

# **Tithing**

## **Scriptural Basis of Tithing**

The word “tithes” literally means 10%. It generally describes a sacrificial donation of 10% (or some other percentage) to church, synagogue, or charity. Throughout the Jewish/Christian Bible, “tithing” is recommended:

“The just man’s sacrifice is most pleasing, nor will it ever be forgotten. In generous spirit pay homage to the LORD, be not sparing of freewill gifts. With each contribution show a cheerful countenance, and pay your tithes in a spirit of joy. Give to the Most High as he has given to you, generously, according to your means. (Sirach 35: 6—9.).

“Tell the rich in the present age not to be proud and not to rely on so uncertain a thing as wealth but rather on God, who richly provides us with all things for our enjoyment. Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, ready to share, thus accumulating as treasure a good foundation for the future, so as to win the life that is true life.” (1 Timothy 6: 17 –19)

## **The Four Principles of Tithing**

1. Give back to God in gratitude a portion of everything God has given — whether through paychecks, dividends, unexpected windfalls, Social Security payments, allowances or gifts.
2. See the tithe as a sacrifice, a donation that seems almost more than affordable, an offering that “makes holy” (the literal meaning of the word “sacrifice”) all the efforts and earnings of the past month.
3. Make a decision to tithe through a commitment, a public gesture of charitable support — manifesting to others your commitment to regular support of Christ the King and actively participating in the collection as part of the Sunday Liturgy (or using e-tithing as a more exact, regular method).
4. Consider the Biblical norm of tithing in determining the amount of your sacrificial gift. The Biblical norm was ten (10) percent of one’s income; or adjust to a percentage that is realistic and attainable.

## **Six Blessings of Tithing**

1. A sense of serenity and satisfaction that comes from generosity.
2. An awareness that God comes first, even in decisions about money.
3. A recognition that one has eliminated the practice of contributing mere leftovers or amounts of pure habit.
4. An ability to distinguish between wants and needs.
5. A deeper consciousness of society’s materialism and consumerism.
6. A quiet confidence in God’s protective care.

