

# TITHING

## The Tithe Is Holy

### I. The tithe is holy unto the Lord (Leviticus 27:30)

- A. **Holy**-Hallowed, dedicated, consecrated, apartness, sacredness, set-apartness, **to be honored or treated as sacred**, to regard or treat as sacred or hallowed
  - 1. The tithe and tithing is to be honored and treated as sacred
  - 2. If that's God's portion it should be handled with great **honor** and **reverence**
  - 3. Holiness is the state of being in agreement with God
- B. Tithing is an avenue by which we stay in agreement with God
  - 1. When God says something is Holy & u don't treat it as such ur in disagreement w/ Him
    - a. Adam ate of the tree and was in disagreement with God
    - b. EX: The Word is holy and when people neglect it and don't treat it as such, they're not in agreement with God
  - 2. If you're not a tither how can you say you agree with God & His Word?
    - a. If God says it's His and you say it's yours that's disagreement
    - b. How can two walk together unless they be agreed (Amos 3:3)
    - c. Tithing becomes key to staying in agreement with God and his Word and thereby receiving the promises of it in your life
  - 3. When I tithe the tithe and treat the tithe with honor I'm saying God agree with you; this is yours and it is Holy

### II. We have to handle the tithe properly; mishandling Holy things is serious;

- A. How you handle this Holy thing shows God how you'll handle other holy things
  - 1. Adam and Eve touched the tree and they were separated (Genesis 2:17)
  - 2. Touch the holy thing and die (Numbers 4:15)
  - 3. Uzzah died when he touched the Holy thing (1 Chronicles 13:10, 2 Chronicle 35:3)
- B. Mishandling the holy thing can cause defeat in your life (Joshua 6,7)
  - 1. 6:18-The accursed thing was the thing that was devoted or dedicated
    - a. It was the cursed thing because if you touched it the curse came on you
    - b. The tithe is an accursed thing because when you don't return it the blessing isn't working in your life (Malachi 3:8)
  - 2. 6:19-All the silver and gold was consecrated (Lev 27:31: Holy) unto the Lord
    - a. That stuff was God's the way the tithe is God's
  - 3. 7:1,11-They took of or stole the thing that was God's
    - a. 7:21-Achan took of the silver and gold and it belonged to God

4. 7:12-Because the Holy thing was taken they couldn't stand before their enemies

a. They couldn't even win the "easy" battle when the holy thing was taken

C. Money is significant in the Kingdom of God and in particular how you handle it

1. Acts 10:4-His giving put the power of God into motion

### III. If the tithe is Holy unto God, then it should be Holy unto us

A. The tithe/tithing was supposed to be a special time where man brought the tenth of his increase to His creator and worshipped him with it and honored him with it; it was supposed to be a time of love and faith between the man and His creator

1. EX: A farmer in the OT would bring in the crops when he went to harvest and would set apart ten percent to God. Get the picture. He has been waiting for a couple of months and now it finally comes in. It's precious to him, yet he takes the tenth and honors God with it. God knows the farmer could use all of it, yet he puts God's portion aside because he knows without God there'd be no land to farm, no seed to so, no sun, no rain, no harvest so he has to honor God with this tenth.

2. Tithing is not an obligation, but a privilege; it's where we acknowledge our total dependence and reliance upon God and our thankfulness to God.

B. There's two parts to handling the tithe properly: 1) Returning it 2) How you return it

1. Believers have been handling the tithe haphazardly and not handling it as holy and we've missed out on a lot of the benefits of tithing

a. The tithe is to be treated with a certain level of respect, reverence, and honor

b. There's nothing Holy about scratching some ink on a piece of paper and dropping it in a bucket and praying a five second prayer over it

2. There are people who are giving ten percent, but who aren't honoring the tithe or honoring God with the tithe

a. To honor something is to treat it with special distinction, respect and you give it special place (1 Sam 2:30-Honor God by honoring the tithe, he honors us)

3. EX: It's like if a husband gave a wife a special gift and just tossed it to her and said her you go. He's not honoring her with the gift; he's just giving it to her.

a. The words of love and faith over the tithe are as important as the tithe

### IV. Tithing the Tithe

A. God's interested in how you give (2 Corinthians 9:7, Mt 23:23)

1. That tells me that just bringing the tithe alone is not enough, God's requiring more

a. Anything you do outside of love & apart from faith carries no merit w/ God

2. Just b/c you do something the Word says, doesn't mean u did it in faith-Mt 17:15-17

a. Faith working by love is what pleases God, it's what causes the tithe to be acceptable to God, and causes you to receive the benefits from tithing

- b. You can drop your tithe in the bucket and release no faith and without faith released you'll see no benefits from tithing
  - c. It's not the act of dropping ten percent in that makes the tithe work, it's the love and faith supporting and backing the tithe that makes it work
  - d. When you tithe the tithe you not only release money, but you release the faith necessary to see the power of the tithe work in your life
- B. You can know a little about the tithe, but not know anything about tithing because there's a difference between the tithe and tithing
- 1. The object, the money or the goods is the tithe
  - 2. Tithing is the process of faith & love through which we bring the 10<sup>th</sup> to our high priest
- C. Deuteronomy 26
- 1. 1-We've been translated out of the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of God
    - a. We are in the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of God is in us, and the kingdom is ours (Colossians 1:12, Luke 17:21, 12:32)
    - b. We are joint heirs with Jesus (Romans 8:17)
  - 2. 3-The priest in our days is Jesus and we bring our tithe to him (Hebrews 6:20)
  - 3. 5-When we bring our tithe we're supposed to release words of faith over it
  - 4. 6-We too were in hard bondage and treated evilly (Hebrews 2:15, Romans 8:15)
    - a. We were orphans with no hope, no future, and our father was the devil (Jn 8)
  - 5. 7-We cried unto the Lord God and he heard us (Romans 10:8)
  - 6. 8-The two-edged sword and the Spirit of God cut open my spirit emptied me of spiritual death and filled me to overflowing with the very life of God himself; I've been endued with power from on high to have authority over the devil and walk out the victory that Jesus provided-That's a mighty hand, that's an outstretched arm, that's a great sign and wonder (Romans 2:29, Hebrews 4:12, Ephesians 2:5)
    - a. You're spirit being recreated was greater than anything God did for them
  - 7. 9-I'm in this place; in the Kingdom; in the family, sitting at the King's table; I'm not some stranger or foreigner, but I'm in the household of God (Ephesians 2:19)
    - a. I'm in this place/Kingdom and it flows/gushes with healing, prosperity, peace, joy, deliverance, freedom, power, victory (Galatians 3:13, John 10:10)
  - 8. 11-He has given me healing, he has given me prosperity, he has given me peace, he has given me joy, he has given me victory (2 Peter 1:4)
    - a. We rejoice in the things that we believe we have received by faith
  - 9. 13-We're saying again with our tithe
    - a. I have brought the hallowed or holy thing

- b. I've brought it because I love you
  - c. I have not transgressed or forgotten your commandment
10. 15-In response to us returning the tithe we receive the blessing

**V. Deuteronomy 14:23-Through tithing we learn to reverence God**

- A. When the tithe is tithed properly with words of love & faith you are honoring him, reverencing him & as you practice honor & reverenced you learn honor & reverence