

## **IS TITHING STILL RELEVANT?**

This is a popular question. It is interesting to find out why the question is being asked. But it needs to be remembered that this is part of our discipleship journey. (Info from Christian Stewardship Network Forum)

### **WHAT IS THE TITHE?**

Means 10% of something.

*Lev 27:30-32*

One tenth and it belongs to the Lord. It is one tenth of what the Lord has given to us. It's 10% of our income – the best not what is left over. In Old Testament times it was mainly animals but they were pure animals, not blemished ones. God gets our first and best not what is left over and given without a thought.

*2 Chronicles 31:5,6*

People being generous and joyful.

*Proverbs 3:9,10*

First & best crops. Not knowing what you anything left or not. As God increases you give a tithe on that amount. It is not unusual for people to never change their giving amount for many years even though their income has increased over that time.

### **IS IT RELEVANT TODAY?**

A good example is Matthew 25 where we read of the Parable of the Talents. This scripture passage lays out a framework. God is the Master and He is allowing us to manage what we have.

When we truly grasp the fact that God owns 100% and asking us to return 10% our attitude changes. We no longer see what we have as ours. We no longer view the remaining 90% as ours. IT ALL COMES FROM AND BELONGS TO GOD.

When you consider that, what is your response to God?

*Deuteronomy 8:18* is to teach us to put God first. Even our ability to earn comes from God. I have a responsibility to manage it well.

Tithing is for everyone today because it helps us to grow spiritually.

We can tend to forget in our abundance where what we have comes from. It's not my wealth. This is a way to remember it belongs to God. The Israelites used to forget that too.

## **WHERE SHOULD IT GO?**

*Deuteronomy 12:5,6* – to the House of God. It is wherever the Lord chooses to put His name. Where they meet with God. Today it is the Church.

You are no doubt familiar with *Malachi 3:10* – the Storehouse is God's House. Where God puts His name. Where we come together corporately.

## **IF I GIVE 10%, CAN I DECIDE WHERE IT GOES?**

It actually isn't mine to decide and I have to relinquish it and in faith give to God. *Leviticus 27:30* reminds us that it is God's and I don't decide where it goes.

**OFFERINGS** are different to the tithe and comes out of the 90%. This is where generosity comes into it. It is giving over and above the tithe. For those in The Salvation Army this would be giving to Self Denial, Red Shield Appeal, supporting children overseas to name a few.

It all comes down to the fact that it isn't mine in the first place.

Sometimes people say they don't give to their church because they don't agree with how it is spent or they say they don't trust the corps leaders. This is another point because it has nothing to do with whether we should tithe or not.

If there is such a lack of trust, then that needs to be addressed. It may need to be discussed. It may be that the only outcome is to leave and find another church. That's something personal and you need to decide what you will do. But don't use it as an excuse to not give and to not trust God.

The Storehouse needs to be doing a good thing and if not, God won't honour them.

The tithe doesn't really go to the church. It goes to the Lord and He gives it to the church to use and steward well.

It's between you and the Lord. What is God saying to you? If God is prompting you what to give and where, then it's best to be obedient and not disobey God. But ultimately the decision is yours. *Proverbs 3:5-6 assures us to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."*