

How To Start Giving—How to Keep Giving

The Scriptures give believers **two directives** to help them know how to start giving and how to keep giving.

- **THE TITHE IS THE WAY FOR EVERY CHRIST-FOLLOWER TO START GIVING.**

- What is the tithe and what is its purpose?

Tithe = a tenth

“A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.” Leviticus 27:30 (NIV)

“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ In tithes and offerings. ⁹You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. ¹⁰Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house . . . Malachi 3:8-10a (NIV)

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse . . . Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. ¹¹I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit,” says the LORD Almighty. ¹²“Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty. Malachi 3:10-12 (NIV)

Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; ¹⁰then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. Proverbs 3:9-10 (NIV)

Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. ²³ . . . so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always. Deuteronomy 14:22-23 (NIV)

The primary purpose of tithing = to teach God’s kids to put Him first in their lives.

- Are New Testament Christians commanded to tithe?

In Acts 4, it says the disciples gave all they had to each other because: *“much grace was upon them all.”* (Acts 4:33)

For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. 2 Corinthians 8:3-4 (NIV)

Living under grace does not mean that believers today have lower standards. (See Matthew 5)

But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. 2 Corinthians 8:7 (NIV)

Two Reasons that the Tithe is God’s Plan for NT Believers

- God received tithes from Abraham before the law was given. (See Genesis 14:18-20)

- Jesus reaffirmed the tithe.

“How terrible it will be for you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest part of your income, but you ignore the important things of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but you should not leave undone the more important things.” Matthew 23:23 (NLT, 1996)

- **ONCE THE TITHE IS IN PLACE, A FREEWILL OFFERING HELPS US TO KEEP GROWING AS GIVERS.**

(See Leviticus 22:18-23; Numbers 15:3)

All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the LORD freewill offerings for all the work the LORD through Moses had commanded them to do. Exodus 35:29 (NIV)

The tithe is a demonstration of obedience; but, in the Scriptures, offerings are a voluntary demonstration of love, joy and worship.

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)