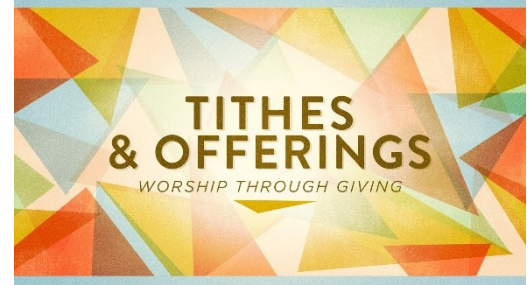


# Tithing and Offerings

## Acts 4:32-36



- \* Many Christians struggle with the issue of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- \* Tithing and giving is intended to be a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_.
- \* Tithing is an \_\_\_\_\_ Testament concept. The tithe (tenth) was a requirement of the Law in which the Israelites were to give 10 percent of the crops they grew and the livestock they raised to the tabernacle/temple (Lev. 27:30; Num. 18:26; Deut. 14:24; 2 Chron. 31:5).
- \* After the death of Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_ the Law, the \_\_\_\_\_ Testament nowhere commands, or even recommends, that Christians submit to a legalistic tithe system. The New Testament nowhere designates a percentage of income a person should set aside, but only says gifts should be “in keeping with income” (1 Cor. 16:2).
- \* Some in the church have taken the 10 percent figure from the Old Testament tithe and applied it as a “\_\_\_\_\_” for Christians in their giving.
- \* The New Testament talks about the importance and \_\_\_\_\_ of giving. We are to give as we are \_\_\_\_\_. Sometimes that means giving \_\_\_\_\_ than 10 percent; sometimes that may mean giving \_\_\_\_\_. It all depends on the ability of the Christian and the needs of the body of Christ.
- \* Every Christian should diligently \_\_\_\_\_ and seek God’s wisdom in the matter of participating in tithing and/or how much to give (James 1:5). Above all, all tithes and offerings should be given with pure \_\_\_\_\_ and an attitude of worship to God and service to the body of Christ (2 Cor. 9:7).
- \* We can learn to be a cheerful giver by studying the greatest giver this world has ever known: \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus Himself told us, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).
- \* This principle is unfailingly clear—we cannot \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ our gracious Creator. In fact, the only place in the Bible where God invites Israel to \_\_\_\_\_ Him is (Mal. 3:10) where He is talking about their offerings to Him.
- \* Our return may not be \_\_\_\_\_ blessings, as Israel was promised, but the principle of God’s reward still stands. The words of Solomon echo this (Prov. 11:24–25).
- \* As Paul stated, “God loves a \_\_\_\_\_ giver” (2 Cor. 9:7). Cheerful giving, therefore, should be a way of life for the Christian who understands the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. When

we give generously and with a \_\_\_\_\_ heart, God assures us He will watch over us and provide for us (Isa. 58:9; Ps. 41:1-3; Prov. 22:9; 2 Cor. 9:8, 11).

\* And we need to remember that it's not just our \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ that we are to cheerfully give back to God. As King David pointed out, everything we have is from God (1 Chron. 29:14), and this includes our \_\_\_\_\_ and our \_\_\_\_\_ as well.

\* For God so loved the world that He \_\_\_\_\_. We would do well to remember that we are \_\_\_\_\_ because our God so generously gave (John 3:16). As His children, we are called to be "the light of the world" (Matt. 5:14).