

It is not hard to prove from the Scriptures that our Lord Jesus Christ gave tithes and offerings. The facts are plain.

**First:** Jesus declared He came to fulfil the Law and the Prophets.

**Matthew 5:17-18** "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. 18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

The Law of Moses teaches strict observance of the giving of the tithes and offerings. The prophets of the Lord, likewise, did the same. As one who cannot sin, who came not to destroy but to fulfil, Jesus strictly gave tithes and offerings.

**Second:** Jesus, at the age of 12 years, attended the Feast at Jerusalem. The family gave their Festival Tithe which they used for expenses while in God's place of worship.

**Luke 2:41-42** "Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast."

**Third:** Christ's enemies found no fault in Him of which they might accuse Him.

We read in **Luke 6:7** "And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the sabbath day; that they might find an accusation against him, that the Scribes and the Pharisees were watching Him closely all the time trying to find fault with Him." See also John 18:19

And in **Matthew 22:17-21** "Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? 18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? 19 Show me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. 20 And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? 21 They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."

What was Jesus saying but, "pay your taxes; pay your tithe".

**Fourth:** He personally taught and insisted that tithing was just as important as other moral laws.

Jesus in **Matthew 23:23** "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."

In other words, Christ said, You ought to tithe and at the same time observe the other matters of the law as judgment, mercy and faith.

In **John 10:27** Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, **and they follow me.**"

If we are to follow Jesus, that simply means that if He practiced the giving of the tithe, we must do the same.

**CHRISTIANS MUST FOLLOW JESUS**

## SHARING THE PROFITS WITH YOUR PARTNER

#5

**In Lesson #4, Step 3 we learned:** Make God your Partner.

**The 4<sup>th</sup>. STEP TO FINANCIAL PROSPERITY is to SHARE YOUR PROFITS (blessings) WITH GOD, YOUR PARTNER.**

In an equal partnership, how are the profits usually divided? 50/50, right? Of course we couldn't say our partnership with God is an equal partnership. God gives us the health and strength to work and brings the opportunities to us. He's the One who makes it all happen. He has a right to claim 99% of the profits.

As amazing as it sounds, God has always claimed only 10% of the profits, or a tithe. The tithe is 10% of your gross income (before taxes). That is all the money that comes to you from any source. Whether earned, or gifts from abroad, any inheritance, or goods received. If your hen lays 10 eggs, one of them belongs to God. Honesty is always important. God know what you get and what you give.

There are Christians who refuse to tithe by saying that it is only for the Jews and not for Christians; that it is only for those under the law and not for those under grace. A careful study of the Scriptures will show that tithing was practiced before the law, reiterated during the law, and adopted by the Christian church during the present age of grace.

### **A. TITHING BEFORE THE LAW.**

Long before God gave the law to Moses; Abraham, the Patriarch (father) of the Hebrew Nation, gave tithes of all to Melchizedek, King of Salem, who was also a priest.

**Genesis 14:20** "And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all."

Jacob, Abraham's grandson, vowed a vow to the Lord. He was running from his brother's wrath and needed God's protection and help. He said:

**Genesis 28:22** "And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee." He made this vow before God gave him anything.

Abraham and Jacob were both abundantly blessed by God.

**Gen. 13:2, 5, 6** "And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold. 5 And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents. 6 And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together."

**Genesis 30:43** "And the man (Jacob) increased exceedingly, and had

much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses."

## **B. TITHING DURING THE TIME UNDER THE LAW OF MOSES.**

The Children of Israel, according to the law, were required to give three tithes to the Lord:

**The first tithe** was for the Priests and the Levites, God's servants, who served in the temple day and night. God said: **Numbers 18:21**;

**2 Chronicles 31:5; Nehemiah 10:37; Numbers 18:21**

**The second tithe** was a yearly tithe of the harvest increase. It was designated for expenses during feast days. **Deuteronomy 14:22-23**

**The third tithe** was for the Poor and the Needy. It was given once every three years. **Deuteronomy 14:27-29**

This tithe was to be taken from their increase at the end of the third year. It was to be placed within their gates.

### **WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT THE PERSON WHO WILL NOT TITHE?**

In **Mal. 3:8-12** we read: "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. 9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. 10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. 11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts. 12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of God."

The curse comes because of disobedience. Disobedience always brings a curse (chastisement).

**Deut. 11:26-28** "Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; 27 A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: 28 And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God,..."

Let me share with you a true story which happened in one of my pastorates. Mr. & Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ were faithful members of our church but began to backslide. They became unfaithful in the church and would only come occasionally. Several months later they returned and were faithful like before. They told their story of what happened at a testimonial service .

They said: "We became cold and indifferent towards the things of God. We stopped our tithing and were not faithful to all the services of our church. During this period of time one of our three children became sick and

needed doctor and hospital care. (the curse-chastisement) During this sickness the Lord began to convict us of our backslidden ways. They said, "Pastor, the total of the bills, doctor, hospital and drugs, equaled the amount of our tithe which we did not give to God."

**REMEMBER THIS** - You are going to pay your tithe somewhere.  
Blessings only come when the tithe is given to the Lord.

The blessing or profit, which is the result of the joint-effort of God and the Christian, must be shared by both, as partners or co-labourers. God had already determined His share, that is, 10% of all. This is the condition which God imposes in the partnership. And the Christian who does less work, shares 90% of the blessings. If this is not done, God is robbed of what is His, and He said He is going to curse with a curse the Christian for robbing Him of what is rightly His share. (Malachi 3:11) To farmers, devourers destroy the fruits of their ground and the fruit of the vine falls in the field before it is ripe. Other forms of devourers may be the borrowers who refuse to pay back, thieves, pickpockets, swindlers, sickness, accident, etc.

### **MORE BLESSINGS:**

With the tenth given to Him, God promised the following blessings:

**1st.** God will change the curse, brought on by robbing God of His tithe, into a blessing.

**Malachi 3:10** "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse (God's true church), that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Perhaps He multiplies the tenth in heaven and gives it back to the tither. This means more blessings. If the tithe is not brought to Him, then there is nothing for Him to multiply in heaven for you.

**2nd.** God will give the farmer good weather.

**Malachi 3:11** "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts."

**3rd.** God will give peace and favor with other nations.

**Verse 12a** "And all nations shall call you blessed."

**4th.** God shall delight in the land and keep it safe and fruitful.

**Verse 12b** "For ye shall be a delightsome land,"

So we see that tithing was practiced from Abraham, through the time the law was in force, and up to the present day (the church age). Just a further note about Jesus and His practice of Tithing.