

Do you know anything about tithing?

ChatGPT

Yes, I can provide information about tithing. Tithing is a practice of giving a portion of one's income or resources, typically 10%, to a religious organization or charity. It has historical and religious significance in various cultures and religions, most notably in Christianity and Judaism.

In Christianity, tithing is often based on passages from the Bible, particularly the Old Testament. The Book of Leviticus and the Book of Malachi in the Old Testament mention the concept of tithing. Many Christian denominations encourage their members to tithe, and it is often considered a form of stewardship, where individuals contribute to support the church and its various ministries.

In Judaism, tithing is also an ancient practice. The Torah prescribes several tithes, including Ma'aser Rishon (the first tithe), Ma'aser Sheni (the second tithe), and Ma'aser Ani (the poor tithe). These tithes were used to support the Levites, the Temple, and those in need.

Tithing can vary in its application and interpretation across different religious traditions and denominations. Some people tithe by giving a fixed percentage of their income, while others may tithe by donating a portion of their time or other resources. Tithing is often seen as a way to support religious institutions, charitable causes, and the less fortunate, as well as a means of expressing gratitude for one's blessings.

It's important to note that not everyone practices tithing, and it is a matter of personal belief and religious affiliation. Some individuals and religious groups may have different approaches to giving and financial stewardship.

WC

Is tithing an instruction from God?

ChatGPT

The concept of tithing is often associated with religious teachings and is considered an instruction or commandment from God in certain religious traditions. It is explicitly mentioned in the Bible, particularly in the Old Testament, as a practice that God commanded the Israelites to follow.

In the Old Testament, tithing is mentioned in several books, including Leviticus, Numbers, and Malachi. For example, in the Book of Leviticus 27:30 (NIV), it states: "A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord." Similarly, in the Book of Malachi 3:10 (NIV), it is written: "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.'"

In Christianity, many denominations view tithing as a way to follow these biblical teachings and honor God's instruction to give a portion of one's income or resources to support the church and its ministries. Tithing is often seen as an act of faith, obedience, and stewardship.

It's important to note that the interpretation and practice of tithing can vary among different Christian denominations and religious traditions. While some consider tithing to be a

commandment from God, others may have more flexible interpretations of these biblical passages or different beliefs about financial giving. Tithing is not universally practiced or interpreted in the same way by all Christians or religious groups.

WC

What about in the New Testament?

ChatGPT

Tithing is not as explicitly emphasized in the New Testament of the Christian Bible as it is in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, the teachings of Jesus and the early Christian church emphasize principles of generosity, giving, and helping those in need, but they do not necessarily prescribe a strict 10% tithe as a requirement. Instead, the New Testament encourages believers to give with a cheerful heart and out of a sense of love and compassion.

Here are a few key points from the New Testament related to giving and financial support:

1. **Generosity and Cheerful Giving:** In 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV), it is written, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." This verse emphasizes the voluntary and cheerful nature of giving.
2. **Supporting the Church and Ministers:** In 1 Corinthians 9:14 (NIV), it is mentioned that "the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel." This suggests that it is appropriate for believers to support those who minister in the church.
3. **Meeting the Needs of Others:** The New Testament places a strong emphasis on helping the poor, widows, orphans, and those in need. Verses like James 1:27 encourage Christians to care for the less fortunate.

While tithing as a specific practice isn't as clearly mandated in the New Testament, many Christians still choose to give a portion of their income or resources to support their local church and charitable causes. The New Testament encourages a spirit of generosity and love in giving rather than a fixed percentage.

It's important to note that the interpretation and practice of financial giving can vary among Christian denominations, and some may emphasize tithing more than others. Ultimately, the approach to giving in the New Testament is often seen as more about the heart and attitude of the giver rather than a specific percentage or legalistic requirement.

WC

I refer to no.1 = not reluctantly or under compulsion. If the church asks us to tithe, does it mean it is under compulsion? I believe the congregation will feel it is under compulsion. What do you think?

ChatGPT

You've made an important point regarding the principle mentioned in 2 Corinthians 9:7, which encourages cheerful and voluntary giving rather than giving under compulsion. This principle reflects the New Testament's emphasis on giving with a willing and joyful heart.

When a church or religious organization asks its members to tithe, it should ideally do so in a way that respects this principle. The goal should be to encourage voluntary and cheerful giving rather

than making individuals feel compelled or obligated to give. However, how different churches and denominations communicate and practice tithing can vary.

In some churches, the practice of tithing is presented as a commandment from God, which can create a sense of obligation. Congregants may feel pressured or compelled to give a specific percentage of their income. In such cases, it's important for church leaders to be mindful of how they convey the message of tithing to ensure that it aligns with the New Testament's principle of cheerful and voluntary giving.

Ultimately, it's up to individual members of a congregation to prayerfully consider their giving and decide how to support their church and charitable causes. If someone feels uncomfortable or under compulsion to tithe, it may be beneficial to have open and respectful communication with church leadership about their concerns or to explore alternative ways to contribute to the community and support charitable work. Some churches also have programs for financial counseling or assistance for those facing financial difficulties, which can be a compassionate way to address the needs of the congregation.

WC

Do you know what Jesus said about tithing?

ChatGPT

In the New Testament of the Bible, Jesus does mention tithing on a few occasions, but his teachings on the subject differ from the more detailed instructions found in the Old Testament. Jesus emphasizes the broader principles of justice, mercy, and faithfulness, which should guide a person's relationship with God and others.

One of the key passages where Jesus addresses the issue of tithing is found in the Gospel of Matthew:

Matthew 23:23 (NIV): "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill, and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy, and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former."

In this passage, Jesus criticizes the religious leaders of his time for their strict adherence to tithing even on small items while neglecting more significant aspects of God's law, such as justice, mercy, and faithfulness. He does not condemn tithing but emphasizes the importance of these broader moral and ethical principles.

Jesus' teachings suggest that tithing, while not discouraged, should not be seen as the primary measure of one's righteousness or faithfulness. Instead, he encourages his followers to focus on living justly, showing mercy, and being faithful in their relationship with God and others.

Overall, Jesus' teachings on tithing reflect a more profound concern for the heart and attitudes of individuals in their relationship with God and their fellow human beings, rather than simply adhering to a rigid percentage-based giving system.

WC

Ultimately, it's up to individual members of a congregation to prayerfully consider their giving and decide how to support their church and charitable causes and not feel uncomfortable or under compulsion to tithe. Right?

ChatGPT

Yes, that's a valid perspective. Ultimately, the decision on how to give and support one's church and charitable causes should be a matter of personal reflection and prayer for individual members of a congregation. It's important for individuals to feel comfortable in their giving and not feel compelled or under duress.

The principles of cheerful and voluntary giving, as emphasized in the New Testament, encourage individuals to give from the heart, out of a sense of love, compassion, and willingness, rather than feeling forced or obligated. Everyone's financial situation is unique, and people may choose to support their church and charitable causes in various ways, whether through traditional tithing, regular donations, volunteer work, or other means.

Open and respectful communication with church leadership can be helpful in addressing concerns or questions about giving practices. Many churches also have alternative ways to support those who may be facing financial difficulties or to accommodate diverse giving preferences within the congregation.

In the end, the spirit of generosity and a sincere desire to support the church's mission and help those in need should be at the forefront of one's giving, and this can take various forms that align with an individual's beliefs and circumstances.

Tithing – Discussion

1

Is Jesus saying we have to pay tithe in Matthew 23:23?

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.”

Matthew 23:23

NKJV - ²³ Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

[Clarify](#) • [Share](#) • Report • Asked August 15 2018 •  [Lawrie Yinka](#)

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14★

 **Tim Maas** Retired Quality Assurance Specialist with the U.S. Army
In my opinion, the central point that Jesus is making in this passage (as He did on other occasions) is not regarding the requirement to tithe, but the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees in their meticulous observance of even the most minute outward, observable actions required by the Law, while they neglected the more important inward matters of the heart and mind addressed by the Law, through a deliberate failure to possess and exercise such attributes as justice, mercy, faith, and love in their attitudes and actions toward others.

The requirement to tithe was part of the Law that was nailed to the cross with Jesus ([Colossians 2:14](#)). Its purpose (in addition to acknowledging God) had been to provide sustenance for the priestly tribe of Levi (which had no land allotment of its own, and which was to be dedicated to full-time service to God and to the religious life of Israel); funds for the annual religious observances or feasts required by the Law; charity for Israel's poor; and maintenance of the tabernacle and (later) the temple.

Christian giving should now be motivated by gratitude to God for all the grace (undeserved mercy) and love that He has shown us through the

salvation that He has made possible through faith in Christ, rather than in obedience to a command. The New Testament does not mandate a specific percentage or amount. Christians can regard the tithe (10%) as a guideline for that giving, but it is no longer a requirement, as it was under the Law.

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9★

 **Rich Hazeltine**

You can easily research new testament tithing on the web. Paul had many opportunities to teach the church to tithe. I believe he purposely avoided this subject because he knew it to be a pathway back to the temple worship system. New Testament believers are supposed to be Spirit led not under law.

When preachers teach their congregations to tithe they wrongly put them under bondage, in my opinion. Our modern day church buildings and top down leadership can often look an awful lot like the Old system that Jesus said was no more.

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3★

 **Shirley H** Wife, mother, veteran in the spiritual war we all face!

This verse is also repeated in [Luke 11:42, 43](#). The next verse Jesus says, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like graves which are not seen, and the men walk all over them and are not aware of them."

The Pharisees were concerned about the tradition of tithing even down to the smallest thing such as an herb or a spice. [Leviticus 27:30](#), "And all the tithe of the land, whether of seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's. It is Holy to the Lord."

However, they neglected the law of Moses. See [Numbers 18:21-32](#), And [Deuteronomy 14:22-29](#).

They also skipped the teaching of the prophets. [Micah 6:8](#), "He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you

but to do justly, to love MERCY, and to walk humbly with your God." This is true worship.

[Zechariah 7:8-10](#), "The Word of the Lord came to Zechariah, saying, "Thus says the Lord of hosts: execute TRUE justice show MERCY and compassion everyone to his brother. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart against his brother."

They were so busy about the traditional law that they were blind to the big picture. It's all about love, MERCY! Jesus whole life was love MERCY and grace.

[Matthew 23:25-29](#), Jesus said woe, you cleanse the outside of the cup, but the inside is full of yourself...you are blind... you are like whitewashed tombs...you appear Beautiful, but...you are full of dead bones! You appear righteous, but are full of hypocrisy!

1Samuel 16:7, "But the Lord said to Samuel, Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as a man sees; for a man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

2 [Corinthians 8:12](#), or if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have."

2 [Corinthians 9:7](#), So let each of us give as he purposes in his heart, Not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver."

[Luke 21:1-3](#), "And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all..."

God knows each of our minds and hearts. He wants our love, and whatever we do it is to be because we love and honor Him.

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2★



Tamara Weerasinghe

As I understand from the scriptures, there are 3 distinctive Tithes in the OT.

1. Tithe for the Levites serving in the Temple in Jerusalem ([Lev 27:30](#), [Num 18:21, 24](#)), given annually.
2. Tithe, set aside also annually, to be consumed by the Tither and his family before the Lord in Jerusalem ([Deut 14:22-26](#)).
3. Tithe set aside at the end of every 3rd year for the Levites, aliens, orphans and widows in own town, ([Deut 14:27-29](#)).

Additionally, they had to bring offerings for various festivals, occasions, sins, etc.

Now with Christ's sacrifice on the cross, NT Christians have no more mandatory offerings or tithes. So it really seems a shame if we continue to give only 10% to God. Especially, as we would most probably be paying a higher percentage as government taxes.

While there's no 'compulsion' to give in NT ([2 Cor 9:7](#)) let us aim higher, 30% at least!

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1★



Andrew Osakue Ex: Chief T. Officer, Fish Farmer, Bible Teacher, Men Leader

I believe our Lord Jesus Christ addressed two issues here: The issue of paying tithes and showing mercy, as well as being just and faithful. Reading between the lines and focusing on the last sentence, it is my take that he did not condemn or annul tithing. "These you ought to have done without leaving the other undone." That last statement to me means that we can pay tithes but where are the Levites to receive them. I also think that paying of tithe is an act of faith and worship which God accepts and honors. It is part of the law nailed to the cross alright as stated by Tim, but those who practice it, of which I am one, are showing faith in God as the source of their earnings. God rewards faith.

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1★

 **Lawrie Yinka**

Dear Andrew, I respect your act of faith in tithing. But which of the three types of tithing rightly identified by Tamara are you paying?

- “ 1. Tithe for the Levites serving in the Temple in Jerusalem ([Lev 27:30](#), [Num 18:21](#), [24](#)), given annually.
2. Tithe, set aside also annually, to be consumed by the Tither and his family before the Lord in Jerusalem ([Deut 14:22-26](#)).
3. Tithe set aside at the end of every 3rd year for the Levites, aliens, orphans and widows in own town, ([Deut 14:27-29](#))”
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1. [Discuss \(1\)](#)

For follow-up discussion and general commentary on the topic.
Comments are sorted chronologically.

 **Randy Miller**

Interesting! In my study of the tithe I came to the same conclusion as you! In my study, however, it came down to rightly dividing the Word. The bible is divided into the Old and the New Testament, but not exactly in the correct place, if you use the correct definition of "testament". You see, a "Testament" doesn't end until the "testator" dies! In this case, Jesus Christ is the testator, and as long as He was alive He was living under all the laws of the old testament. Therefore, it wasn't until His resurrection that the New Testament actually began! Now, I'm not saying that there is no reason to give, but it's no longer a law!

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Note: New Testament is under the grace.

Source:

<https://ebible.com/questions/19561-is-jesus-saying-we-have-to-pay-tithe-in-matthew-23-23>

<https://ebible.com/questions/19561-is-jesus-saying-we-have-to-pay-tithe-in-matthew-23-23/discuss>