

## 9: Tithes and Offerings are Different

We NEVER give to be saved; instead, *we give to honor the LORD who freely saved us by grace through faith in Jesus!*

⇒ Giving a Tithe is giving 10% of whatever we receive; *it belongs to the LORD (Lev. 27:30).*

⇒ Giving an Offering is giving over and above the tithe. Offerings are given ♦for certain purposes **or** ♦on special occasions **or** ♦out of great gratitude.

- Years ago, *when visiting one of our members*, he gave BLC an **offering** of \$88. Even though he faithfully tithed, he gave an offering – *over and above his tithe* – to express his gratitude for his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday!
- 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 for your prayerful consideration!* Those who have such a desire should take the step to legally include that desire in their will.

## 10: Disciples Give Cheerfully

As sinners we deserve nothing good, *yet God has richly blessed us in Christ now and forever!* Therefore, as we think about ♦God's gift of eternal life, ♦His promises to provide all of our needs, ♦His promises to bless those who give generously, and ♦the fact that *"...God loves a cheerful giver"* (2 Cor. 9:7 NAS), let us give gladly and cheerfully!

## 11: Law and Gospel

1. God's Word of **LAW** shows us our sins: It shows us what to do, *but we cannot do it perfectly.*
2. God's Word of **GOSPEL** shows us what God has done to take away our sins:
  - a. God gave us His only Son!
  - b. Jesus lived, suffered, and died to take away all sins!
  - c. The Holy Spirit ♦worked *through the Word and the water of holy baptism* to clothe us with Jesus and ♦is *working through the Word and the Supper* to keep us and grow us in Jesus.

## Conclusion

If you are already tithing – *THANKS so much!*

If you are not yet tithing – *I hope this brochure encourages you to begin!* Since God's Word cannot fail, **He will certainly bless you!**

## Connect With Us

**Website:** [www.BLC7500.com](http://www.BLC7500.com)  
**YouTube:** Benefit from the Bible  
**Facebook:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma  
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**Schedule:** See our website (440-845-2230)  
**Location:** 7500 State Road, Parma, OH 44134  
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# Tithing

## What Does the Bible Say?



If you tithe – *You are blessed!*

If you don't – *God wants to bless you!*

## Introduction

Dear friend: Years ago, *I did not tithe AND I struggled financially.* Then, blessed with faith in Jesus AND knowledge about tithing, *I began to tithe AND THEN God began to abundantly provide for all my needs!*

We certainly don't give to get; however, **God's Word does promise rich blessings to those who tithe.** So, what is a tithe? Giving 10% of *all we receive.*

Sometimes people will say, "When the LORD gives me more, then I will give more." However, the LORD is asking us to make the first move – *to follow His Word, to step out in faith* – then He will bless us!

Please keep reading, take God's Word to heart, and trust that He will do whatever He has promised. **God bless you!**

## 1: God Has Given Us All We Have

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

## 2: Faithful Giving is First-Fruits Giving

The Bible says: “Honor the LORD from your wealth, and from the first of all your produce” (Proverbs 3:9 NAS). *Giving from our leftovers shows no faith!* We honor the Lord by giving to Him FIRST; then we trust Him to provide whatever we need!

## 3: Faithful Giving is Proportionate Giving

*A person's GIVING should be based on his RECEIVING*, rather than on his attending.

- ⇒ “Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you” (Deuteronomy 16:17 NIV).
- ⇒ “Now finish the work [of giving] ...according to your means. ...the gift is acceptable according to what one has” (2 Corinthians 8:11-12 NIV).

## 4: Our Giving is a Test of Our Faith

God has given us 100% – *our share AND HIS SHARE*. The Bible says: “A tithe of everything...belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD” (Leviticus 27:30 NIV). The Lord

*could* have held back His share, but, instead, *He is testing us* to see if we will return 10% to Him. It's like receiving too much change; we know what we SHOULD do, *but what WILL we do?* Since we trust in Jesus **for eternal life**, it should be easy to trust in our Heavenly Father **for our daily needs**. When we are confident that He will provide all our needs, *then we will find it easy to honor Him with a tithe!*

## 5: Pastors are also Commanded to Tithe

These words were spoken to the Levites, *the OT priests*: “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” (Numbers 18:26 NIV). 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 into perspective:**

- ⇒ Depending on your income, your 2021 tax rate is between 10% and 37%.
- ⇒ For good restaurant service you should tip 20% or more.
- ⇒ 10% can seem like a lot, yet *God lets us keep 90%!* **God is so good to us!**

## 6: Two Options: Tithing or Robbing

The Lord identified sin with these words: “Will a man rob God? Yet **you rob me**. But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ **In tithes and offerings**” (Malachi 3:8). 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 Endorsed Tithing

He said to the teachers of the law and Pharisees: “...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**” (Matthew 23:23 NIV). Jesus is calling us to be just, merciful, and faithful, *as well as ones who tithe from all that we receive!*

## 8: Blessings are Promised

- ⇒ To those who *honor the Lord in their giving*: “...your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine” (Proverbs 3:10 NAS).
- ⇒ To those who *tithe*: “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” (Malachi 3:10 NIV).
- ⇒ To those who *use a large measure*: “**Give, and it will be given to you... For with the [same size] measure you use, it will be measured to you**” (Luke 6:38 NIV).
- ⇒ To those who *give generously*: “Now this *I say*, he who **sows sparingly** shall also **reap sparingly**; and he who **sows bountifully** shall also **reap bountifully**.” (2 Corinthians 9:6 NAS).
- ⇒ To those who *give freely*: “**One man gives freely, yet gains even more**” (Proverbs 11:24 NIV).