



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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The Biblical Reasons for Returning Tithe and Offerings to God's Work

Tithing and giving offerings are integral aspects of Christian stewardship, deeply rooted in biblical teachings. These practices not only support the functioning of religious institutions but also reflect a believer's commitment to God, gratitude for His blessings, and trust in His providence. This article explores the biblical reasons for returning tithe and offerings to God's work, providing scriptural foundations and theological insights.

1. Acknowledging God's Sovereignty

The primary reason for tithing and offering is to acknowledge God's sovereignty over all creation, including our resources. The Bible teaches that everything we have comes from God and belongs to Him. Psalm 24:1 states, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." By returning a portion of what we receive, we recognize God as the ultimate owner and provider.

2. Following God's Command

Tithing is a direct command from God, emphasized throughout the Old Testament. In Leviticus 27:30, it is written, "A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord."

This command was not merely a suggestion but a requirement for the Israelites, demonstrating their obedience and reverence for God.

3. Supporting Religious Ministry

Tithes and offerings support the work of religious ministry, ensuring that God's work continues effectively. In the Old Testament, the tithes supported the Levites, who were responsible for the temple services and spiritual leadership (Numbers 18:21). Similarly, in the New Testament, Paul encourages the support of those who preach the gospel, stating in 1 Corinthians 9:14, "In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel."

4. Expressing Gratitude

Giving tithes and offerings is a tangible way to express gratitude for God's blessings. Proverbs 3:9-10 advises, "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;

5. Demonstrating Faith and Trust

Returning a portion of our income to God is an act of faith, showing that we trust Him to meet our needs. Malachi 3:10 challenges believers to test God's faithfulness: "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." Trusting God with our finances reflects a deep faith in His provision and care.

6. Promoting Generosity and Selflessness

Tithing and offerings cultivate a spirit of generosity and selflessness. Jesus taught that it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35), encouraging believers to be generous in their giving. In 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, Paul writes, "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." This principle of generosity aligns with the Christian call to love and serve others.

7. Fostering Spiritual Growth

Giving tithes and offerings fosters spiritual growth by shifting our focus from material possessions to spiritual priorities. Jesus taught that where our treasure is, there our heart will be also (Matthew 6:21). By prioritizing God's work

and kingdom, we align our hearts with His purposes and grow in our spiritual journey.

Returning tithe and offerings to God's work is a profound expression of faith, obedience, gratitude, and trust. It acknowledges God's sovereignty, supports religious ministry, fosters generosity, and promotes spiritual growth. As believers faithfully practice tithing and giving, they participate in God's redemptive work and experience the blessings of living in alignment with His will.



"Some may have good intentions of eventually returning the tithe but choose to do so at a more convenient time—perhaps at the end of the year. Such persons are not only putting their own needs ahead of the claims of God but run the risk of getting so far behind in their obligations to God that it may be very difficult for them to ever catch up."

E. C. White. *Tithing Principles and Guidelines*, P 19.3

