

Tithing and Giving

Kelly McDonald, Jr.

Tithing and Giving

Kelly McDonald, Jr.

This booklet is a shorter version of the full-length book “Opening the Windows of Heaven: A Guide to Tithing and Giving”. The book is available on **www.hungryheartsministry.com**. Go to the “Buy Books” page.

In this full length book, you will learn more about the importance of tithing and giving in your life. You will learn how to handle the blessing of God and how to grow wealth. You will find out how God wants to turn you from being a mess into being a success!

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	5
What is Tithing?	7
How Do We Tithe Today?	10
The First Tithe.....	12
The Second Tithe	14
The Third Tithe	17
Offerings.....	19
Principles of Tithing and Giving.....	22
Conclusion.....	25
Sample Chart on How to Tithe.....	26

Published by Hungry Hearts Ministries
PO Box 10334 Jackson TN 38308
hungryheartsmi@aol.com

No part of this work may be reproduced or republished without express written consent of Hungry Hearts Ministries. It may be freely shared electronically in its original form without editing. Copyright 2017. All rights reserved.

1st Ed- July 2014; 2nd Ed Oct 2017; Special thanks to Freda Sims for proofreading this book. All Bible references come from the Kingdom Life Version. King James Version is sometimes used, but noted when it is used. Both versions are Public Domain.

Introduction

People around the world go to work every week. In fact, your weekly cycle is the same whether you live in a rural town or a large city. You wake up and arrange your life so you can work.

When we go to work, we receive money as compensation for our labor. The money is a representation of how we spent our time and strength. We then use this money as a way to purchase things that we consider to be important. Nearly everything in life requires money.

When you want food, it requires money. When you need gasoline for your vehicle, we need money. To pay for your utilities, such as water and electricity, it requires money. Other obligations such as loans and mortgages also require money.

The motivation for all humans is the same: to earn enough money to pay for necessities and even luxuries if we can afford them. Necessities include food, clothing, rent payment/mortgage, utilities, and so forth. Items of luxury would include, but not be limited to, a smartphone, computer, or television. Whatever we buy with money, we now have a physical item that represents our time and strength.

Whatever you spend money on has some degree of value to you. Necessities have greater degrees of value because we need them to sustain life. Luxury items are not necessary, but the fact that we are willing to spend money on these items means that they have value to us.

Our Savior and King, Jesus Christ, taught lessons on money. One of them is found in Matthew 6:21, which reads, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Money is one of our treasures in life. When we spend money on something, then we are revealing what is in our heart. We are revealing what we think is important to us.

In this booklet, you will learn the Biblical way to handle money. You will learn a way of giving that represents the Kingdom of God and honors our Savior.

Chapter 1

What is Tithing?

One of the oldest practices of giving in history is expressed by the words “tithe” or “tithing”. Tithing is when you give one-tenth of your earned money to another entity. The practice is ancient and is found in cultures all around the world. As the Encyclopedia Britannica 11th edition states, “the custom was almost universal in antiquity.” (article: Tithes) Archeological research has found that people in the Middle East, Greece, Rome, and even China, tithed to a government or religious group.

In ancient times, people would give a tenth of what they earned to the government in the form of a tax. Sometimes they gave a tithe to a house of worship to honor a specific god or goddess. When a nation won a major war, sometimes they would dedicate one-tenth of their spoils to a god or goddess that they believed helped them win the battle.

The concept of a tithe is simple. Each human has ten fingers. Giving a tithe is simply giving what one of your ten fingers has produced. To relate that in modern terms, it would be like giving one dollar out of every ten dollars you earn.

Tithing is actually mentioned in the Bible. Let’s take a look at two examples:

Genesis 18:18-20

18 Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High. 19 He blessed him, and said, “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth. 20 Blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” Abram gave him a tenth of all.

If you read the context of these verses in this chapter, you will learn that God had just given Abram a major victory in battle. As a result, he had riches from the battle. The priest Melchizedek blessed Abram. Out of thankfulness, Abram gave Melchizedek

one-tenth of all his the goods he won in battle. Melchizedek was a priest of the One True God. Abram wanted to honor the True God by giving this tithe to God’s servant, Melchizedek.

In Genesis 28:20-22, Jacob made a promise that he would tithe if God would bring him back to his father’s house:

“Jacob vowed a vow, saying, ‘If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and clothing to put on, 21 so that I come again to my father’s house in peace, and the LORD will be my God, 22 then this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, will be God’s house. Of all that you will give me I will surely give a tenth to you.’” (Gen. 28:20-22)

These are the first two mentions of tithing in the Bible. They follow the patterns of other ancient peoples. The difference is that Abram (later named Abraham) and Jacob (later named Israel) gave one-tenth of their goods to honor the one True God. Abraham is considered the father of those who live by faith. “Know therefore that those who are of faith are children of Abraham” (Gal. 3:7).

We can see that the foundation of tithing in the Bible is simply honoring God for His goodness in our lives. As we learn to obey the commandments of God, we will find success at whatever we put our hands to. One of God’s precious promises is that when we obey Him, He will bless the works of our hands. “The LORD will command the blessing on you in your barns, and in all that you put your hand to. He will bless you in the land which The LORD your God gives you” (Deut. 28:8).

When we tithe, we are giving back to God one finger of what our ten fingers have earned through His blessing on our hands. God has done so much for us—even giving us eternal life! He also blesses our hands to work! Giving God a tenth of what our hands produce is acknowledging who has blessed our hands.

One other aspect of tithing to consider is the Kingdom of God. Jesus told us in John 18:36 that our Kingdom is NOT of this world! While our Kingdom does not originate with this world, Jesus also told us that we are still IN this world (John 17:11). What does this mean?

As reviewed earlier, it takes money to purchase necessities – water, food, clothing, shelter. It also requires money for us to carry out the Kingdom work in this present world. We have to pay rent so that we can have a place to meet. It cost money to buy sound equipment to project the sound for worship music and the sermon. It costs money to buy equipment to record sermons. Money is required to print books and booklets. It costs money to advertise church meetings and print out flyers for distribution. The list of needs goes on and on.

The Apostle Paul also taught us a very important lesson that can be applied to giving. “Don’t be deceived. God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” (Gal. 6:9). When you give towards God’s Kingdom, you are sowing into the same Kingdom that YOU belong to!

This means you are sowing into your own future. You are also sowing into the Kingdom that has the power to save, heal, free, and deliver others in need. In our giving, we are also sowing into the future of others so they can receive what we have received. Tithing is simply giving back to the Kingdom that has given to us—so it can reach out to others. Don’t we want others to experience all the good things God has done for us?

Remember, where our treasure is our heart will be also. As we set aside our tithes, we are taking a faith action to show God that our heart belongs to Him. Tithing is one of the ways that we love God with our heart because we are showing Him with our *treasure* where our *heart* is.

Chapter 2

How Do We Tithe Today?

In this chapter, we want to take some time to look at how we tithe. We will look at some more Bible verses that address tithing.

“All the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is The LORD’s. It is holy to The LORD...32 All the tithe of the herds or the flocks, whatever passes under the rod, the tenth shall be holy to The LORD. “ (Lev. 27:30, 32)

In ancient times, most people did not earn money the way that we do today. They either raised animals or grew crops. For them, the obvious way to tithe was to take one-tenth of what the land produced or of the animals that were born. This is still a perfectly acceptable way to tithe.

However, most people who raise animals and even grow crops today usually sell them to make money. This is perfectly fine! We find an example in the Bible.

“22 You shall surely tithe all the increase of your seed, that which comes out of the field year by year....24 If the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry it because the place which The LORD your God shall choose to set his name there is too far from you, when The LORD your God blesses you, 25 then you shall turn it into money, bind up the money in your hand, and shall go to the place which The LORD your God shall choose” (Deut. 14:22, 24-25).

The Bible gives us this example to show us that it is perfectly acceptable to tithe with money. As stated earlier, most people in the world today are paid money directly from an employer. Recall that Abram in Genesis 14 tithed from the goods that he gained through war, which would have included silver and gold. Jacob promised God to give one-tenth of “of all that you will give me ...” (Gen. 28:22).

When we study the Bible deeper, we find that the term tithe is actually used in the plural form (tithes). Here are a few examples:

“They brought in the offerings, the tithes, and the dedicated things faithfully.” (2 Chronicles 31:12a)

“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse” (Mal. 3:10, KJV)

“I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.” (Luke 18:12, KJV)

“They indeed of the sons of Levi who receive the priest’s office have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law” (Hebrews 7:5)

There is more than one tithe found in the Bible. There are actually three! We identify them based upon how God explains they should be used. There are three in total. In the next few chapters, we will explain them more and how to apply them today.

Chapter 3

The First Tithe

To understand the first tithe, we have to examine the nation of Israel. In the beginning, Israel was divided into twelve tribes. Originally, God wanted the firstborn of every family to serve Him. They were to be a Kingdom of priests (Exodus chapter 13, 19:4-6).

However, the children of Israel sinned at Mount Horeb (sometimes called Mount Sinai) when they created the golden calf (Exodus chapter 32). Due to this sin, one specific tribe was chosen to serve before God: the tribe of Levi. They were chosen to be God's representatives to the children of Israel. Of these Levites, the family of Aaron was chosen to serve as the chief representatives. They were called priests. The head of the family of Aaron was called the chief priest or high priest.

Under the leadership of Joshua, the nation of Israel traveled to the Promised Land (modern Israel today). When they arrived, God blessed every tribe by giving them a specific amount of land. The only tribe that was not given land was Levi. Because they were set apart to serve God, He blessed them in a different manner.

The tribe of Levi was spread throughout the other tribes so they could teach all Israel how to honor the commandments of God. They were to teach them the difference between holy and common. In return, the first tithe in Israel was given to the local Levite representatives.

“For the tithe of the children of Israel, which they offer as a wave offering to The LORD, I have given to the Levites for an inheritance. Therefore I have said to them, ‘Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance’ ” (Num. 18:24).

This is how the Levites paid for their food and living arrangements. Since they had no inheritance of land, this was God's way of taking care of their needs. It was His way of blessing them.

The book of Hebrews chapters 7 and 8 explain that the priesthood was transferred from the sons of Aaron to Jesus Christ. Jesus died for our sins. He offered his blood in Heaven to atone for our sins. He is now in Heaven serving as our representative before the Father in Heaven. “22 By so much, Jesus has become the collateral of a better covenant. 23 Many, indeed, have been made priests, because they are hindered from continuing by death. 24 But he, because he lives forever, has his priesthood unchangeable” (Hebrews 7:22-24).

When we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior, we enter into the New Covenant. This means our first tithe now goes to spread the Kingdom of God with the revelation of Jesus Christ. This means that first tithe is to be spent teaching the holy things of God. This includes printing materials (such as books and trifold), hall rent, hall utilities, and other items that are necessary for the operation of the local church. Basically, this is to be used for expenses relating to getting the Kingdom message out.

Today, there are men and women who have devoted their entire lives solely to getting the Kingdom message out. Biblically, they can receive first tithe. At Hungry Hearts we do not practice this. All of our ordained personnel work. In I Corinthians 9:1-18, Paul said that he would let no one deprive him of the opportunity to provide the gospel at no cost to the people. He knew that Biblically he could receive it, but he chose not to. In Acts 18:1-3, we learn that he was a tent maker. At Hungry Hearts, we practice this because we want all money received to be used for outreach.

First tithe is the holy portion (Leviticus 27:30-32). This means it is set apart from all other money in our lives. It can only be used for holy things relating to the Kingdom of God. In short—first tithe is how we fund the work of the Kingdom of God so we can bring others into the Kingdom and teach them about the Kingdom. As mentioned in the first chapter, it takes money to do God’s Kingdom work. First tithe is how we fund this.

Chapter 4

The Second Tithe

We find a second tithe in Deuteronomy 14:22-27. Unlike first tithe, which is given to the Kingdom, the second tithe is described as something we spend on ourselves!

“22 You shall surely tithe all the increase of your seed, that which comes out of the field year by year. 23 You shall eat before The LORD your God, in the place which he chooses to cause his name to dwell, the tithe of your grain, of your new wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and of your flock; that you may learn to fear The LORD your God always. 24 If the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry it because the place which The LORD your God shall choose to set his name there is too far from you, when The LORD your God blesses you, 25 then you shall turn it into money, bind up the money in your hand, and shall go to the place which The LORD your God shall choose. 26 You shall trade the money for whatever your soul desires: for cattle, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatever your soul asks of you. You shall eat there before The LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your household. 27 You shall not forsake the Levite who is within your gates, for he has no portion nor inheritance with you” (Deut. 14:22-27).

God instructed the Israelites to spend this tithe when they came to the place “which he chooses to cause his name to dwell”. This is a reference to Jerusalem. Three times a year the people were to gather in Jerusalem for the annual festival pilgrimage feasts: Unleavened Bread (also called the Passover) in the early Spring, Pentecost in the Late Spring, and Ingathering in the Fall.

These are also called the Feasts of the Lord. These celebrations are described in Ex. 23:14-17, Lev. chapter 23, Deut. 16:1-17. This second tithe was spent when they gathered to celebrate these days. We will review these Feasts more in the booklet “The Lord’s Feasts.”

How do we honor the second tithe today? There is no Temple in Jerusalem for us to travel to. In John 4:21-24, Jesus said a time was coming when we would not worship in Jerusalem, but in Spirit and in Truth. He was specifically referring to the festivals of the Lord because that is when people gathered in Jerusalem to worship. Today we honor the Lord's Feasts at their proper times. We do this in Spirit and Truth, not in Jerusalem.

Today, the second tithe is saved and used to celebrate the Feasts of the Lord. The presence of the Lord is poured out in tremendous measure on these days. They are the special, set apart times to honor and worship Him. This tithe is interesting because we are commanded to spend it on the items that bring us happiness. Imagine that! God asks us to save up a tenth of our income so that we can spend it on ourselves!

The way of giving in this present world is to go into debt to buy someone something they do not even like. People get mad about that kind of giving. The Lord's way is for us to buy what makes us happy. We know what we want. We can certainly use this money to buy other people items for the Feasts, but we must first buy the things that make us happy. It is part of making your joy complete.

I usually suggest that you do your feast shopping a month or two ahead of time. As an example: I might buy a new suit or new shoes with second tithe a few months before a festival season. I will not wear these items until the feasts are celebrated since I bought it with second tithe, which is a holy portion. A holy portion must be used for a specific, Godly purpose. In this instance, the specific purpose is celebrating God's festivals.

The ladies like dresses and new shoes. This means that they should buy these items as they approach the Feast Days. During the Feasts, we eat at the nicest restaurants. Guys love steak. We eat steak several times during the Feasts! Maybe you like ice cream; the festival days are the times to really get the things that

make you happy! God wants you to be full of joy when you attend the festival celebrations.

If you have to travel a distance to keep the Feasts, use your second tithe on travel expenses. Most people do not make enough money to properly celebrate these Days on their regular income. Second tithe is a holy income for the Holy Days of Christ! We are supposed to eat the fatty foods and drink sweet drinks during these times (Nehemiah 8:10). These foods make us happy and lift our spirits. The Bible verse “The Joy of the Lord is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10) was spoken during the Fall Festivals.

When we have taken care of our needs with second tithe, we are to send portions to those who do not have any prepared (Nehemiah 8:10). We should always make sure and put back some second tithe for those who are disadvantaged. There are poorer brethren who do not have any money to keep the Feasts. It is important to help them with this money. At Hungry Hearts, we support churches in other nations. We take up a collection of our second tithe to help them keep the Feast Days. They will celebrate and have plenty for everyone.

Second tithe is a way to properly display God’s Kingdom provision! Everyone will see you celebrating and ask about it. The second tithe is so that when we show up to celebrate the Feasts, we are full of joy.

We are going to spend the money on ourselves anyways; we might as well do it God’s way! We spend money on what is important. He is showing us what is important to Him – the Feasts of the Lord. He has set apart a holy portion of our income to be spent towards that purpose.

When we buy items with our second tithe, it creates memories tied to God’s Feast Days. When we look at clothes, shoes, or other items bought with second tithe, it is a reminder of the great times we had in the presence of God. This is yet another way to leave God’s imprint on our lives.

Chapter 5

The Third Tithe

As we continued to study the Word of God, we discover that there is a third tithe found in Deuteronomy 14:28-29.

“28 At the end of every three years you shall bring all the tithe of your increase in the same year, and shall store it within your gates. 29 The Levite, because he has no portion nor inheritance with you, as well as the foreigner living among you, the fatherless, and the widow who are within your gates shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that The LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do” (Deut. 28:-29).

This tithe is different than the first and second tithe in that it was not collected every year. In Leviticus chapter 25, God established a seven-year financial cycle. This third tithe was to be collected in the third and sixth year every seven-year cycle.

It was to be used for the Levite, widow, fatherless, foreigners, and poor. This was one of God’s social safety nets for His people. God is so wise. He recognizes that there are certain segments of society that need financial help; they are financially vulnerable. The Levites had no inheritance of their own. God wanted to ensure that His people took care of them. Orphans, widows and the fatherless are all disadvantaged due to an incomplete family unit. Foreigners come from other countries and may not have adapted to the culture enough to become self-sufficient.

It is interesting to note that God did not have this tithe collected every single year, but only two years in a seven-year cycle. This shows us that God does not want people dependent on assistance from others; He wants us to get a boost when we are down to help get us back on our feet (I Thess. 4:12). Also, God is watching to see who will open their hearts in the in-between years to give to those in need. It can be a test to those who have.

A special prayer found in Deuteronomy 26:12-15 is supposed to be spoken when a person collects their third tithe. This prayer was said so that God would bless the land for setting this portion aside. There are times when the Bible refers to justice for the poor; it is in part referring to this third tithe being practiced.

As a matter of practice at Hungry Hearts Ministries, we teach that Christians in America should keep the first two tithes. We do not practice the third tithe in America because the federal government of the United States already takes more than 10% a year for federal programs including, but not limited to, social security, Medicare, welfare, unemployment, food stamps, widows benefits, section eight housing, and so forth.

As an example, those who are self-employed and pay the first 15% of their income every year for these type programs. These government programs are aimed toward the same purpose as third tithe. Americans technically already pay this third tithe through these programs. It is way more than 10% in the third and sixth year.

There is definitely nothing wrong with giving to the poor, but if it is to be Biblical, then it cannot be from first or second tithe. Second tithe can be used to help the disadvantaged to keep the Feasts, but not for other purposes.

For those who live in countries that do not collect a tax for the poor and disadvantaged, then third tithe should be practiced. The prayer in Deuteronomy 26 should also be prayed over the third tithe when it is distributed.

Chapter 6

Offerings

Another way that we contribute to the Kingdom of God is through offerings. An offering is when you gift money or resources to the local church or ministry. There are different kinds of offerings. They are mentioned in the Bible, and the early Apostles certainly asked for offerings when they were needed. Here are some examples:

Romans 15:25-26

“25 But now, I say, I am going to Jerusalem, serving the saints. 26 For it has been the good pleasure of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are at Jerusalem.”

2 Corinthians 9:5-6, 12

“5 I thought it necessary therefore to entreat the brothers that they would go before to you and arrange ahead of time the generous gift that you promised before, that the same might be ready as a matter of generosity, and not of greediness. 6 Remember this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully...12 For this service of giving that you perform not only makes up for lack among the saints, but abounds also through much giving of thanks to God.”

Philippians 4:15-17

“15 You yourselves also know, you Philippians, that in the beginning of the Good News, when I departed from Macedonia, no assembly shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you only. 16 For even in Thessalonica you sent once and again to my need. 17 Not that I seek for the gift, but I seek for the fruit that increases to your account.”

These three examples from Paul display that offerings were received by the early believers. The example from Romans has to do with helping the poor saints at Jerusalem. The poor saints were not taken care of with first tithe—they were taken care of with a

freewill offering. Paul also asked the Corinthians and the Philipians for a gift to assist in spreading the Good News of the Kingdom of God. You could also give out of thanksgiving for something God has done in your life. There is also a specific type of offering mentioned in the Bible relating to Feasts of Leviticus 23.

Deut. 16:16-17 (also Exodus 23:15-17)

“16 Three times in a year all of your males shall appear before The LORD your God in the place which he chooses: in the feast of unleavened bread, in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of booths. They shall not appear before The LORD empty. 17 Every man shall give as he is able, according to The LORD your God’s blessing which he has given you.”

The Lord asks us to bring an offering three times a year on these Festival seasons in proportion to how God has blessed us. If the Lord has blessed us greatly this past year, then we should give a bigger offering. If we have had a down year financially (time and chance happen to all men), then we should give a smaller offering. God wants us to bring a gift based upon our increase.

As you celebrate the Holy Day cycle every year, you can go back and compare the blessing of God in your life from previous years. As you compare your financial blessing from year to year, you can pray and determine the right amount of offering to give. Perhaps you received a 5% increase in your salary from last year. You should consider giving God a portion of that 5% increase!

Some television ministers ask for you to give an offering when these three feast seasons come around. There is something very important I want to point out about these verses in Deuteronomy. In verses 16b-17, God said, “No one should appear before the Lord empty-handed: 17 Each of you must **bring a gift** in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.” We are supposed to show up and give these offerings (bring them).

That means we are supposed to gather with fellow believers and celebrate these Feasts! To really fulfill the command and receive

its full blessing, you need to show up to give the offering. We are not to appear at the Feasts empty handed. This also means we are to appear at the feasts with hands lifted in worship!

Earlier we discussed that what we spend our money on is a reflection of what we deem to be important. “for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21).

We must be diligent in setting aside a portion of our income based on the increase we receive from Him. This requires planning on our part. This does not mean we empty our bank account. We must have money to provide for our families, pay our bills, and so forth. We must be sure to set aside the money so that when the Festival season comes, we have something to give as thankfulness for God’s increase in our lives.

If you wait until a month or a few weeks out from a Feast day, the money may not be there. Sometimes, I take an additional 10% of my income each paycheck starting three months before the upcoming Feast so that I always have a festival offering to give. Find what works for you and put it into practice.

As a matter of practice, it is a good idea to keep up with your feast offerings from year to year. This way you can track your giving with your increases and keep them balanced. God wants us to be practical in our giving. Our gift should be based upon our increase, as He said in Deuteronomy. When we give our offering, then God is going to pour out a blessing into our lives. Jesus said, “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you” (Luke 6:38).

I have personally seen great increases in my personal finances as I gave my Feast offering in proportion to my increase.

Chapter 7

Principles of Tithing and Giving

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin, and have left undone the weightier matters of the law: justice, mercy, and faith. But you ought to have done these, and not to have left the other undone” (Matthew 23:23) .

“I fast twice a week. I give tithes of all that I get” (Luke 18:12).

Jesus said that we do not want to neglect the weightier matters of the law: justice, mercy, and faith. He ALSO said not to leave the other undone: tithing. In another place, the Jewish people of Jesus’ time are quoted as giving tithes of all they posses.

A first century historian named Josephus is a reminder that the Jewish people of Jesus time honored three tithes. “Besides those two tithes, which I have already said you are to pay every year, the one for the Levites, the other for the festivals, you are to bring every third year a third tithe to be distributed to those that want (i.e. the poor)” (Antiquities, book IV, 22).

We don’t need to neglect the tithes of the Holy Scriptures. Remember Christ’s words. As we close this booklet, I would like to leave you with some final thoughts on tithing and giving.

Some people might say “Well, what if I don’t make enough to tithe?” If you ask this question, then your mindset is not correct. If you have at all, then you make enough to tithe.

Think about what God has done for you and what He is able to do for you. He has provided life for us and made a way for eternal life through His Son. He left us spiritual gifts (Romans 12:3-11, I Corinthians 12, Eph. 4:7-12). He gives us strength to endure trials. The list could go on forever. We could never stop recounting the ways He has blessed us.

God is the great giver! None of us could ever out give Him. Recall that He made everything! It all belongs to Him anyways. “The earth is The LORD’s, with its fullness; the world, and those who dwell in it” (Psalm 24:1). Tithes and offerings are giving to the God who has provided all things. It is also sowing back into our own future because we belong to the Kingdom into which we are giving.

There are only two things in the entire Bible God said we could TEST Him on—tithes and offerings!

“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me! But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In tithes and offerings... Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and test me now in this,” says The LORD of Armies” (Malachi 3:8, 10).

We can test God in this area. If you will simply honor Him in your tithes, then you will witness His great provision. We must have faith in Him to be our ultimate provider—our El Shaddai.

“Without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to him, for he who comes to God must believe that he exists, and that he is a rewarder of those who seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

Put God at the top of your plans, and He will reward you. His very name and reputation depends on it! Something else very important in this discussion of tithes and offerings is stewardship. While it pleases God for us to give tithes and offerings, we also need to steward what He has given us.

Jesus said, “He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much. He who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much” (Luke 16:10).

Are you handling your finances in a Biblical manner? Do you have a budget? Do you track your expenses? Are you spending way too much money on luxuries? We need to learn to prioritize how we spend our money because we want to show God that our

heart is in the right place. Some people will say they don't make enough to give tithes and offerings, but they will spend money on all sorts of luxuries, electronics, eating out, and so forth. "Don't be deceived. God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (Gal 6:7).

My friend, do not sow your honorary gift to God into your own life. God knows our hearts, but He also knows our spending habits. We have to make His Kingdom first in our lives. I would like to leave you with some final principles on tithing and giving:

#1—It matters where we give. See Gal 6:7 above. We need to know those who labor among us (I Thess. 5:12). We will reap what we sow into.

#2—We will be blessed by God for giving (Galatians 6:9, Luke 6:38, Hebrews 11:6). We will also receive eternal reward in the Kingdom.

#3—If we sow sparingly, we will reap sparingly (2 Cor. 9:6, Prov 11:24). But we also give offerings in proportion (Deut. 16:16-17). This requires diligence and stewardship on our part.

#4—We give joyfully (2 Cor. 9:7).

#5—Your part matters. A tithe is a tithe. One thing to keep in mind about tithing is that a tithe is a tithe. If a person who makes \$1,000 a month gives \$100 to the work of God, then they have tithed. If a person who makes \$10,000 a month gives \$500 to the work of God, they **did not** tithe. A tithe is not based on the amount you give, it is based on the percentage. A tithe is 10%. In this example, the person who gave \$100 tithed, whereas the one who gave \$500 did not tithe. The difference is that one gave 10% and the other did not. One obeyed and the other did not.

In Mark 12:41-45, we learn the story of the widow's mite and the rich people. The wealthy individuals put in a lot of money, but the widow put in all she had. If a person does not tithe, it does not count! A tithe is a tithe is a tithe. The widow put in all that she had, which was a high percentage. The rich people gave large amounts that did not equate to a tithe or a significant percentage of their earnings.

Conclusion

God is the great giver. He is the greatest giver that will ever exist. We cannot out give Him. He always brings about a greater increase than what we give to Him. When we are diligent in setting giving our tithes and setting aside Feast offerings in proper proportion, God will bring about such a manifold increase that we cannot contain it!

Tithes and offerings are an important aspect of God's plan of prosperity for your life. They are really easy to follow. I have been following this for 10 years and can personally attest IT WORKS!

You have already made the money by working. Writing the check and putting it in the offering plate is the simplest action you will ever do. At the same time, it is one of the most powerful acts of obedience in the Bible. God makes us a multi-fold promise in Malachi 3:8-12. When we set aside tithes and offerings, He will bless us so much it will be overwhelming! We will go from surviving to thriving!

If you want to learn more about: the power of tithes and offerings; how to steward the blessing of God in your life; my personal testimony of going from a financial "mess" to a God-inspired success, then order our book **"Opening the Windows of Heaven: A Book on Tithing and Giving"**.

A more comprehensive version of this free booklet can be found on our website,
www.hungryheartsmistry.com. Go to the "BUY BOOKS" page and then search for the book.

Calculating Tithes

Calculating Tithes for countries that collect more than 20% every seven years for social welfare programs. This would include the United States and other industrialized countries.

Calculating First and Second Tithes:

In this example, let's say your monthly income is \$1,000.

First Tithe is equal to \$100.

To calculate second tithe, you do the following:

\$1,000 – **Monthly Income**

-\$100 – **1st Tithe**

\$900 Leftover

\$90 would be your Second Tithe. It is one-tenth of \$900 leftover.

In this booklet, you will learn about the importance of tithing and giving. Did you know that Abraham tithed? Did you know that there are blessings we receive when we give to God? When we release what is in our hand, God will release what is in His!



Kelly McDonald, Jr. is an ordained Evangelist at Hungry Hearts Ministries in Jackson, TN. He has written 40 books and booklets on pursuing Jesus Christ. He has been preaching since 2007 and is available to speak at your church upon request.