

## *Stewardship: Motives of the Heart*

### **Lesson #8 The Impact of Tithing**

#### **Memory Verse**    **Get Scriptures to read**

**1 Corinthians 9:13, 14 (NKJV)** “Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar? Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel”

#### **This is one of the most common Bible questions we get**

**2 Corinthians 13:5 (NKJV)** *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.*

It’s fashionable today to be against any kind of organizational religion. What is wrong with being specific in counting the percentage. If you have no system because you’re afraid of being legalistic you end up worshipping disorganization.

**Genesis 14:18–20 (NKJV)** *Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. <sup>19</sup> And he blessed him and said: “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; <sup>20</sup> And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” And he gave him a tithe of all.*

#### **Together We Fund the Mission**

**Mark 16:15 (NKJV)** *And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.*

**Matthew 28:19–20 (NKJV)** *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*

**\*Acts 1:8 (NKJV)** *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

**Malachi 3:10 (NKJV)** *Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house,...*

What does the phrase “that there may be food in my house” mean?

What does “the whole tithe” mean? **Quality, quantity, consistency.**

**Malachi 1:8 (NKJV)** *And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil?*

#### **New Testament Giving**

**Acts 4:32–37 (NKJV)** *Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. <sup>33</sup> And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, <sup>35</sup> and laid them at the apostles’ feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need. <sup>36</sup> And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, <sup>37</sup> having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.*

#### **The Blessings of God**

**Malachi 3:10 (NKJV)** *... 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. Billy Graham said, “We have found in our own home, as have thousands of others, that God’s blessing upon the nine-tenths, when we tithe, helps it to go farther than ten-tenths without His blessing.”*

**1 Peter 3:8–9 (NKJV)** *Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; <sup>9</sup> not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.*

**1 Timothy 6:18–19** *Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.*

**Mark 10:21 (NKJV)** *Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.”*

**\*2 Corinthians 8:9 (NKJV)** *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.*

**Luke 6:38 (NKJV)** *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.”*

**Deuteronomy 28:1–6 (NKJV)** “Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. <sup>2</sup> And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God: <sup>3</sup> “Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. <sup>4</sup> “Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. <sup>5</sup> “Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. <sup>6</sup> “Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

**\*Acts 20:35 (NKJV)** I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*’ ”

**Jeremiah 17:7 (NKJV)** “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, And whose hope is the Lord.”

“The special system of tithing was founded upon a principle which is as enduring as the law of God. This system of tithing was a blessing to the Jews, else God would not have given it them. So also will it be a blessing to those who carry it out to the end of time. Our heavenly Father did not originate the plan of systematic benevolence to enrich Himself, but to be a great blessing to man. He saw that this system of beneficence was just what man needed.”—E.G. White Testimonies, vol. 3, pp. 404, 405.

### Purpose of the Tithe

**1 Timothy 5:18 (NKJV)** For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer is worthy of his wages.”

**Deuteronomy 25:4 (NKJV)** “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.

**Luke 10:7 (NKJV)** *And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not go from house to house.*

**1 Corinthians 9:14 (NKJV)** Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.

### The Storehouse

**Nehemiah 10:39 (NKJV)** For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the grain, of the new wine and the oil, to the storerooms where the articles of the sanctuary are, where the priests

who minister and the gatekeepers and the singers are; and we will not neglect the house of our God.

**2 Chronicles 31:4–10 (NKJV)** Moreover he commanded the people who dwelt in Jerusalem to contribute support for the priests and the Levites, that they might devote themselves to the Law of the Lord. <sup>5</sup> As soon as the commandment was circulated, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of grain and wine, oil and honey, and of all the produce of the field; and they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything. <sup>6</sup> And the children of Israel and Judah, who dwelt in the cities of Judah, brought the tithe of oxen and sheep; also the tithe of holy things which were consecrated to the Lord their God they laid in heaps. <sup>7</sup> In the third month they began laying them in heaps, and they finished in the seventh month. <sup>8</sup> And when Hezekiah and the leaders came and saw the heaps, they blessed the Lord and His people Israel. <sup>9</sup> Then Hezekiah questioned the priests and the Levites concerning the heaps. <sup>10</sup> And Azariah the chief priest, from the house of Zadok, answered him and said, “Since the people began to bring the offerings into the house of the Lord, we have had enough to eat and have plenty left, for the Lord has blessed His people; and what is left is this great abundance.”

### Tithe and Salvation by Faith

“So it is with God’s claims upon us. He places His treasures in the hands of men, but requires that one tenth shall be faithfully laid aside for His work. He requires this portion to be placed in His treasury. It is to be rendered to Him as His own; it is sacred and is to be used for sacred purposes, for the support of those who carry the message of salvation to all parts of the world. He reserves this portion, that means may ever be flowing into His treasure house and that the light of truth may be carried to those who are nigh and those who are afar off. By faithfully obeying this requirement we acknowledge that all belongs to God.”—Ellen G. White, Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 386.

## Tithing Outline

### I. God Owns All

When we recognize that God owns everything and all blessings come from Him, our role as managers, or stewards, becomes evident. We also see the multitude of blessings for which we can be thankful.

Therefore, money is not our possession; it is God's possession. We are merely stewards, or managers. He allots different amounts to us, based on His plan and purpose for our lives, and we will be held accountable for the way we manage allotments distributed to us.

### II. One Should Have A Right Attitude Towards Tithing.

1. 2 Cor 9:6-8; 1 Tim. 6:10; Matthew 6:24; Acts 20:35.
2. We demonstrate who is first in our life by our TITHING.
  - A. The tithe is the FIRST TENTH of our income. Not what is left over (Proverbs 3:9-10).
  - B. Tithing is a demonstration of worship. It shows who is first in our lives (Gen. 14:18-20; 28:20-22; 32:9-10).

### III. Responsibility And Blessings Of Tithing

1. The tithe belongs SOLELY TO GOD
  - A. Lev. 27:30, 32; Heb. 7:4-8; Matt. 23:23.
  - B. Some say that the New Testament does not teach tithing. That is not true. Jesus lives after the order of Melchizedek. When we set aside our first tenth unto Jesus, we prove His High Priesthood as Abraham. If we are children of Abraham and walk in his steps then we must handle our money the way he did.
2. Wonderful blessings result from tithing (Malachi 3:7-12).
  - A. Everything we have belongs to God. All that He asks is that we return a tenth of it. This is not for His benefit but for ours.
  - B. The Storehouse: The place where one receives his or her spiritual food (Numbers 18:21, 24; Gal. 6:6; 1 Tim. 5:18; 1 Cor. 9:7-14).

### IV. Responsibilities Concerning The Offering

1. The OFFERING goes beyond our tithe (Deut 12:6).
  - A. We do not OFFER tithes to God because it is already His (Lev. 27:30), The tithe is ten percent of your income. Anything beyond that is an offering.
2. Giving is by FAITH and can be sacrificial (2 Cor. 9:12-13).
  - A. Some say that they cannot afford to give. Actually you cannot afford NOT to give (Luke 6:38; Mark 12:42-44; 1 Kings 17:13-14).

### V. Giving to God is investing in the Kingdom of God

1. Matt. 6:19-21; Luke 16:11.
  - A. Right giving insures that God will provide for us here on earth, but we are also laying up treasures in heaven in proportion to what we give on earth.
  - B. Many will be disappointed when they come before Jesus and see the results of their stinginess on earth (1 Cor. 3:12-15).

**CONCLUSION:** Tithing is important to both you and God. It is important to God because He wants to bless you and it is important to you because you desire to be blessed. Give God all that He is due and He will open for you the windows of heaven!

### Quotes On Tithe By Ellen White

"God's plan in the tithing system is beautiful in its simplicity and equality. All may take hold of it in faith and courage, for it is divine in its origin. In it are combined simplicity and utility, and it does not require depth of learning to understand and execute it. All may feel that they can act a part in carrying forward the precious work of salvation. Every man, woman, and youth may become a treasurer for the Lord, and may be an agent to meet the demands upon the treasury" (*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 73).

"Great objects are accomplished by this system. If one and all would accept it, each would be made a vigilant and faithful treasurer for God, and there would be no want of means with which to carry forward the great work of sounding the last message of warning to the world. The treasury will be full if all adopt this system, and the contributors will not be left the poorer. Through every investment made they will become more wedded to the cause of present truth. They will be 'laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life'" (*Testimonies*, vol. 3, p. 389).

"Acts of generosity and benevolence were designed by God to keep the hearts of the children of men tender and sympathetic and to encourage in them an interest and affection for one another in imitation of the Master, who for our sakes became poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich. The law of tithing was founded upon an enduring principle and was designed to be a blessing to man" (*Reflecting Christ*, p. 270).