

Giving to God, Compared to Tithing

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” – Jesus, Acts 20:35

Does God need our giving? “As base a thing as money often is, yet it can be transmuted into everlasting treasure. It can be converted into food for the hungry and clothing for the poor. It can keep a missionary actively winning lost men to the light of the gospel and thus transmute itself into heavenly values. **Any temporal possession can be turned into everlasting wealth.** Whatever is given to Christ is immediately touched with immortality.” - A.W. Tozer

Psalm 50:7-14 ⁷“Hear, O My people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you; I am God, your God. ⁸“I do not reprove you for your sacrifices, And your burnt offerings are continually before Me. ⁹“I shall take no young bull out of your house Nor male goats out of your folds. ¹⁰“For every beast of the forest is Mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. ¹¹“I know every bird of the mountains, And everything that moves in the field is Mine. ¹²“If I were hungry I would not tell you, For the world is Mine, and all it contains. ¹³“Shall I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of male goats? ¹⁴“Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving And pay your vows to the Most High;

Why does God command us to give? What was tithing meant to do in the lives of the people?

Deuteronomy 14:22-23 ²²“You shall surely tithe all the produce from what you sow, which comes out of the field every year. ²³You shall eat in the presence of the LORD your God, at the place where He chooses to establish His name, the tithes of your grain, your new wine, your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and your flock, so that you may learn to fear the LORD your God

Deuteronomy 14:28-29 ²⁸“At the end of every third year you shall bring out all the tithes of your produce in that year, and shall deposit it in your town. ²⁹The Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance among you, and the alien, the orphan and the widow who are in your town, shall come and eat and be satisfied, in order that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.

We know that God doesn't need money – why is He so angry with the people in Malachi 3? And what does this tell us about how important our giving is?

Malachi 3:8 – Are we robbing from God when we don't give?

Examples of men who tithed. Could I replace the word “tithes” in these verses with “giving” and still be in the same standing with God as these men?

Matthew 23:23-26 ²³“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! **For you tithes** mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. ²⁴You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! ²⁵“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. ²⁶You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also.

Luke 18:9-14 ⁹And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: ¹⁰“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Mark 10:22 – **Have you ever been sad once you heard what you must do?** ²²But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property.

In context of these verses, what was at stake for the rich young ruler? Was it a salvation issue? What are the implications for us in giving compared to tithing?

Giving that is commanded/commended – GOD TAKES NOTE OF WHAT AND HOW WE GIVE.

GENUINE, UNFIEGNEED LOVE TOWARD OTHERS

1 Peter 5:14 ¹⁴ Greet one another with a kiss of love. To all of you who are in Christ, may there be peace.

GIVING OUT OF POVERTY OR OUT OF ABUNDANCE

Luke 21:1-4 Looking up, He saw the rich people putting their gifts into the treasury. ² And He saw a poor widow putting in two small copper coins. ³ He said, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow has put in [proportionally] more than all *of them*; ⁴ for they all put in gifts from their abundance; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

LIKE THE HAIRS ON MY HEAD, GOD NOTICES WHEN I GIVE IN LITTLE WAYS

Matthew 10:40-42 ⁴⁰ “He who receives *and* welcomes you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. ⁴¹ He who receives *and* welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and he who receives a righteous (honorable) man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man’s reward. ⁴² And whoever gives to one of these little ones [these who are humble in rank or influence] even a cup of cold water to drink because he is my disciple, truly I say to you, he will not lose his reward.”

The attitude & way that God gives. What if God were a tither instead of a giver?

Luke 12:31-33 ³¹ But [strive for and actively] seek His kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. ³² Do not be afraid *and* anxious, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ “Sell your possessions (show compassion) and give [donations] to the poor. Provide money belts for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing *and* inexhaustible treasure in the heavens, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

Romans 8:32 ³² He who did not spare [even] His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?

James 1:5 ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom [to guide him through a decision or circumstance], he is to ask of [our benevolent] God, who gives to everyone generously and without rebuke or blame, and it will be given to him.

Do you think it is more Christlike to give to God in service, in money, in sacrifice to the building of the church and expect something in return or to do all our giving expecting nothing in return? Would I serve God with joy if I did so expecting nothing in return?

Luke 6:31-36 ³¹ Treat others the same way you want them to treat you. ³² If you love those who love you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is *that* to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same *amount*. ³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil *men*. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

A church learning to give like God. - 2 Corinthians 8-9

8:1-4 – Who were these people?

8:5 – The reason they were extraordinary givers.

8:9 – Was Jesus a tither or a giver?

8:12 – Give according to what you have, not according to what you do not have.

8:13 – Giving is not for the ease of others and for our affliction.

8:14 – Equality in having our needs met.

9:5 – Affected by covetousness – Paul was not overlooking the danger of covetousness and how it can affect what we once purposed to give.

9:6 – The law of giving.

9:7 – How I must give.

9:8-10 – “Lord, how is this possible?”