” -- 2 Corinthians 9:6

THE KEY TO GIVING

“... THEY FIRST GAVE THEMSELVES TO THE LORD...”

--2 Corinthians 8:5

A COMMITMENT PRAYER

“Father, I know you love me and want what's best for me. I recognize that all I have, or will ever have, comes from you. I am more interested in pleasing you than in having more possessions. I want you to have first place in my life and I am willing to begin tithing as you have commanded. Out of gratitude for all you've done for me, and in expectation that you will continue to provide for me, I commit myself to returning at least the first 10% of all I earn back to you. I want to begin investing for eternity. Help me to remain faithful to this commitment. In Jesus' name, Amen.”