

# Financial Principles of the Bible

## Part 7: The How and Why of Tithing

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### Full Text (for reading on your own)

#### *The Heart of Tithing*

There are a lot of people that still struggle with the concept of the tithe and the reason they do is that don't understand the heart of it - the beauty that's in it. When we understand the heart of tithing, we see that it is literally beautiful and exciting!

The concept of giving 10% of your income to the church on a regular basis can be kind of a heavy thing. But, the Bible does not teach that we are to give 10% - it teaches very emphatically that we are to give a whole lot more than 10%! The tithe is just the beginning - it's the foundation. The Lord talks about offerings that go way beyond that and He really anticipates His children stepping into that sort of giving so that He can bless them! That said, I understand how the thought of giving 10% or more of your income away every time you have an increase can be a heavy thing. Our mind says "how can giving away 10% of my income possibly benefit me?!? How is this not going to reduce my buying power, standard of living, and comfort?"

2 Cor 9:6 shows us the answer to this concern: *"But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."* If you sow sparingly, you will reap sparingly, but if you sow bountifully, YOU WILL REAP - and he will reap bountifully! What are you going to reap? You are going to reap bountifully in your life! *"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."* (verse 7) God loves a cheerful giver!

In its simplest form, that verse shows us that what appears to be like a financial hit (giving away large portions of your income) actually does not harm you, but instead increases you. But how is that possible? The answer is in verse 8: *"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."* That's how it works! Grace makes it work! About 15 years ago, a question I kept before God was "what is grace as it relates to things like giving?" Over the course of that year He began to unpack the reality of grace for me. Here is what He showed me **"Grace is God's willingness to use His power and His ability on our behalf."** Grace is God's willingness. In other words, it is God's "yes" to using His power and ability in our lives! We want all the grace we can get! God will give you a grace to do your work, to love people, to minister to people, etc.

When I go to a park or a mall to witness to people, I will often recall and perfectly recite scriptures that I have not committed to memory. Only 15 minutes later I would be hopeless to do the same thing. It's happened a thousand times - God's grace is with me as I share with that person! You may think "well that was a word of knowledge or that was a word of wisdom" - that's God's grace! A word of wisdom is a portion of God's grace - His power and His ability on our behalf - so that we can minister to someone.

Another place where His power and ability has been given to us is in the area of finances! "God is able to make all grace abound towards you . . ." The result of God's grace on our finances is that we have an abundance for all good things! Look at verse 10: "*Now may He who supplies seed to the sower . . .*" Who does God supply seed to? The sower! When our fist is closed to people it also closed to God! God cannot put anything in a closed hand! Every time we give money, we did not lose money. That money did not leave our life, it went into our future!

God says in Luke 6:38 "*Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.*" God uses the same type of measure that we use when He blesses us. That doesn't mean He only gives us back what we gave. What that means is that if we measure our giving with a spoon, God measures back to us with a spoon - but His spoon is 100x bigger than your spoon! If you used a shovel, God's going to use a shovel in measuring to you. If you use a backhoe, God will use a backhoe . . . but His backhoe is 100x bigger than ours! How do we know that? Because Mark 4 says the WHOLE Kingdom of God operates this way! "*But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.*" Whatever measure we use, God's going to use - and He gives to us abundantly using that measure! What's a 100 x 0 ? That's the concept. If you sow sparingly, you are going to reap sparingly. So if you sow "0" you are going to reap 100x that! Zero.

This is how tithing and giving works in the Kingdom. You cannot think outside the Kingdom of God about tithing because the minute you do, it becomes a weight and a burden. But when you think about tithing from within the Kingdom, it becomes a blessing!

The devil wants to draw man away from God. A primary way that he tries to do that is by causing them to not look to God for their provision but instead to look towards what the Bible refers to as the spirit of Mammon. Therefore, shortly after the fall of man, we see in Genesis 4 that God had instructed Abel and Cain to give to Him their very best, first 10%. Why? God wanted to provide for them a tangible act of faith and obedience to bring man to a place of trusting that God is going to take care of us!

God is not requiring the tithe of man because He needs any of it! We have to get past just thinking about money as numbers and cents; tithing is spiritual! God is not asking us to tithe because He needs anything. Ps. 24:1 tells us that "*The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness. The world and those who dwell therein.*" The cattle on 1000 hills are His. The gold and silver are His.

When the Israelites were building a temple, God showed them that He did not need a temple or animal sacrifice for His sake - He was having them build the temple for their own sake! Similarly, God instituted the animal sacrifices for their own sake - He was wanting to wake them up to the concept of sin - that it's deadly! He wanted to see the result of sin - a precious, cute little lamb gets killed because of your sin - to curtail sin until He brought the Savior. Then Jesus provided opportunity for God to breath His Spirit back into us so that our own heart would awaken and tell us wrong from right, but since His people were at the time dead in their trespasses and sins, God gave them sacrifices to strike their thinking - to help them and keep them from going off the cliff in sin.

The same is true of finances. God has given us tithing to strike our thinking and remind us of something: "I am your provider! Trust me with this!" God knows that it is going to cause some trepidation for us to bring our best to Him, but He is saying "do it and see what happens!"

Tithing WORKS because God gets involved with it! Pure numbers, the math on it, doesn't work. Without God, tithing is impossible, "but with God ALL things are possible" Jesus said! This is how verses like Prov. 11:23 work: "*There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty.*" The next verse (v. 24) continues "*The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.*" How is it that there is one who scatters yet he increases? The world's concept is "get all you can, can all your get, and then sit on your can." That's the world's concept. God says give it away! The Word of God is clear: "getting all you can, canning all you get, and sitting on your can" will lead to poverty! This is a spiritual reality in the Kingdom of God. When you step into tithing and experience God move on your behalf then it becomes exciting! We get to see His real hand in our life!

When God radically turned my finances around (from a business that was going in debt hand-over-fist to an incredibly successful business in a matter of months) because I started tithing, my faith got ignited and it started affecting every area of my life! When you see you God's hand in your finances it awakens your heart to the reality of God and His desire to move in all areas of your life! That affects marriage, your ministry, your workplace, your home, and your business, etc.! It shows us "God is with me! I am not alone!" Operating in faith in the area of finances is a beautiful way to open the doors of faith in other areas of your life!

All that to say tithing is not a legalistic thing at all! It could not be further from that. It is a beautiful invitation from almighty God - to have Him participate in our life. To the tither, God says "I will bless you and I will protect you financially!"

### *New Testament Example of Tithing*

Some people say that there is no New Testament example of tithing. That said, the question of "where is the proof of tithing continuing in the New Covenant" is not really the right question. The

better question would be “where’s the proof of it ending.” It’s the same thing with the gifts of the spirit - that they “died out with the apostles.” I will ask cessationists (as our brothers and sisters with this belief are called) “where does it say that?” Their response will be that it is hard to bear out in the New Testament that anyone beyond the apostles operated in the gifts. That’s true. It’s there, but there are very little examples of it beyond the apostles. Although I can show them scripturally where the gifts continued beyond the original apostles, I usually instead ask them “since you are so emphatic that the gifts have ended, show me where it ended scripturally.” God gave the gifts to the church and they are flowing and then, at some arbitrary point they must have ended? Where does it say that? The same thing is true of the tithe. There is no place in the Bible that talks about the tithe ending. And, beyond that, Hebrews 7 makes it so clear that the tithe is on-going that it is undeniable that not only is the tithe NOT from the Law, but it is also very clearly a New Covenant, post-resurrection practice.

A little back drop to Hebrews chapter 7 . . . In Hebrews 5 and 6 Jesus is constantly compared to Melchizedek. The reason for that is that God was changing the priesthood - just as Melchizedek was not from the Levitical priesthood. Now we can pick up at Hebrews chapter 7:

*For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, **2** to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated “king of righteousness,” and then also king of Salem, meaning “king of peace,” **3** without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually. Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils. **5** And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren, though they have come from the loins of Abraham; **6** but he whose genealogy is not derived from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. **7** Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better. **8** Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives. **9** Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, **10** for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him. (Heb. 7:1-10)*

Melchizedek, a priest who was not from the priesthood of the Law - the Levitical priesthood, received tithes. This is yet another proof that tithing was not from the Law. Look more closely at verse 8: “Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.” Who is the “of who it is witnessed that he lives”? Who could that be talking about besides Jesus?!? Has anyone witnessed that Melchizedek died and came back and now we witness that he lives? No! End of argument - it is obvious who we are talking about! There are several scriptures in the New Testament that say something to the effect of “of who we have witnessed that He lives.” Those are talking about Jesus, as is verse 8 here. This section of scripture does talk about Melchizedek a lot - but it is always speaking in reference to him but he is not the subject of the text - the High Priest is!

The main point of all that the writer of Hebrews is communicating is made clear in Chapter 8:1 *“Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.”* This further shows who is “receiving tithes” in Hebrews 7:8. It is our new, once and for all, High Priest - Jesus! *“Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.”* Jesus is receiving our tithes! Tithing is still happening in the Kingdom of God! We can choose to participate or not participate!

In fact there is only one thing recorded that Melchizedek ever did - receive a tithe from Abraham and blessed Abraham! It's all about the tithe. Melchizedek received a tithe and then he blessed Abraham: “blessed be Abraham of God Most High!” He spoke it and then the power of blessing came upon him and he prospered greatly! Deut. 8:18 shows us the reality of the grace that God can release on as it relates to finances *“And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.”* God gives us power to get wealth!

So, *“we have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.”* (Heb. 8:1-2) The tabernacle of the Old Testament was a type and shadow of the true substance - Christ! The Old Testament had a tabernacle and a high priest, but Jesus is the real high priest to whom we bring tithes and He receives them!

*“For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer.”* (verse 3) Jesus needs something to offer to the Father from you! And what's the subject for the last 3 chapters? Tithe, tithe, tithe, tithe, tithe. He keeps saying “like Melchizedek” and what's the only thing we know Melchizedek ever did? He received a tithe and blessed Abraham! And we think that was a big deal . . . but how about if Jesus did that for us! Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. It is necessary that This One (Jesus) has something to offer!

Hebrews settles the matter. God is still receiving tithes. Jesus is the High Priest and He wants to receive your tithes so that He can give them to the Father and then turn and speak blessing over you and me!!!

### *When to Tithe*

So far we've talked about the what of the tithe, the where, and the “whose.” Now we are going to discuss the when and the how.

When do we tithe? The tithe is referred to as “the first.” It's the first 10th. Even though there is another offering called “the first fruits” it's not the tithe. The tithe is also referred to as “first.” So,

since the tithe is first, it cannot be “second.” It’s self explanatory: if the tithe is second or third, it is no longer first. So, there’s that.

This also helps us understand Gen. 4:2-5: *“Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.”* Unlike what many teach, God’s response to Cain’s offering was not because it was not a blood offering. Deut. 26 makes it clear that the “fruit of the ground” is fine for the tithe. Additionally, Cain was a farmer, so the “fruit of the ground” is what he had increase from and therefore was what he could tithe. So, why was Cain’s offering not respected by God? Cain’s offering was not respected because it was given in this manner: *“in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering ... to the Lord.”* Abel on the other hand also brought an offering, but brought the firstborn and “of their fat.” Abel gave God his first and his best.

So, when do we tithe? It should be our first and our best. It should not be “in the process of time” we eventually get around to it. Don’t slide into legalism about this, by the way. God is simply giving an invitation “do you want to do business with me? Let’s do this together! But for you to be lined up with Me, what I’m asking of you is for you to recognize that I’m your source; I’m it! Not the money. I’m your source. And the way that you show that is to put me first. Don’t put the IRS first, or your 401K first. Or your groceries or anything else. I’m first. When you’re \$1000 check comes in, don’t pay all of your bills and eventually get around to giving me what’s left. That’s not showing me that I’m your source.”

Again, this isn’t legalism, but we want to have a heart stance that says “Lord I want to honor you because I know that this all comes from you!” In our society, most employers take withheld taxes and health plan costs, etc. out before we can have our check but we can do whatever we can so that when we get our check (so far as it depends on us) the first part goes to Him! So, if you get paid on the 1st and the 15th, I would encourage you to tithe on the 1st and the 15th. Not the 4th or 5th or 6th or 7th. Instead, be quick and prompt in bringing your tithe to the Lord - to be more like Abel and not like Cain where you “eventually get around to it.”

### *How to Tithe*

In Deut. 26 we see what God told Moses to write down about “how” to tithe. There is a specific celebration (or ceremony) around the tithe that God wants you and I to get involved in every time we tithe. It is like communion - there is a ceremony around communion. There is likewise a ceremony around the tithe and Deut. 26 explains that ceremony. Now remember that the language of the Old Testament is a type-and-shadow of the New Testament. For example, the Passover that occurred in Egypt is a type and shadow of the true Passover Lamb that preserves us from the coming judgment. Throughout Deut. 26 “Egypt” is used and the Old Testament Egypt is indicative of “us before we knew Christ.” We were dead in sin - we were in bondage under the authority of Pharaoh

who was a type and shadow of the devil - who laid hard bondage on people. God took His people out of Egypt, through a wilderness, into a promised land. What's the promised land? It's liberty, it's light - it's being born again. Egypt is a type and shadow of us before we were born again and the promised land is representative of us stepping into the new life in Christ!

OK. Let's look at Deut. 26:1-3: *"And it shall be, when you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you possess it and dwell in it, **2** that you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and put it in a basket and go to the place where the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide. **3** And you shall go to the one who is priest in those days, and say to him, 'I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come to the country which the Lord swore to our fathers to give us.'* When you come into the promised land, when you have stepped into God's Kingdom, when you are born again, whenever you have increase, God wants us to take that increase and go to the place where the priest is, set it in a basket, give it the priest, and say these words. He tells us exactly what to say: *"I declare today to the Lord my God that I have come to the land which the Lord swore to my fathers to give to me."* We're saying "I'm born again! You've promised to bring me salvation and I'm there; I'm in it! I'm saved!" So, you put your tithe in the basket and make this declaration and the priest will go set it before the altar of God. *"Then the priest shall take the basket out of your hand and set it down before the altar of the Lord your God."* (verse 4)

When the priest places the basket before God, you are given something else to say *"And you shall answer and say before the Lord your God: 'My father was a Syrian, about to perish, and he went down to Egypt and dwelt there, few in number; and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. **6** But the Egyptians mistreated us, afflicted us, and laid hard bondage on us. **7** Then we cried out to the Lord God of our fathers, and the Lord heard our voice and looked on our affliction and our labor and our oppression. **8** So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. **9** He has brought us to this place and has given us this land, 'a land flowing with milk and honey'; **10** and now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land which you, O Lord, have given me."* (verses 5-10) It is like we are saying "We were dead in sins and trespasses and we cried out to You one day and you came and got us and you brought us into your Kingdom!" God tells His people that every time they bring a tithe to Him He wants them to rehearse all that He has done for them. He instructs us to tell the priest "I have come into the land that the Lord swore to me and here's what happened . . . "I was lost and undone and in bondage and I cried out to you and you delivered me and brought me into this promised land. I'm born again! I'm now in this land of blessing. Heaven is my future. I'm blessed!" It is at this point and on this basis that you say *"and now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land which you, O Lord, have given me."* (verse 10a)

*“Then you shall set it before the Lord your God, and worship before the Lord your God.”* (verse 10b)  
That’s what you are supposed to do with the tithe. You worship God with the tithe! You make this declaration and then you worship Him with the tithe!

*“So you shall rejoice in every good thing which the Lord your God has given to you and your house, you and the Levite and the stranger who is among you.”* (verse 11) So the first part of what how we tithe is we “remember.” Remember what? That we were delivered out of darkness and into His marvelous light. Out of bondage into liberty. From the power of satan into the power of God. (see Col. 1:13, Acts 26:18). After we remember our deliverance, we worship the Lord!

I get on my knees every time when I bring my tithe. I come to the Lord with my tithe and I call out to Jesus and I say “Jesus, my High Priest, I bring the holy tithe from my house.” And then I just lay it down and I say “I declare before the Lord my God that I have come into the country which the Lord swore to my fathers to give to me - a land flowing with milk and honey. Father I was lost and undone and in bondage to the enemy.” I begin to talk about my past on how on July 17, 1983 “I cried out to You and you moved in that little Assembly of God church in Millington, TN with the power of Your hand and an outstretched arm and with great terrors and sings and wonders You delivered me from the power of darkness and translated me into the Kingdom of your dear Son!” So I rehearse that history before the Lord.

Then I say “Now look Lord I am in this great land - this land flowing with milk and honey and behold I bring to you the first fruits of this land!” And then I just take whatever time I want to take to worship God for being the great God that He is!

Then I begin to rejoice for every good thing which the Lord my God has given me! I say “Father, I thank you for my house! I thank you that my house is paid for! (mine happens to be paid off). Thank you that I have 3 cars Lord and they are all paid for! I thank you that I have money in the bank Lord, that I have food in my fridge Father. Lord, I thank you for a soft bed and blankets every night to sleep in. Father, I thank you for Max, my cat. I thank you for my health. I thank you for my family that loves me and I love them!” I just start to rejoice for all the good things in my life. This is really healthy for us! That’s why God has us do it. Because it is healthy for us! It just keeps the road clear from the enemy coming in and sowing a bunch of garbage in our life. This causes us to be constantly reminded how great God has been in our life! So you rejoice!!!

*“Then you shall say before the Lord your God: ‘I have removed the holy tithe from my house, and also have given them to the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, according to all Your commandments which You have commanded me;’* (verse 13) When you bring it to the church, the church feeds the poor so that means that you have fed the poor. That’s what it is saying.

*“I have not transgressed Your commandments, nor have I forgotten them. I have not eaten any of it when in mourning, nor have I removed any of it for an unclean use, nor given any of it for the dead. I have obeyed the voice of the Lord my God, and have done according to all that You have commanded*



*me. Look down from Your holy habitation, from heaven, and bless Your people Israel and the land which You have given us, just as You swore to our fathers, "a land flowing with milk and honey."* (verses 13b-15) That last part I say "Look down from Your holy habitation, from heaven, and bless me Your son and the land which You have given to me - causing it to flow with milk and honey - just as You swore to my fathers that you would do!" God swore to Abraham that He would do this to all of Abraham's decedents. Jesus tells us in Galatians that if you are in Christ then you are Abraham's seed and therefore heir according to the promise. Since we are heirs we call on God and say "you said you would do this . . . bless me!" That's the 4th thing that we do - we call upon the blessing.

So, in summary, this is how we tithe:

1. We remember our deliverance
2. We worship God and not Mammon. Note that money often speaks and says "you know you could \_\_\_\_\_ with this money." It reminds us how we could fill our fridge or add to our bank account or purchase a new thing. Money tells us that it will make us happy, improve our relationships, and give us influence in the world. But that is a lie! Look at all the super-wealthy people that are often incredibly unhappy. One of the highest suicide rates in the world is amongst millionaires. I believe that is because when they "arrive" they have been believing that lie the whole time that money is the answer . . . and upon "arrival" they realize it didn't work so that now there is nothing left. We all, as long as we don't yet have the millions, retain hope and stay alive going after it. They get there, have all this money, realize it doesn't contain the answer and then they lose all hope. It's all a lie. Only God brings true happiness. Only God can truly bless a marriage. And that whole thing about influence - it's all about identity! Only God can give you true identity. Mammon promises to do all the things that only God can do. Every time we worship God with our tithe we take an ax to this weed called Mammon that is constantly trying to take root in our soul. The tithe is actually literally the ax that we take to the root of the spirit of Mammon! We say "I do not serve you, I serve God alone!" We say "no" to the voice of Mammon and "yes" to God!
3. We rejoice in all that He's given us
4. We call upon the blessing. In verse 16 it says "This day the Lord your God commands you to observe these statutes..." He's saying "Listen. I'm telling you to call upon me and command the blessing." God commands us to command Him to bless us. "God look down from Your holy habitation, from heaven, and bless me Your son and the land which You have given to me - causing it to flow with milk and honey - just as You swore to my fathers that you would do! Father, rebuke the devourer for my sake so that He will not destroy the fruit of my ground!" God says "you declare that; I will do it!" That's how we tithe.

So tithing is literally a ceremony. It takes a little bit longer to do than we might be used to. We can just go into Deut. 26 and get the gist of what He is saying to do . . . and then do it! We don't have to be perfect in it; it's a heart matter. Just go before God and worship Him with the tithe! Then when you take it to church you can "pluck it in the bucket." But we want to be spending this time with the Lord and tithing before the Lord! That's how you tithe. Amen!

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## Text Summary (for reading as a group)

When we understand the heart of tithing, we see that it is literally beautiful and exciting! That said, our mind may say “how can giving away 10% of my income possibly benefit me?!” 2 Cor 9:6 shows us the answer to this concern: *“But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”* How is that possible? The answer is in verse 8: *“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.”* That’s how it works! Grace makes it work! **“Grace is God’s willingness to use His power and His ability on our behalf.”** God says in Luke 6:38 *“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”* God uses the same type of measure that we use when He blesses us, but God’s measure is 100x bigger than ours! (see Mark 4) Whatever measure we use, God’s going to use - and He gives to us abundantly using that measure!

This is how tithing and giving works in the Kingdom. You cannot think outside the Kingdom of God about tithing because the minute you do, it becomes a weight and a burden. But when you think about tithing from within the Kingdom, it becomes a blessing! God is not requiring the tithe of man because He needs any of it! God has given us tithing to strike our thinking and remind us of something: “I am your provider! Trust me with this!” God knows that it is going to cause some trepidation for us to bring our best to Him, but He is saying “do it and see what happens!”

Tithing WORKS because God gets involved with it! Pure numbers, the math on it, doesn’t work. Without God, tithing is impossible, “but with God ALL things are possible” Jesus said! The world’s concept is “get all you can, can all your get, and then sit on your can” but that will lead to poverty! But to the tither, God says “I will bless you and I will protect you financially!”

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A little back drop to Hebrews 7:8 says *“Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.”* Who is the “of whom it is witnessed that he lives”? Who could that be talking about besides Jesus?!? Jesus is receiving our tithes! The tabernacle of the Old Testament was a type and shadow of the true substance - Christ! The Old Testament had a tabernacle and a high priest, but Jesus is the real high priest to whom we bring tithes and He receives them! *“For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer.”* (Heb. 8:3) Jesus needs something to offer to the Father from you! God is

still receiving tithes. Jesus is the High Priest and He wants to receive your tithes so that He can give them to the Father and then turn and speak blessing over you and me!!!

So, *when* do we tithe? It should be our first and our best. It should not be “in the process of time” we eventually get around to it. Again, this isn’t legalism, but we want to have a heart stance that says “Lord I want to honor you because I know that this all comes from you!” We want to be quick and prompt in bringing our tithe to the Lord - to be more like Abel and not like Cain where you “eventually get around to it.”

In Deut. 26 we see what God told Moses to write down about “how” to tithe. There is a specific celebration (or ceremony) around the tithe that God wants you and I to get involved in every time we tithe - similar to how there is a ceremony around communion. In summary, this is how we tithe:

1. We remember our deliverance. The first part of what how we tithe is we “remember.” Remember what? That we were delivered out of darkness and into His marvelous light! Out of bondage into liberty! From the power of Satan into the power of God! (see Col. 1:13, Acts 26:18).
2. We worship God and not Mammon. Money tells us that it will make us happy, improve our relationships, and give us influence in the world. But that is a lie! Only God brings true happiness. Only God can truly bless a marriage. And that whole thing about influence - it’s all about identity! Only God can give you true identity. Mammon promises to do all the things that only God can do. Every time we worship God with our tithe we take an ax to this weed called Mammon that is constantly trying to take root in our soul. The tithe is actually literally the ax that we take to the root of the spirit of Mammon!
3. We rejoice in all that He’s given us Then I begin to rejoice for every good thing which the Lord my God has given me! I say “Father, I thank you for my house and my cars. I thank you that I have money in the bank Lord, that I have food in my fridge Father. Lord, I thank you for a soft bed and blankets every night to sleep in. Father, I thank you for Max, my cat. I thank you for my health. I thank you for my family that loves me and I love them!” This is really healthy for us! That’s why God has us do it. Because it is healthy for us! It just keeps the road clear from the enemy coming in and sowing a bunch of garbage in our life. This causes us to be constantly reminded how great God has been in our life! So you rejoice!!
4. We call upon the blessing. In verse 16 it says “This day the Lord your God commands you to observe these statutes...” He’s saying “Listen. I’m telling you to call upon me and command the blessing.” God commands us to command Him to bless us. “God look down from Your holy habitation, from heaven, and bless me Your son and the land which You have given to me - causing it to flow with milk and honey - just as You swore to my fathers that you would do! Father, rebuke the devourer for my sake so that He will not destroy the fruit of my ground!” God says “you declare that; I will do it!” That’s how we tithe.

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## Points to Ponder . . .

- What scriptures describe the role of grace in tithing / giving. How does that change the dynamic of tithing?
- What scriptures in Hebrews 7 show us that tithing has continued in the New Covenant?
- Reflect on Hebrews 8:3. How does that scripture change your perspective about tithing?
- What can we learn about the “when of tithing” from the story of Cain and Abel’s offerings in Genesis 4?
- What is the first component of the “tithing ceremony” that is outlined for us in Deut. 26? What is something you can thank God for delivering you out of?
- In what ways does worshiping God with our tithe and rejoicing in all He has given us protect us from serving Mammon?
- What is the mindset we are to have about asking God to bless us as tithes according to Deut. 26:15-16?