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GIVING

Guidebook



WHAT THIS GUIDEBOOK IS

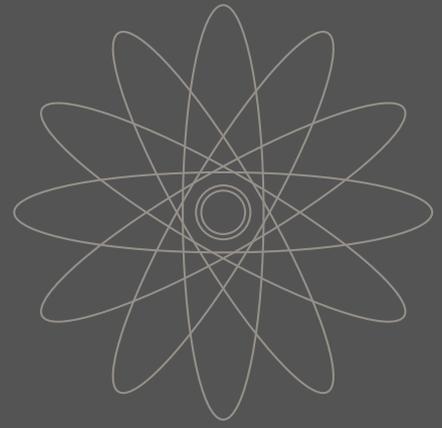
The subjects of giving, **generosity**, tithing, and the application of Old Testament instructions to New Testament believers are massive subjects. Over 2,300 portions of scripture and hundreds of books have been written on these topics. This guide is to simply to give you some solid biblical principles and verses to consider as you live the life of a New Testament giver and cultivate a life of **generosity**. It also clearly explains what we believe as a church on this subject here at Freedom.

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hello@freedombossier.com

What is a tithe?



The word tithe means “one-tenth.” In the Bible, God instructs all believers to bring a minimum of one-tenth of our income back to Him. Anything above and beyond 10 percent is considered an offering. Proverbs 3:9 tells us, *“Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase.”*

Tithing is an act of obedience that testifies to God’s ownership over your income and finances—that He is first in your life and that you trust Him as the provider of your finances. And when we honor God by giving Him our tithes, He blesses and protects us.

Critics of tithing often assert that the Old Testament's directive was solely on the agricultural yield, suggesting that monetary giving or expecting believers to tithe money deviates from biblical standards. However, considering the actions of Abraham and Jacob, both offered money and “everything” they were blessed with to God, setting early precedents for broader interpretations of tithing. By examining the broader biblical narrative rather than solely the Mosaic law, the coherent conclusion, and our stance is this: Offering the first and finest of all we receive is an act of faith relevant for all, as descendants of Abraham through Christ.

What you need to know

The foundation and essence of the Christian life is to follow Jesus with all that we are and hold nothing back. To be a disciple means that our financial lives will be inseparably connected to our worship. To be a lover of God is to be a giver; to be filled with the Spirit is to be filled with the very essence of our generous God. In other words, when we get saved our wallets must be converted as well!



- **Spiritual Habit**

- **Obedience**

- **Good Stewardship**

Tithing is the practical and consistent way that we put God first in our lives and develop healthy spiritual habits. If I say, "Jesus You are my Lord and God; You are first in my life," and then put Him last in my budget, that's a contradiction that cannot be justified in light of scripture.

Tithing & **generosity** holds a pivotal place in the Christian journey, much like other tenets of faith and practice. It's not merely a financial act but a profound declaration of trust in God's provision and sovereignty. Just as prayer, worship, and service are crucial in nurturing our relationship with God, tithing serves as a tangible expression of our stewardship, acknowledging Him as the source of all blessings. Consistent tithing, therefore, aligns our priorities with God's, fostering a heart that values Kingdom over materialism.

HOW TO BEGIN

* Start With Faith *



Giving or Tithing begins with a measure of faith because it is an act of trust, placing God first in your financial priorities, even when resources may seem limited. This commitment reflects a believer's confidence in God's promises of provision and blessings, transcending our monetary circumstances.



* Give A Percent *

Beginning with even a modest percentage for giving, rather than the full 10%, sets a foundation of prioritizing God in your financial decisions and cultivates a heart of **generosity**. This initial step, though smaller, fosters a habit of giving and paves the way for growing faith and trust in God's provision.

* Be Consistent *



Consistency in giving, especially when first starting, reinforces your commitment to placing God at the center of your financial decisions and nurtures a habitual mindset of faith and **generosity**. Regular giving also supports the church's ongoing needs and ministries, showcasing the tangible impact of a givers dedication.



*** Begin To Increase ***

Starting with a smaller percentage and gradually increasing your giving allows for a measured approach to reach the full 10% tithe, making your commitment more manageable & sustainable. By setting incremental goals & adjusting as one becomes more financially confident and spiritually led, the journey to a full tithe becomes a transformative experience of deepening faith and trust in God's provision.

*** Don't Give Up ***



When embarking on the journey of giving, it's essential to remain steadfast, even when faced with financial challenges or personal hardships. Surrendering to the temptation to quit during these times can hinder the growth of one's faith and trust in God's promises, but persevering can lead to profound spiritual insights and unexpected blessings.



*** Share Your Story ***

Once someone begins to give faithfully, they often witness God's work in remarkable ways, providing them with powerful testimonies and miraculous stories. Sharing these personal experiences not only encourages and inspires others to embark on their own journey of faith-filled giving but also testifies to God's unyielding faithfulness and provision.



Scriptures on Tithing & Giving

- **Malachi 3:10**

"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, 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."

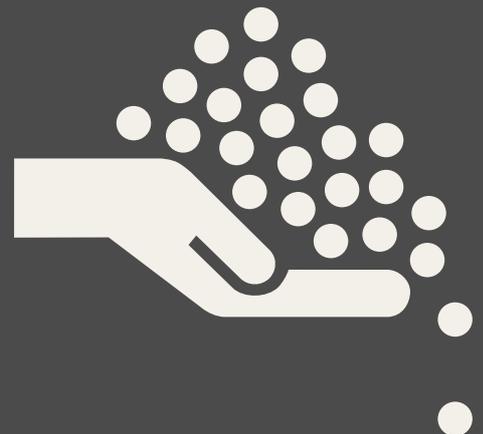


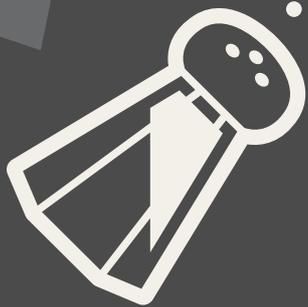
- **2 Corinthians 9:6-7**

"But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

- **2 Chronicles 31:5**

"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."





• 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."

• Proverbs 11:24-25

"There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself."

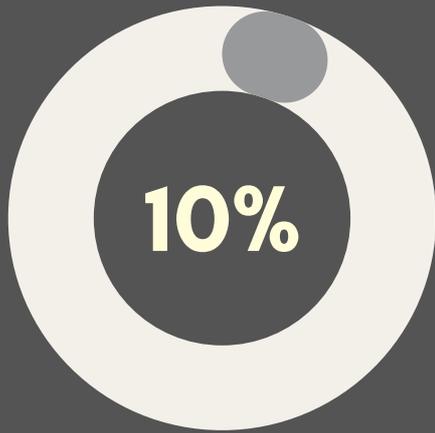


• Matthew 23:23

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone."



What God Does With Your Tithe



Ten % ●●●●

When we give 10% to God, it's about faith & obedience more than the amount. In the Bible, God often multiplies modest offerings for significant impact, like the loaves and fishes. Given in faith, our financial gift can further His kingdom, bless others, and show God's faithfulness and generosity.



Ninety % ●●●●

After we dedicate our first 10% to the Lord, God can miraculously work with the remaining 90%. Entrusting Him with our resources, He can guide our decisions, bless our endeavors, and stretch the 90% in ways that reflect His provision and abundance.



One Hundred % ●●●●

Trusting God with 100% of our money reaffirms that everything belongs to Him and we're merely stewards. This trust deepens our relationship with Him, aligns our priorities with His kingdom, and liberates us from materialism, fostering wisdom and a spirit of **generosity**. This faith invites His blessings and peace into our financial lives.

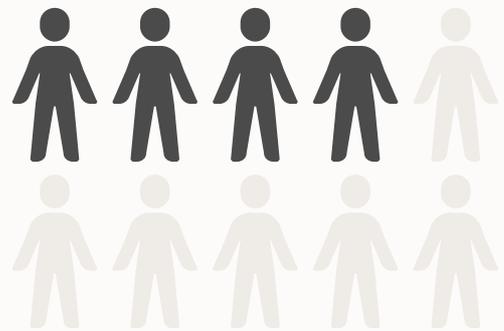
GIVING STATISTICS

This page presents an overview of nationwide church giving patterns & trends, illustrated with comprehensive statistics

10%

The national average of people who give to their local church is currently 10% of church-attending Christians.

Out of every 10 individuals attending church, 4 contribute no financial support to their local congregation, underscoring a significant gap in stewardship and participation.



OTHER KEY FINDINGS

- 43% of Christians say they know what the term “tithe” means.
- 65% of practicing Christians have directly experienced generosity.
- Regular givers make up just 20% of all donors - yet they contribute 80% of all dollars and cents.
- In America in 2023, 17% of families reduced the total annual amount they give to their local church.
- The average American household spends \$3,008 per year on dining out but gives less than 1% of that amount to their church.
- Christians in 2023, on average, give 2.5% of their income, which is less than how much they have given in past years.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

01

What is the tithe used for?

The core idea of tithing is prioritizing God by dedicating the initial portion of our earnings to Him. Rather than dictating the church's use of the tithe, we present it as an offering and obedience to the Lord. Both in New Testament times and today, the local church manages the tithe to support the church's functions and those serving God's congregation.

02

When should I tithe?

The tithe should be the initial portion of your income. While in the US, taxes and other expenses are deducted automatically, what matters is prioritizing the tithe from the income you receive. God values the intent of your heart, so setting aside for tithing from your gross income, even post-deductions, aligns with the principle of giving Him the first portion.

03

Does giving your time count as a biblical tithe?

The biblical concept of tithing is deeply rooted in the text of giving one-tenth of one's income or produce as a sign of gratitude and acknowledgment of God's providence. While serving in church and dedicating personal time are essential expressions of faith and contribute immensely to the community, they occupy a different space in our spiritual life than financial giving. Acts of service, though deeply commendable and integral to the fabric of church life, doesn't substitute the specific biblical directive of tithing financially. When we tithe monetarily, we actively demonstrate trust in God's provision and recognize Him as the source of all our blessings.

04

Why can't I give my tithe to whomever I want? Does it have to go to the church?

The tithe, as outlined in the Bible, is a commitment to support your local church, ensuring its mission thrives and the community's spiritual needs are met. Choosing to redirect this foundational offering elsewhere diminishes its intended impact and strays from the clear biblical directive to prioritize the church in our financial stewardship. If you're moved to give beyond your 10%, directing those funds elsewhere would be considered an offering. This additional act of **generosity** is commendable and amplifies the spirit of giving outlined in Scripture.

05

Is tithing in the New Testament?

Tithing is a consistent biblical principle, evident before, during, and after the law. Abraham and Jacob tithed centuries before its legal mandate by Moses, while Jesus, symbolizing the "First fruits", emphasized its importance in both Matthew 23:23 and Luke 11:42. Grace transformed our approach to tithing without altering the act itself. The New Testament emphasizes giving the first 10% of your income willingly and out of love for God, rather than reluctantly (2 Corinthians 9:7).

06

What if I'm having financial problems and I don't think I can afford to give?

In times of financial challenges, it's crucial to remember that God is our ultimate source, and our role is to manage responsibly what He entrusts to us, even if it's minimal. God's capacity to fulfill our needs surpasses our wildest imaginations, but He won't favor those who manage poorly. During these challenging times, there might be a need to deepen your understanding of stewardship. Trust that through His Holy Spirit, God can lead you to the right resolution for every financial dilemma you encounter.

07

Where can I learn more about tithing?

For a deeper understanding of tithing from renowned spiritual leaders, explore resources by Robert Morris, Dr. R.T. Kendall, and Randy Alcorn on the next page. Their insights offer valuable perspectives on the biblical principles of giving and stewardship.





Resources



◆ — ***"Money, Possessions & Eternity"*** — ◆

Randy Alcorn presents a biblical, comprehensive view of money & possessions, including the Who wants to settle for fleeting treasures on earth . . . when God offers everlasting treasures in heaven? In this thoroughly researched classic, Alcorn shows us how to view these things accurately—as God’s provision for our good, the good of others, and his glory.

◆ — ***"The Blessed Life"*** — ◆

Our culture is saturated with false teaching on what it means to be blessed, but what does the Bible say about it? How can we truly live blessed lives? With humor, passion, and clarity, pastor and bestselling author **Robert Morris** presents the secrets of living a blessed life both financially and spiritually. He shows that when God changes your heart from selfishness to generosity, every part of your life-journey is affected.

◆ — ***"Tithing" by Dr. R.T. Kendall*** — ◆

Tithing is sometimes regarded as threatening, but it is intended to be challenging and inspiring, even thrilling. And, ultimately, it’s a blessing extended to all believers. Kendall believes that all Christians are called to tithe. He is convinced that the church would be revitalized and the world transformed if all Christians did begin to tithe faithfully.



In Conclusion



Our hope and desire is for everyone who considers Freedom Church their church home to embrace and exercise true biblical **generosity**. We wish for each person to grasp and practice this spiritual discipline, recognizing God by offering their first and finest, and consistently experiencing His blessings.

At Freedom Church, we invite you to join a vibrant community where giving is a joyful expression of faith and commitment. We passionately pursue our vision, are dedicated to the great commission, and nurture spiritual growth in every member. Currently, a remarkable 20% of our beloved church family embraces the spirit of New Testament giving, fueling impactful ministry work. Their heartfelt and generous giving empowers us to serve our community, enrich kid & youth programs, support our dedicated pastors and staff, and create a space that radiates God's glory. This culture of giving is deeply rooted in God's vision for community and ministry. We are thrilled to continue encouraging each member of Freedom Church to experience the abundant blessings that come from living a life of **generosity**.



Thank You

Contact Us

-  (318) 599-1818
-  hello@freedombossier.com
-  freedombossier.com
-  2225 Airline Dr, 71111

Thank you for your eagerness to understand true biblical **generosity** and witnessing God's blessings as you place your faith in Him. Your dedication is a testament to the Freedom Church family.

