

What is The Difference Between A “Tithe” And An “Offering”?

The “tithe” is that which belongs to God already. We do not give that to God because it is already His, even if we choose to hold on to it! An “offering” is any amount given over and above the first 10%! And according to *II Corinthians 8: 7 & 8* we are to “excel at this grace of giving” because it is a true test of the “sincerity of our love!”

Some Reasons Why Tithing is Important:

**** Because It Shows I Really Love God!***

The Bible says, “Where your treasure is, your heart will be also” (Matthew 6: 21). We tend to treasure what we believe gives us security. As people honor God, carefully and consistently in their giving, they send a clear message of the value they place on their relationship with God.

**** It Is An Antidote For Selfishness!***

We are all selfish by nature. One of the ways to help “break” the hold of selfishness in our lives is to be intentional about being unselfish!

**** It Gives Opportunity To Express Confidence And Trust In God!***

When we tithe, we make ourselves more vulnerable and express our confidence in God’s ability to provide all of our needs. Doing so builds faith!

**** It Is A Tangible Way To Express Gratitude To God!***

In the New Testament John said, “We love because God first loved us.” Tithing is one practical way to express thanksgiving to God the love He has shown to us.

**** Tithing Touches Our World!***

It is the only giving plan ever devised to match the size of the Church’s mandate to reach a hurting and broken world.

**** Because God Commands It!***

True Christians recognize that in all matters of life, God’s plan is the very best for us!

**** It Releases God’s Blessing!***

In the Bible (II Corinthians 9: 6) says, “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” God gives (in a variety of ways) to “givers.”

Perspective:

Jesus told us to “store up treasures in heaven” (Matthew 6: 19—20). One day, death will foreclose on everything we own in this life. As Christians, we must ask ourselves, “What will we have sent ahead that will last forever? How am I using earthly wealth for eternal causes?”

**The Christian,
Money
&
Stewardship**



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The Issue of Stewardship:

The Bible says: “It is required of stewards that they be found faithful”. (I Corinthians 4: 2—New Testament)

There is far more than just money involved in this issue of being a good steward (“manager”) of all that God has given to us! God has given us time, talents and treasure. For the Christian who wants to know God’s best, all of these must be consecrated to Him to use as He sees fit! However, here we will address only the aspect of stewardship that has to do with the giving of our financial resources to the work of God’s church in this world.

Christian Stewardship Principles:

1. Everything we possess comes from God; He owns all things!

(Psalm 24: 1; Deuteronomy 10: 14)

2. Everything a Christian has (life; time; talents; money, etc.) should be consecrated to God! (Colossians 3: 17)
3. Every Christian is responsible and accountable to God for how they use what God has given them! (Romans 14: 12)

Questions Commonly Asked:

What is Tithing?

The word “tithing” means “a tenth part” or “10%”. In the Bible God tells us that we are to give back to Him the first “10%” of all we earn (Leviticus 27:30). In Malachi 3: 8 we are told that if we withhold our tithes and offerings we are actually robbing from God!



Tithing is systematic and proportionate. God’s giving plan for the Church asks no more from one individual than another. “On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income...” (I Corinthians 16: 2)

The true tithe must come “off the top”! It takes no faith to give God leftovers, even if they equal 10% or more, for by then all our other needs have already been taken care of. It takes total confidence in God to give Him the “first-fruits”, for then we are completely dependent upon God to provide the rest.

Was Not Tithing Only Applicable In The Old Testament?

Only the ritual sacrificial laws were abolished by the coming of Jesus because He fulfilled completely the need for a sacrifice for sin. The principle of the “tithing” was given long before the Old Testament Law and was endorsed by Jesus Himself in the New Testament. To some of the religious leaders of the day Jesus said: “These (justice, mercy and faith) you should practice, without neglecting the other (tithing).” (Matthew 23: 23)

Where Should I Pay My Tithes?

God has chosen to work in this world through “The Church” (His Body—made up of all those who have given their lives to Jesus Christ, received His forgiveness and, by faith, become a part of His eternal family). The Bible teaches that individual Christians are to bring their tithes into “the storehouse” (Malachi 3: 10). This storehouse represents the local church where the individual Believer regularly worships and receives encouragement and spiritual nourishment. Any financial support given to other projects and/or ministries should be above and beyond the “tithe”, thus classified as “offerings”.