

REASONS FOR GIVING TO THE LORD

Genesis 28:20-22

Introduction: One of the most important things in the christian's life is MOTIVE.

- Jacob's motive for giving a tithe was if God did certain things for him.
- Malachi tells of giving and the Lord will open the windows of heaven.
- Throughout the Old Testament the people of God were commanded to tithe.
- Jesus had much to say about MOTIVE in giving (the Widow's mite), etc.
- The MOTIVE behind the gift determines its value to God.
- Most Christians give with mingled motives, such as guilt, have to, expected to, etc.

In most churches there is a group of members who have committed themselves to tithing year in and year out. They make up about 20% of the membership but give about 80% of that which is given.

What are motives, things that lead to tithing?

I. THERE IS THE DESIRE TO ACKNOWLEDGE GOD'S OWNERSHIP OF ALL THINGS

1. *Psalm 24:1 - "...The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world, and all that dwell therein..."*

II. THERE IS THE DESIRE FOR BLESSINGS THAT COME FROM TITHING

1. *Malachi 3:10*
2. Christian experience has proven that one just cannot outgive God.
3. Those who tithe have found out that they can live very comfortably with 90% of their income left.
4. Some have found out that it is TOO expensive NOT to tithe.

III. INVESTING IN GOD'S WORK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT CAUSE IN THE WORLD

1. *Matthew 28:18-20*
2. Jesus has commanded all believers to carry His message to all the world.
 - Tithing is Jesus' financial plan by which His message is carried.
3. Tithing links the tither with God in His world-wide program of redemption.
 - Tithing puts the tither in touch with the whole world.

IV. TITHING BRINGS GROWTH TO ONE'S FAITH

1. Learning to trust God with one's money makes it easier to trust God with everything else.
2. Tithing permits God to prove His trustworthiness and God honors His promises.

V. TITHING MAKES WORSHIP MORE MEANINGFUL

1. One cannot be a spectator only and genuinely worship which is what most Christians are, spectators.
2. To worship, one must receive all that God has for him/her.
- *"...For where your treasure is, there will be your heart also..."*
3. A person's interest follows his/her money. One's heart is tied up wherever his/her money is.
4. Worship is what it should be when one is receiving everything God wants to give.

VI. GOD BECOMES A REAL PARTNER IN ONE'S LIFE WHEN HE/SHE TITHES

1. Those who tithe have recognized the ownership of God of all things and in turn have learned to allow God to direct their everyday lives and tithing becomes natural.
2. Those who tithe have learned how to allow God to direct their financial affairs. As God allows them to make money, they allow God to help them spend it - God's way.
3. Those who tithe have learned that God is just as concerned as to HOW they make their money as to what they do during worship on Sunday.

VII. ONE CAN VISIBLY PROVE HIS/HER LOVE FOR THE LORD BY TITHING

1. There is no question as to God's love for us - His Son, the Cross, Forgiveness, Salvation, etc.
2. Genuine love always seeks to find a way to properly express itself.
3. Words are sometimes shallow, insincere and "cheap."
4. Tithing is a visible way to express one's love for the Lord.

CONCLUSION:

1. Why do you give? What is your motive?
2. Jesus believed that the most joy to be found in life is to GIVE. He gave!
3. Do you want the joy Jesus talks about? Do you want the windows of heaven to be opened to you?
4. Take a look at your giving. Why? How much? A Tithe?
5. If every member of a church tithed there would be no limit to what God could do in that church.
6. If you are not tithing, increase your giving 1% every month until you are giving at least 10% and see what God does with what you have left.