

To Tithe or Not to Tithe

Back in the early 1970s, one of my church responsibilities was answering radio and TV mail. A woman wrote to say, among other things, that she had stopped tithing to the Lord because of financial reverses. Her motive for giving had been *love*; she had been tithing “out of love.” In my answer, I tried to clarify the significance of biblical tithing.

Here is part of my response to her:

Your letter is very positive, except that you no longer tithe. I think there is a big difference between

1. tithing out of **love**
2. tithing out of **faith**, or
3. tithing out of **responsibility**

Love gives as *much* as it feels like giving, *when* it feels like giving.

As for **faith**, it is liable only when it has the resources to fulfill its “faith promise.”

However, if you believe **the tithe is essential**, you will *continue* to give ten percent, no matter what your income, no matter how you feel, no matter how much faith you have. In fact, if you’re convinced the tithe belongs to the Lord, **you can’t afford not to give it.**

But why the furor over 10%, when 100% belongs to the Lord. Everything we are and everything we have comes from the Lord and is the Lord’s. We are not the owners we are the managers. You can forget about tithes if you are already practicing the Christian life that acknowledges that we belong 100% to the Lord everything that we have belongs to him. If you have not been practicing this truth then the tithe is a good place to start. ◇◇◇