

Discipleship Pathway 1

Session 12: Tithing & Giving

“Tithing is the training wheels to get to generosity.” - Randy Alcorn

The word tithe means one-tenth and according to the Smith Bible Dictionary it is the proportion of property devoted to religious uses from very early times.¹

Take time to discuss: What do you know about tithing? Take turns discussing your personal thoughts about tithing and your understanding of this spiritual discipline.

Many consider tithing an antiquated practice that was instituted by God through Moses and the Law. However, tithing _____ the law and we are first exposed to the principle of tithing in Genesis Ch. 14.

Read: Genesis 14:17-20

Here we see Abraham give one tenth of the spoils of victory to Melchizedek the King and Priest of Salem. Abraham’s tithe is given as a form of _____ in gratitude towards God for providing, protecting and giving Abraham victory over his enemies.

Only later do we see the practice of tithing _____ in the Law of Moses.

Read: Deuteronomy 14:22-25

This tithe was used to support the _____ and upkeep of the tabernacle. According to Numbers 18 it was to be distributed to the Levites as they were not given an allotment of land like the other tribes of Israel had received.

Read: Numbers 18:21-24

The Israelites were commanded to tithe in a variety of ways, however, the giving was to come from the _____ of their increase. Whether given as worship or by obedience our giving must first and foremost _____ God.

Read: Deuteronomy 26:1-2

The principle of first fruits is about learning to honor God with what’s _____ (best) rather than what’s _____. Proverbs 3:9-10 states:

“Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.”

¹<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionaries/smiths-bible-dictionary/tithe.html>

Although there is a blessing associated with the giving of the first fruits, the real blessing is not what God does with what we give, but what He does to what remains. When we give what is first to the Lord, He _____ what remains.

Read: Romans 11:16 (NKJV)

Tithing is not as much a _____ as it is a _____. God encourages us to test Him in the arena of tithing. **Why do you think that so many people within church do not tithe?**

Read: Malachi 3:10-12

In addition to being faithful in our tithing, God is equally concerned about our being _____ in our _____. **Is there a difference between tithing and giving?**

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:6-7.

Here we are exposed the principle of _____ and _____. If we sow sparingly, we will reap a small harvest. If we sow generously, we will reap a large harvest. God promises that if we will be generous in our giving, He will increase our ability to give. The goal of generosity is not to become increasingly _____, but increasingly more _____.

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:8-10

This passage informs us of two things that God supplies. He supplies _____ to eat and _____ to sow. Bread is what God gives us to _____. Seed is what we are given to _____ into the lives and needs of others. Although God promises to make certain that we have all we need, the byproduct of our generosity is not more bread to eat, but rather more seed to sow.

Our generosity should foster an increased desire to give rather than an increase in our personal appetite. God has called us to be _____ of all the resources that He provides. It is not just the tithe that belongs to God, rather everything He places in our hands belongs to Him.

Read: Psalm 24:1

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it. You and I are simply stewards of God's resources. God is concerned about how we manage the 10% (tithe), but also how we steward the remaining 90%. It is out of this 90% that we demonstrate generosity.

Unfortunately, if we do not steward the 90% properly we will end up not just eating the bread that God provides, but we will end up eating the seed too. Without seed, there is no _____ harvest. That is why tithing and giving are important spiritual disciplines for every believer to develop.

This week's reading plan: Leviticus 21-27, Proverbs Ch. 12