

# The Grace of Giving

*Abound in this grace also*

2 Corinthians 8:7

## LESSON 1 - A SURVEY OF GIVING IN THE BIBLE

Material and financial giving to the Lord has always been a response to grace and an act of grace.

### OLD TESTAMENT BIBLICAL GIVING

#### 1. Sacrifices

- Leviticus 1-6, 16 – 5 kinds of offerings
- For sin, worship and devotion, thanks for forgiveness

#### 2. Tithes

- The Meaning of Tithe 10%
- The Purpose of Tithes
  - The Levites Tithe (Leviticus 27:30-33; Numbers 18:21-32) – To support the men and their families who serve in the temple
  - The Festival Tithe (Deuteronomy 12:16-18) – To rejoice together in God's provision
  - The Poor Tithe (Deuteronomy 14:28-29) – 10% every 3 years – To provide for temple workers and for the poor
    - \*These three tithes were required, much like our state and federal taxes. The Jewish people under the Old Testament gave, not just 10%, but 23% of their income per year, plus voluntary offerings (see Freewill Offerings below).
- The Place for Tithing (Deuteronomy 12:1-14) – The place designated by God for worship
- The Spirit of Tithing
  - Joyful worship (Deuteronomy 12:12)
  - Compassionate help (Deuteronomy 14:29)

#### 3. Freewill Offerings

- Voluntary worship, devotion, and thanks (Leviticus 22:17-33)
- Contributions for tabernacle/temple construction (Exodus 35; 1 Chronicles 29)

#### 4. Problems

- The inferior quality of one's offering is a symptom of low esteem for God. (Malachi 1:6-9)
- Offerings do not compensate for disobedience. (Malachi 2:13-15)
- Refusing to give is theft from God. (Malachi 3:7-12)

There are important lessons for New Testament believers to learn from the Old Testament. We see that the worship of God includes material and financial giving that is voluntary, joyful, generous, and sincere-hearted. But the New Testament completes the picture of what biblical giving looks like in the lives of Christians and in the church.

## **NEW TESTAMENT BIBLICAL GIVING**

### **1. Jesus Highlighted Giving**

- A prerequisite for giving: the condition of your life
  - Relationships with others (Matthew 5:23-24)
  - Relationship with God (Mark 12:28-34)
- The measure of giving: generosity (Mark 12:41-44)
- The objective in giving: investing in souls for eternity (Luke 16:9)

### **2. Jesus Exposed Giving**

- Hypocritical Giving (Luke 11:42; Matthew 23:23)  
Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for tithing seeds but not practicing mercy, judgment, faith, justice, and the love of God. Giving 10% doesn't make up for an ungodly heart or life.
- Self-righteous Giving (Luke 18:9-14)  
This parable illustrates the contrast between self-righteousness and humility. Congratulating yourself for tithing/giving is evidence of pride.

There are four passages in the New Testament that talk about tithing (giving 10%). We just looked at everything the Bible records that Jesus said about tithing in Luke 11:42 (which is the same as Matthew 23:23) and Luke 18:12. Jesus said a lot about giving, but very little about tithing. The other New Testament passage that mentions tithing is Hebrews 7:1-10. This passage is referring to the Old Testament character Melchizedek, a priest to whom Abraham gave a tithe of the spoils of battle. The point of this passage is to illustrate that, as Melchizedek was a greater priest than the others, Jesus is the greatest priest of all.

### **3. The Church Practiced Giving**

- Freewill generosity (Acts 2:40-47)
- Responding to needs (Acts 2:45)
- Giving through the church (Acts 4:32-37)
- Confronting hypocrisy and pride (Acts 5:1-11)
- Voluntary giving according to ability (Acts 11:27-30)
- Administration by the church leadership (Acts 11:30)

### **4. The Apostles Gave Instructions on Giving**