

- d. Those who *give bountifully / generously*: ^{NAS} **2 Corinthians 9:6** “Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully.”
- e. Those who *give more* also gain more: ^{NIV} **Proverbs 11:24** “One man gives freely, yet gains even more...”

9. **Tithe-Giving and Offering-Giving are Different:** In both cases we NEVER give to be saved; instead, ***we give to honor the LORD who freely saved us by grace through faith in Jesus!***

- a. **Tithe-giving** is giving 10% of whatever we receive; remember, *it belongs to the LORD (Lev. 27:30)*.
- b. **Offering-giving** is giving over and above the tithe / 10%. Offerings are given ♦for certain purposes **or** ♦on special occasions **or** ♦out of great gratitude.
- i. Years ago, *when visiting one of our members*, he gave BLC an **offering** of \$88. Even though he faithfully gave a tithe, his 88th birthday was coming up; therefore, *he gave out of gratitude for his years of life!*
- ii. **Another wonderful way** to give an offering is to support God’s work *after we are in paradise by designating a percentage of our estate to our congregation.* *Thanks in advance for your prayerful consideration!*

10. **Disciples Give Cheerfully:** As sinners we deserve nothing good, *yet God has richly blessed us now and forever in Christ!* Therefore, as we think about ♦God’s gifts, ♦His generosity in allowing us to keep 90%, and ♦His promise to provide all of our needs, *we can give cheerfully!* We are also encouraged by these words: ^{NAS} **2 Corinthians 9:7** “...**God loves a cheerful giver.**”

Conclusion

At Bethlehem +the pastor gives a tithe, +the congregation *as a whole* gives a tithe (by giving more than 10% of what is received to various needs *outside* of the congregation), and +every member is *encouraged* to tithe!

Now that you know what the Bible says about giving, **what will YOU do?**

- ➔ Hold back and worry! **OR**
- ➔ Gladly step-out in faith: Trusting in God, believing His Word, following His Word, and looking forward to the reception of His promised blessings!

I know one couple who learned God’s truth; then – *in one week* – increased their giving by 500%! *God is still richly blessing them!*

We are saved by the gospel – by grace through faith in Jesus for eternal life! But we live our Christian lives by the law – seeking, knowing, and following the Bible! Let us SHOW our *faith and gratitude* by faithfully living according to God’s Word!

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Tithing! Giving 10%

What Does the Bible Say?



**Do you give first, proportionately, and cheerfully?
Why? Why not?**

Introduction

Dear friends, the Almighty God has freely given us ♦physical life, ♦the promise of eternal life through Jesus, and ♦all that we possess! So He calls us to *acknowledge His goodness and show our gratitude* by faithfully following His Word. Though many choose to hold back on their giving, God is promising blessings of **peace, joy**, and even **abundance to those who follow the Bible!**

Therefore, may the very words of God contained in this brochure *instruct us and encourage us*; then, may the Holy Spirit move us receive the promised blessings as we consistently give ♦first, ♦proportionately, and ♦cheerfully!

1. **God Has Given Us Whatever We Have:**

- a. ^{NIV} **Deuteronomy 8:17** “You may say to yourself, ‘My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.’
¹⁸ But remember **the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth...**”
- b. David prayed to the Lord:
^{NIV} **1 Chronicles 29:14** “Everything comes from you, and **we have given you only what comes from your hand.**”

2. **Faithful Giving is First-Fruits Giving:**

^{NAS} **Proverbs 3:9** “Honor the LORD from your wealth, And from the **first** of all your produce...” *Giving from our leftovers shows no faith! We honor the Lord by giving to Him FIRST; then trusting Him to provide what we need!*

3. **Faithful Giving is Proportionate Giving:**

A person’s GIVING should be based on his RECEIVING – wages, salary, pension, social security, inheritance, etc.!

- a. ^{NIV} **Deut. 16:17** “Each of you must bring a gift **in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.**”
- b. ^{NIV} **2 Corinthians 8:11** “Now finish the work [of giving] **...according to your means.** ¹² **...the gift is acceptable according to what one has...**”
- c. So *what portion* should we give; *what portion* should we keep? Keep reading for *God’s answer!*

4. **Our Giving is a Test of Our Faith:** God has given us 100% – *our share* **AND HIS SHARE**. The Bible says: ^{NIV} **Leviticus 27:30** “**A tithe of everything...belongs to the LORD;** it is holy to the LORD.”

The Lord *could* have held back His share, but, instead, *He is testing us* to see whether or not we will return 10% to Him. It’s like being at a store and getting too much change; we know what we should do, *but what will we do?* Can we trust Jesus for eternal life, *but not trust Him for our daily needs?*

5. **Pastors are also Commanded to Tithe:**

These words were spoken to the Levites, *the OT priests*: ^{NIV} **Numbers 18:26** ...“When you receive from the Israelites the tithe I give you as your inheritance, **you must present a tenth of that tithe as the LORD’s offering.**”

So the people were to give a tenth; *then the priests were to give a tenth!* **That may sound like a lot, but let’s put it in perspective:**

- a. Depending on your income, your 2013 tax rate is between 10% and 39.6%.
- b. For good restaurant service you should tip 15-20%.
- c. The 10% (the tithe) can seem so huge, *yet God lets us keep 90%! God is so good us!*

6. **If We Do Not Tithe, We are Robbing from God:** The Lord identified sin with these words: ^{NIV} **Malachi 3:8** “Will a man rob God? Yet **you rob me.** “But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ “**In**

tithe and offerings.” In other words, since the tithe belongs to the Lord, *we rob Him whenever we do not give a tenth from whatever we receive!*

7. **Jesus Himself Endorsed Tithing:** He said to the teachers of the law and Pharisees: ^{NIV} **Matthew 23:23** “...You give a **tenth** of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--**justice, mercy and faithfulness.** **You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former – giving a tenth of everything, even of your spices.**” Jesus is calling us to be just, merciful, and faithful, *as well as ones who tithe from all that we receive!*

8. **Great Blessings are Promised to Those Who Do Tithe:**

- a. Those who *honor the Lord in their giving*: ^{NAS} **Proverbs 3:10** “...**your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.**”
- b. Those who *tithe*: ^{NIV} **Malachi 3:10** “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse...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.**”
- c. Those who *use a large measure*: ^{NIV} **Luke 6:38** Give, and it will be given to you... For **with the** [same size] **measure you use, it will be measured to you.**”