

Questions about *Tithing*

What is tithing?

It means a tenth part.

What is the difference between a tithe and an offering?

A tithe is giving the first tenth of my income to the church I call home.

An offering is anything I give in addition to my tithe either to the church or other organisation.

Why should I tithe?

Because God commands it. *"A tenth of all your produce is the Lords'"* Leviticus 27:30

Because Jesus commands it. *"Yes, you should tithe, and you shouldn't leave the more important things undone either."* Matthew 23:23

Tithing demonstrates that God has first place in your life.

"The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first place in your lives."

Deuteronomy 14:23

Tithing reminds me that everything I have was given to me by God.

"Always remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you the ability to produce wealth" Deuteronomy 8:18

Tithing expresses my love to the Lord.

"Each of you should bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you." Deuteronomy 16:17

God says that refusing to tithe is stealing from Him.

"God says 'Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me!' But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' God says, 'In tithes and offerings...Bring your whole tithe to My house.'" Malachi 3:8-10

Tithing gives God a chance to prove He exists and wants to bless you.

"Bring your whole tithe to My storehouse. Test me in this, says the Lord, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you won't have room enough for it!" Malachi 3:10

What should I tithe?

The tithe should come from the first part of what I earn. "Honour the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income" Proverbs 3:9-10

Where should I give my tithe?

The tithe should be given to my local church where I worship. At Hope church you can give via EFT, via our website (www.hopechurch.org.za), or cash in an envelope and put in the "Anything Box" found at information desk.

When should I tithe?

The tithe should be given weekly or monthly depending on how regularly you receive your income. *"On the first day of every week, set aside some of what you have earned and give it as an offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn."* 1 Corinthians 16:2

Old & New Testament:

There are many practices in the Old Testament that don't make sense to us today, yet many of these ancient ways carry over to the New Testament law of grace as part of Christ's promise to not abolish the law, but to fulfil it (Matthew 5:17). For instance we no longer sacrifice animals but as believers we are called to offer ourselves up as a living sacrifice (Rom 12:1). Men no longer are required to be circumcised, but we all have a circumcision of the heart through the Holy Spirit (Rom 2:29). Most of us don't have grain and produce to bring to the storehouse, but we do have incomes that we can bring the first tenth of into the church. In other words, just because something is written in the Old Testament doesn't mean it lacks application to us today in some way or another.

While it is true that we are no longer under the old law, that we are under grace, we must not forget the purpose of grace: to help us live for God and do the things He wants us to do. Romans 8:4 tells us that Jesus came that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, not so that we could altogether dismiss it. And Romans 3:21-31 talks about how we have righteousness through faith and not through following the law, but verse 31 adds "Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law." God's grace gives us the power and ability to tithe.