

Our Financial  
Commitment to Christ  
&

## The 6 Myths of Giving

*"During the early years of my spiritual journey a major issue keeping me from deepening my relationship with Christ was not offering my financial tithe to His Kingdom.*

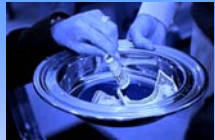
*It was the decision to begin tithing, giving 10% of our family income to the congregation to which we belonged, that brought freedom in ways I never thought possible."*



*Included in this pamphlet are insightful words from our Pastor, Jim Wood, and his experiences and growth in giving of his resources to Christ Jesus through the Church.*



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**W**hat I realized about tithing and have had confirmed in incremental giving above the tithe in recent years has been the correction to 6 myths to which I clung in rejecting God's challenge:

### Myth #1

**The tithe isn't a clear challenge in the Bible; it's simply another ploy of an institution to cover its bills.**

#### REALITY:

A tithe, 10% of yearly income set aside for sacred purposes, is clearly a Biblical mandate found not in one or two obscure passages but throughout the Old Testament. This offering, while used for the temple, or in our times the church, is not primarily an offering to "keep things running." Instead, in Genesis both Abram's offering of a tenth of everything he had in Genesis 14:20, and Jacob's tithe in Genesis 28:22 (among the very first tithers) were simply ways to honor and offer thanksgiving to God for all that He had given them.

*Gen. 14:20; Gen. 28:22; Deut. 14:22; Numbers 18:21-32; 1 Samuel 8:15, 17; 2 Chronicles 31:5, 6, 12; Lev. 27:30-33*

### Myth #2

**In the New Testament, Jesus never mentions a tithe; therefore, the tithe no longer applies to Christians.**

#### REALITY:

This is a more subtle myth I developed for myself after I admitted that the tithe was in the Bible. It is true that Jesus never explicitly mentioned a tithe; after reading the New Testament, however, I realized this didn't mean that Jesus wasn't concerned about what I did with my money. **Jesus didn't mention the tithe (10%) because he wanted so much more - in fact, He wanted everything (100%)!** He gave his life for me and wants my life in return - every aspect of it. His words, "*Where your treasure is there your heart will be also,*" (Matt. 6:21) leap out at me as asking so much more than a legally required tenth of my income. **He wants me to order all of my financial life to honor Him - giving a tenth is the least I can do in response to His great love.**

### Myth #3

**I want to tithe but it isn't the right time for me financially.**

#### REALITY:

The timing to tithe, i.e. getting our finances in order, never comes. Waiting to get things straightened out financially was a true "cop out" for me. **The truth is that making the commitment to offer a Biblical tithe is the most important step to getting our house in order** and placing our financial resources in their proper setting.

*Gen. 28:22; Lev. 27:30-33; Numbers 18:21-32; Proverbs 11:24-26; Deut. 14:22-26; Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:9*

### Myth #4

**I can make my tithe through time and volunteerism.**

#### REALITY:

Thinking that the amount of energy I spent in church activities and volunteering in other areas was a substitute for tithing was another cop-out. **The truth is that God's mandate for tithing is never substituted for other contributions of time and energy.**

*Lev. 27:30-33; Numbers 18:21-32; Proverbs 3:9-10*

### Myth #5

**The tithe consists of all my "good causes."**

#### REALITY:

Trying to rationalize that my gifts to needy family, friends, other civic organizations was a part of my financial contribution to Christ's Kingdom (as a component of tithing) was another myth. **The Biblical tithe is to be offered to the family of faith in which I am connected for the purposes of serving His Kingdom.**

*Lev. 27:30-33; Neh. 10:37-38, 12:44*

### Myth #6

**The church talks about money too much.**

#### REALITY:

The last myth was the temptation to get angry every time the church talked about money. The reality for me was that I got angry because in **hearing the message of a Biblical tithe and incremental giving I knew it was true** and I wasn't meeting its challenge in my life.

*Deut. 8:11-20; Matt. 6:24; Luke 16:9*

