

## **UNDERSTANDING TITHING AND GIVING FROM OLD TESTAMENT TO NEW TESTAMENT**

In the past the church stressed giving 10% tithe to support the church and its ministries. But as we move into a new understanding of tithing and giving the church is explaining tithing in a new way where it is not just paying a 10% tithe but that our giving reflects on our relationship with God and our faithfulness to His word and service to others and putting God first. We need to understand what tithing is and how it changed in the New Testament and how it is being explained today. We also need to understand that giving is an important part of our lives as a child of God and it reflects our character and love for God and others.

### **Tithing:**

#### **Old Testament**

The word tithe means tenth and in the Old Testament the people of Israel were required to give 10% to God as an offering for which included crops, livestock, and money. The offering supported the temple and the priest. By giving the people were blessed for their faithfulness and service to God.

#### **New Testament**

In the New Testament Jesus does not give a direct command on tithing but Jesus stresses generosity, stewardship, and giving. The New Testament stresses the people of God to give cheerfully and sacrificially not as just a requirement of the law. Jesus wants us to give out of love and faithfulness.

Importance of tithing is it reflects:

- (1) obedience and trust by each of us giving back to God a portion of what we have as a token of our love.
  
- (2) tithing reflects supporting the church's ministry and outreach which means financial support for the church, its ministries, the Pastor, and community outreach.
  
- (3) Tithing reflects blessings and gratitude which means we give back letting God know we are thankful for all He is doing for us.

## **Tithing moves to Giving:**

Tithing moves from just being a command to giving which requires us to do it from our hearts and our giving shows what type of love we have for God as well as the type of relationship we have with God.

## **Giving:**

Giving is a basic principle in God's word, and we need to understand the importance of giving and how it impacts our lives. Giving in the Bible goes beyond just giving money to the church. It is an expression of love, compassion, and gratitude towards God and others. Through being a loving giver, we can bring about spiritual growth and strengthen relationships and help people lead a more fulfilling life with purpose.

## **What does giving mean in the Bible?**

Giving is rooted in love and compassion, so God wants us to give from the heart and not because we are required to. Giving involves sharing our time, our talents, our money but more importantly ourselves. Giving encourages us to give sacrificially which means we go beyond our comfort zone. Giving challenges us not to hoard material things but to share what we have and be content with what God gives us. Giving reflects our relationship with God and gives us a chance to influence and impact others and show them the love of God.

## **Giving builds the church**

Giving to the work and ministry of the church is a fundamental principle. As we give, we become part of something bigger than ourselves, and contributing to the church helps spread the word of God. Giving is a sign of trust in God to provide for the church and his people. Giving is a spiritual act of worship that connects us to the body of Jesus and keeps us in tune with God's plan and purpose.

## **What are the 5 benefits of giving**

### **1. Purpose:**

Giving gives us a sense of purpose and fulfillment. When we give unselfishly, we give more because we see we are making a positive impact on others and our community.

### **2. The heart grows**

When we give our loving spirit causes our heart to grow and show compassion for God and others. We do this by giving freely of our time, talents, and money. We also develop a mindset of abundance. This helps us to reflect the character of Jesus.

### **3. Builds Trust**

Giving builds and strengthens relationships. When we give to others, we show our care and concern for them. As we sow the seeds of freely giving we will reap a harvest of support and help in our time of need.

### **4. Financial Wisdom**

Our giving and tithing promote financial wisdom and stewardship. When we freely give we learn that material things should not be our focus. We should focus on investing in eternal treasures and become better stewards of what God gives us.

### **5. Sowing and Reaping**

Giving causes sowing and reaping in our lives. When we freely give, we are planting seeds and will reap a harvest in return. This is not always a financial gain, but a harvest of blessings, favor, and spiritual growth.