

Basic Principles of Tithing and Giving

We give of our own freewill to thank God for what he has done for us.

(Gen 14:18-20, Heb 7:1-2)

Under the law each tithe was a tenth (Lev 27:32, Num 18:26-28)

The tithe is the first fruits: (Prov 3:9, Ex23:19, Neh 10:35-36)

The best of the harvest (Ex 23:19)

The first of the harvest (Deut 26:2, Neh 10:36-37, Mark 12:14-17)

Tithing puts us in the place of blessing

(Mal 3:10, Prov 3:9-10, Prov 11:24-25, Deut 15:10)

We give in secret (to the Lord) (Matt 6:2-4)

Tithing is sacrificial (Mark 12:41-44, Matt 26:7)

We tithe by faith (Heb 11:8, Acts 2:44-46)

Tithing is a sign of commitment (Acts 5:1-11)

We give to Gods representatives (the church) (Acts 4:32-35 Gen 14:18-20, Heb 7:1-2)

Give what you can afford (1 Cor 16:1, 2 Cor 8:1-2)

We give a regular tithe (e.g. 10%) then freewill offerings in addition

(Deut 12: 5-7)

In summary, we are under grace, we are not under law, so there is no rule that says you must tithe a tenth. The honest truth is that there is only one lifestyle defined in the new testament which is that we should sell everything and give to the poor as each has need.

We should be giving what we can afford of our own freewill to give thanks to God. It is important as it is a sign of commitment and there is something special about giving a tenth because it puts us in the place of blessing, just as Abraham gave a tenth to Melchizedek so we should also give a tenth to Jesus.

Giving a tithe by standing order may not be the best way as it relegates the tithe to the importance of the electricity bill and removes the opportunity for us to do something regularly that triggers us to give thanks to God for his blessings.