

Monday **Spiritual Growth – Tithing**

No one really likes to talk about tithing, and no one really likes to hear about it either. It is, however, a basic Bible teaching and a necessary step to spiritual growth. Where did it all begin? Let's review the basis for tithing.

1. Read Genesis 14:8-20 – Many kings from the surrounding areas and cities formed a treaty and attacked Sodom and Gomorrah. According to verses 11-12, what did the armies take from Sodom and Gomorrah?
2. According to verse 14, what did Abraham do when he heard what had happened?
3. What two men met Abraham when he got back from battle? Who were they?
4. Read Hebrews 7:1-4 – Most people believe that Melchisedec was an Old Testament appearance of Jesus Christ. What evidence is there for that teaching from these verses?
5. According to verse 4, what did Abraham do for this man Melchisedec?
6. Abraham gave Melchisedec 10% of all he gained in the spoils of the battle with the enemy. What does that teach us about tithing today?
7. If Abraham tithed to God, should we tithe also?

Tithing is giving 10% back to God of all that He has given us. Further Bible teachings reinforce tithing, but Abraham set an example for us. Give back God of all He gives you.

Tuesday **Spiritual Growth – Tithing**

Abraham set the tithing precedent for us, but that's not all the Bible teaches about tithing. There are many principles that govern how we should give and the consequences of how and how much you give.

1. Read II Corinthians 9:6 – Paul gave a very simple but profound farming principle in this verse. What is it?
2. How does that principle of sowing and reaping either sparingly or bountifully apply to the subject of tithing?
3. From a human standpoint, it doesn't make sense to say that the more money you give away, the more you will reap later. It does, however, make a lot of sense in God's point of view. How?
4. Read Luke 21:1-4 – Jesus taught a couple very important principles in this short encounter in the Temple. Who gave a larger amount: the rich men or the widow woman?
5. Who was praised for their offering: the rich men who gave much or the poor widow who gave very little?
6. Why?
7. There are two lessons to be learned from this story. First, it is a sacrifice to give. The rich men gave out of what they had left over. The widow had nothing left over. She sacrificed, and Christ was pleased with her gift. Second, the size of the gift isn't important. What is?

Give to God. You won't be disappointed that you did!

Wednesday
Spiritual Growth – Tithing

There are many Biblical principles that give us more understanding about giving and how to give properly. Yesterday, we studied three; today, we will look at two more.

1. Read Malachi 3:8-10 – The whole book of Malachi is a list of all the sins of Israel, the consequences for them, how to fix them, and the benefits of fixing them. What sin is mentioned in this passage?
2. To what did God equate robbing Him?
3. According to verse 9, what was the consequence for not tithing properly?
4. According to this passage, is tithing a matter of obedience to God?
5. Read Matthew 6:1-4 – How did Jesus tell the people not to do their alms or give their money in the Temple?
6. What would happen if you gave in order to be seen?
7. Apparently, this was a problem. Many people did it. What did they receive as their reward?
8. What point was Jesus making in verse 3?
9. Giving is a personal matter. It is not to be done to gain the attention of anyone else. According to verse 10, what promise comes with a heart of humility?

Tithing is a personal matter. You don't need to tell anyone else how much you give. At its core it is a matter of obedience. Don't rob God; give Him what He requires!

Thursday
Spiritual Growth – Tithing

From a budgeting standpoint, it doesn't make much sense to give away 10% of everything you earn, but God's commands are always for His glory and our good. There are benefits of being obedient and tithing to God.

1. Read Proverbs 3:9-10 – What does God tell us to do with our material increase in verse 9?
2. What promise or benefit is given to us in verse 10?
3. God will be faithful to us and meet every need we have when we are faithful to Him. Read Malachi 3:10 – God told the people to test Him. What did He tell them to do?
4. What did He say that He would do?
5. Read Luke 6:38 – What four phrases did Jesus use to describe the blessing of giving to Him?
6. You can't outgive God. For as much as you give to Him, He will give more in return. Will He necessarily reward you with more money?
7. Read Philippians 4:15-16 – What was the benefit of the Philippians' giving?
8. Sometimes it seems like our little gift won't do much good. Read John 6:9-11 – How much good did a little boy's lunch do for the people there?

There are great blessings associated with giving to God. When you do, He will take care of you, bless you in ways you can't imagine, and do more with that money than you ever could!

Friday
Spiritual Growth – Tithing

There are many principles to help us give properly, and there are many benefits to us and others when we do give properly. Above all other things, God is concerned about your heart as you give. The blessing is even greater when your heart is right!

1. Read II Corinthians 8:1-5 – Paul wanted the Corinthian church to know the great generosity of the churches of Macedonia. According to verse 1, what was it that allowed them to be so generous?
2. According to verse 2, did the Macedonian people have great wealth to give away?
3. What motivated them to be so generous in their giving?
4. They were motivated by love for Paul, for Christ, and the cause of Christ. In verse 4 Paul told that the Macedonians basically begged Paul and his team to take the money they sent him. Why did they want him to have it so badly?
5. According to verse 5, before they ever gave one penny, what did the Macedonians give?
6. To whom did the Macedonians give themselves?
7. What does it mean to give yourself to God?
8. What does it mean to give yourself to someone else in this context?

When you give, God wants to see a heart love. We give because we love God and His work. He also looks for a heart that is surrendered to Him to do His work.

Saturday
Spiritual Growth – Tithing

There are many principles to help us give properly, and there are many benefits to us and others when we do give properly. Above all other things, God is concerned about your heart as you give. The blessing is even greater when your heart is right!

1. Read II Corinthians 8:10-15 – According to verse 11, what comes first before giving happens?
2. According to verse 12, what kind of mind should a person have before he gives anything to the Lord?
3. According to verse 11, what should logically follow a readiness and willingness to give?
4. Willingness and action are two entirely different things, but a willing mind is certainly important. Read II Corinthians 9:7 – To whom does this verse apply?
5. If a person decides to give something or a certain amount, what should he do?
6. In what two ways did Paul say that people should not give?
7. What kind of giver does God love?
8. How would you feel at Christmas if your parents set a bunch of presents in front of you and said, “We really didn’t want to give these to you, we don’t think you deserve them, but we feel like we have to give them to you?”
9. How do you think God would feel if we gave to Him in the same way?

The heart of our giving is much more important than the amount of our giving. Give cheerfully because you love God and His work!

Sunday Spiritual Growth – Tithing

All the talk about giving might make you wonder what's in it for you. It seems like the benefits are mostly for others. What will you get out of it? Is there any tangible or lasting benefit for me?

1. Read Matthew 6:19-21 – Where did Jesus tell us not to lay up our treasures?
2. What two things can happen to our treasures if they are invested here on earth?
3. According to verse 20, where did Jesus tell us we should lay up our treasures?
4. What two things will never happen to our treasures if they are invested in Heaven?
5. According to verse 21, where did Jesus say our heart will be?
6. There are many resources that we could invest in eternity. What are some ways that we could invest specifically our money in eternal things?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
7. We won't spend eternity here on earth. Does it make sense to invest everything here?
8. Why does it make much more sense to invest it in Heavenly things?

Investments in eternity will be yours to enjoy for eternity!