

***Kingdom Living Requires Kingdom Investing and Obedience:***

**The Law of Reciprocity** is sometimes also called the law of Sowing and Reaping. God is looking for Christians that will allow Him to channel and funnel money and resources through their lives so the Kingdom of God can be built and expanded.

Some Scriptures referring to this Law are:

**II Cor. 9:6-8** “But this I say, He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you always having all sufficiency in all things, may have abundance for every good work.”

**Gal. 6:7** “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”

**Pro. 11: 24,25** “There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.”

**STOREHOUSE TITHING**

**Mal. 3; 8-11**

“Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, in what ways have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this, says the Lord of hosts, If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field, says the Lord of host.”

Note: the tithing of the land was to be the ‘first fruits’ of the harvest. (our labors) The tithing eradicated the curse on the harvest that was still on the ground since Adam and Eve’s disobedience. (Gen. 3:17, 18) The remaining ninety percent of the harvest was meant for provision and to be a blessing to meet the needs of the individual and their family.

***Tithing is a faith commitment  
Involving trust, love and thanksgiving to  
the God who has saved us and is  
preserving and sustaining us.***



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# GIVING

## ***Understanding Tithes, Offerings and Alms in the Local Church***

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The Lord Jesus has given us an opportunity to partner with Him in extending the Kingdom of God. One important way we do this is by stewarding or managing the resources He has given to us.

One Kingdom resource we all have to master is money. The Bible says the ‘love of money’ is the root of all evil (it can become an idol) but money itself is simply a resource; it is the tangible reward of our physical labors. The way we handle our finances is not just an issue of faith- but also of obedience.

The Lord has directed that the ministries of His church should be funded by the **tithe** (10% of our income). The local church is the storehouse that Malachi 3:10 speaks about. The local church is to be a center of teaching, fellowship, outreach, evangelism and nurturing.

Some have said tithing is only an Old Testament concept. Actually, tithing pre-dates the Old Testament Law with Abraham giving ten percent to Melchizedek- the priest of the Most High.

#### **Gen. 14:18-20**

“Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of the God Most High. And he blessed him and said, ‘Blessed be Abram of God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand’ and he (Abraham) gave him (Melchizedek) a tithe of all”.

*Melchizedek- a type of Christ- received a free- will, spontaneous offering of ten percent. Abraham met Melchizedek on his return from freeing his nephew Lot from capture and slavery. Tithing is a response of the heart toward Christ indicating trust and confidence in His ability to defeat all our enemies. The tithe is given to Christ’s representatives on earth; those commissioned to extend His Kingdom- the Local Church.*

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#### **NEW TESTAMNET GIVING**

In the New Testament, Christians are encouraged to ‘prosper’ or tap into the resources of God to meet the needs of daily life. II John 3 says, “Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health just as your soul prospers.”

In most cases the real enemy of giving (and generous and cheerful giving) is FEAR. We are concerned that if we give liberally to God, we might not have the resources to meet our needs. The Christian life is a life of faith and trust. Jesus addressed this very issue in **Matt. 6:31-33** “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ “For after all these things the Gentiles seek, for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

New Testament mentality needs to become Kingdom mentality for all Christians. The Kingdom of God needs to be built and extended through our faith, obedience to the Word- and liberal, cheerful Scriptural giving.

#### **SCRIPTURES CONCERNING THE TITHE**

##### **Gen. 28:20-22**

“Then Jacob made a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and keep me in this way, that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, so that I come back to my father’s house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God and this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God’s house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.”

##### **Lev. 27:30, 32**

“And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord’s. It is holy to the Lord. And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the Lord.”

##### **Pro. 3: 9, 10**

“Honor the Lord with your possessions and with the first fruits of all our increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”

#### **DEFENITIONS:**

**Tithe:** Ten percent of our income given to the Lord through the local church for the building and extension of His Kingdom.

**Offerings** (monies above the tithe) and may also be given though the local church- or other ministries for specific needs, support or projects.

**Alms** are given to the poor and those in financial crisis.