

Faithful Stewardship of Our Money: Our Giving

Selected Scriptures

I. Giving in the Old Testament.

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A. Giving the Firstfruits to God.

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Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce (Prov.3:9)

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (2 Cor.9:8)

B. Giving a Tithe (10%) to God.

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1. Tithing first appears in the Bible as a voluntary, spontaneous expression of worship, gratitude, or commitment to God.

And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.
(Gen.14:20b)

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*This Melchizedek was king of Salem and
priest of God Most High. He met Abraham
returning from the defeat of the kings and
blessed him, and Abraham gave him a tenth
of everything (Heb.7:1-2).*

And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you.” (Gen.28:22b)

2. Tithing appears next in the Bible as required giving under the Law.

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Leviticus 27:30-33

Numbers 18:21-32

Deuteronomy 14:22-29.

II. Giving in the New Testament

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1. Willful/Voluntary Giving

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion. . . . (2Cor.9:7)

2. Cheerful Giving

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3. Regular Giving

On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up. . . . (1 Cor. 16:2)

4. Proportionate Giving

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5. Generous Giving

For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord (2 Cor. 8:3).

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III. Giving Today

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Hebrews 8-10 give the most detailed explanation for why Christians are no longer obligated to obey the OT Law.

Jesus taught that murder is more than the act of taking a person's life. It begins with anger in our heart and insults on our tongue.

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.

(Mt.5:21-22)

Jesus taught that adultery was more than a physical act. The sin of adultery begins with a lustful look and desire:

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Mt.5:27-28)

“Although the tithe is not mentioned, the giving of weekly offerings is (1Cor.16:2). And more importantly, it is generally the case that in the New Testament the obligations of the Old Testament legislation are heightened rather than lessened. . . .

“So while we are not required to give a specific tenth of our income, it is hard to think of a normal Christian, blessed with the fullness of the gospel of Jesus Christ doing less. Under reasonable circumstances any true believer in Christ should give more than the tenth, for all we have is the Lord’s.”

- James Boice

Randy Alcorn compares tithing to training wheels on a bicycle. Training wheels help you learn to ride. But once you learn to ride, you take off the training wheels.

He says that when we really learn to give, tithing won't even be an issue. It will be merely the beginning point of our giving.

“My conclusion about how much we should give is that the New Testament does not specify any certain amount such as 10 percent, but a tithe certainly seems like a wise guideline, at least when someone is beginning to give to the Lord’s work. [It is] a level of giving that is significant and yet not excessively burdensome for people.

- Wayne Grudem

For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. (2 Cor.8:3-5)