

Day 4: Can I still love God and not tithe?

After all, I've given my heart to God, but I'm having trouble tithing. Since I know tithing is not an act that gets me into heaven, can't I consider myself fully loving him but not tithe?

Let's break this question down a bit. All of us from time to time have reasons why we can't give generously, or can't tithe--unexpected bills, slave to debt, made financial mistakes, and loss of income. It's as if we all have our own "I'd like to give more, but..." It's not that we don't love God, but our "buts" are in the way of letting Him love our financial life. It's as if there's a part of our life that is not letting him in to love us.

Read Romans 6

Challenge: As you look at your "but", your reason why you can't give, what area of your life is being guarded from the spirit of Christ? Is it your shopping habit to feel better about yourself? Is it a past sin of greed that has caused debt? Is it a different sin that has created a financial mess?

Ask God in prayer to show it to you? Ask God to open your heart to receive the fullness of His forgiveness inside the depth of your heart and spirit. Ask God to deliver your heart from the bondage that is preventing you from being free to give freely, not because He needs the money, but because you deserve to have ALL of His love flow in your life—including your financial life.

Day 5: A second challenge: Am I ROBBING God?

How many of you have ever had your wallet stolen? Or had your car broken into? It's a violating feeling isn't it? Did you know that's how God feels when we don't let him "own" our financial life?

Read Malachi, Chapter 3

How were they robbing God?

Challenge: Am I robbing God? Where would his blessing pour out if I was more generous? In the world? In my life? In my family's life?



February 14, 2010

“The Currency of Extraordinary Faith!”

Dennis Murphy, Lead Minister

MESSAGE NOTES



HOPE FLOW--Great Give II

Here's the tough challenge for this week—If God owns everything, then does my relationship with my money show that I have transferred ownership back to God?

Day 1: Read the story of David dedicating the temple--I Chronicles, Ch. 29. Pay specific attention to verse 11.

How is this theme the same in **Psalm 89:11** and **Romans 11:36**?

Challenge: We brought nothing into this world and we're going to take nothing out of this world. So do I treat my money as if it is mine to share with God; or, as it being a gift from him which I am to share with His world?

Day 2: Is tithing the only way I can give ownership back to God?

Great question, but let's look at what tithing "is" and "is not:

1. A New Testament tithe is not a legalistic approach to seeking God's blessing.
2. A New Testament tithe is not a minimum dues payment to be called a Christian. The minimum is to give all of your life--100%.
3. A New Testament tithe is a deep-hearted spiritual expression of sacrifice that it all belongs to God.
4. A New Testament tithe is a biblically based way to start honoring God as we manage his money and strive to grow beyond giving 10%.
5. A New Testament tithe says, "God owns...I manage."

Day 3 - So what's the difference between a New Testament tithe and an Old Testament tithe?

Jesus created a new covenant with God in the New Testament, which doesn't change whether I tithe or not, but it changes the reason why I tithe.

Sometimes Christians get swept up in a debate over whether or not we are "required" to tithe, when that is not the real question. There real question is, does God's promises from his laws in the Old Testament still apply to us today? If they do, then I should follow them.

Jesus himself tells us that God's old laws and it's promises are not abolished laws and his promises are still valid for today, **but the context of why we tithe changed with Christ's new covenant.**

Matthew 5:17-19 *"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill." For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished."*

HOPE FLOW...LETTING GOD'S LOVE FLOW THROUGH US EVERY DAY!

Day 3 Continued

Christ fulfilling the old law changes the context of tithing in the New Testament in 3 significant ways:

1. The law of tithing no longer is required for our salvation.

We are saved by Christ's grace and tithing no longer is an obligation for entering into his temple and receiving eternal security. Tithing is not required for being saved nor for being in church fellowship. This is not to say that a New Testament tithe and giving is optional—giving is a requirement of sacrifice; and sacrifice is a requirement of worship.

2. The new covenant of the law of Christ is to **GIVE IT ALL!** Giving increases from 10% to 100%.

Matthew 19:20, 21 *The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept; what am I still lacking?" Jesus said to him, "**If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.**"*

Luke 9:24 *"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it."*

Luke 10:27 *And he answered, "You shall love the Lord with all your heart, and with all your soul, **and with all your strength**, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."*

"...all our strength" includes all of our finances.

Jesus commanded us to live by a higher standard than what was given in the Old Testament. He taught us to go beyond forgiving the forgivable and to forgive the unforgivable, to go beyond loving our friends and to love our enemies, to go beyond giving our shirt and to give our coats too. The same is true for tithing. Jesus' New Testament standard for giving goes beyond 10%. If God is to be Lord over our entire lives, we are to give 100% of our finances... all of it. In other words, it *all* belongs to him.

3. God's new law of Christ's grace does not mean we abolish tithing and giving.

The promises of God's old laws remain. Honoring God's old law of tithing still rewards us with financial blessing here on this earth and treasures stored up in heaven. And that is why we continue to hold to God's standard of tithing and treat it as a place to start in growing in generosity. We tithe because God's promises are still valid, not because we "have to".