



TITHING

YESTERDAY, TODAY &
FOREVER

BY CHINEDUM AZUH

Tithing Yesterday, Today & Forever

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Contact the author on

Mobile: +2348032069925

pstchinedum@gmail.com

www.worldleaderscyberchurch.org

All scripture quotations are from the New King James Version of the Bible, except otherwise stated.

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INTRODUCTION

There has been a lot of misconceptions about tithing especially in recent times. Some people identified tithing as a modern-day scam in some fascinating interviews on several media platforms. Tithing has become one of the most controversial topics both within and outside the Church. Most of the controversy, however, has to do with misconceptions of what tithing really is.

Some who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, have gone as far as saying that tithe should be used to drink beer in church. Even a toddler still trying to get her footings knows that a church is not a drinking bar. Nobody will ever feel comfortable drinking alcohol inside the true church of Jesus Christ.

But what really is the Tithe? When was it introduced? Is tithing for Christian Believers today? Is tithing really necessary? Is tithing all that important? All these and many more are covered in this spiritual manual.

You are holding in your hand the most comprehensive book on tithing under the order of Melchizedek, who remains a Priest of God continually. (Hebrews 7:3). It will clear the webs of ignorance holding God's people hostage for many years as regards this eternal principle.

Join me in this spiritual adventure that will change your life forever!

CHAPTER 1

MEANING AND ORIGIN OF TITHING

The word “tithe” is derived from a Middle English word meaning “a tenth” and refers to a tenth of the produce of one’s field or of one’s income. The word, “tithe”, in Hebrew and Greek, always signify the first or top 10% of the income given to the Lord by those who are in covenant with Him.

The Origin Of Tithing

Did tithe originate with Moses? No, Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils of his victory to Melchizedek.

*“And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.”
And he gave him a tithe of all.”*

Genesis 14:20

Jacob promised God a tenth for His blessings, and these men lived 400-500 years before Moses and the Law.

Tithing Before The Law

...the truth is that tithing predates the law by nearly 500 years. In Genesis 14:20, Abraham gave the priest Melchizedek a tenth of all his goods after a daring rescue of his nephew Lot.

In Genesis 28:20-22 Jacob (grandson of Abraham) made a covenant with God on the platform of tithing.

CHAPTER 2

MELCHIZEDEK'S ORDER OF TITHING

There are two tithing systems in the Bible. One is where Israel had to pay tithes to the Levitical priesthood under the Old Covenant. This was commanded of Israel. It belonged to God and therefore they were commanded to give to God what belonged to Him. There were consequences if they did not obey and there were blessings if they did. This system completely passed away with the passing away of the Old Covenant.

The other system of tithing was to Melchizedek the High Priest of God. This tithe was voluntarily given by Abram to Melchizedek, in Genesis 14 and Hebrews 7, when he realized who Melchizedek was - a type of Jesus Christ!

This is a New Testament form of tithing where we give in gratitude to God for His blessings and as a covenant practice.

The Bible says that this Melchizedek was: “king of righteousness,” and then also king of Salem, meaning “king of peace,” without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually. Heb 7:2,3

In Hebrews 7: 14-17 Christ is called a “priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek!”

So Abraham, the father of our faith who had the Gospel preached to him in advance, and whose righteousness was credited to him through faith and not works -

just like the New Covenant believer according to Galatians 3 - gave a tithe of all to Jesus!

Then in Hebrews 7:9 even Levi who came under the Law paid the tithe to whom it truly belongs (Christ) through the body of Abraham showing that tithing transcends the Old Covenant and that the tithe has, is and always will belong to Christ!

The Bible also says that before Abram gave the tithe Melchizedek blessed Abram and gave him bread and wine! This is very New Covenant! We are blessed before we give by the One who gives His body and blood for our salvation. The other time we see this happening is on the night before Christ's crucifixion where he took bread and wine

and served it to his disciples signifying the New Covenant!

It is clear that our tithe belongs to Christ. Abram knew this. Jacob who was the grandson of Abraham knew this and promised to give a tithe of all to the Lord.

Abraham and Jacob were not under the Old Covenant law when they gave tithes to the Lord. They were under faith! They gave freely from their hearts under no compulsion except that they had encountered the living God and were compelled from within to give what they instinctively knew belonged to Him - the tithe! It has never stopped belonging to God!

CHAPTER 3

CHRIST ENDORSED TITHING

The Living Bible puts it this way, "Yes, woe upon you, Pharisees, and you other religious leaders—hypocrites! For you tithe down to the last mint leaf in your garden, but ignore the important things—justice and mercy and faith. Yes, you should tithe, but you shouldn't leave the more important things undone." Matthew 23:23

Our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ made it clear in this passage of the Bible that he supports the ordinance of tithing.

CHAPTER 4

WHY EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD GIVE TITHE

Act Of Gratitude

Abraham's tithe as seen in Genesis 14:20 was a sign of gratitude for victory and blessings.

The idea of tithing always sent shivers of resistance running through some Christians. After all, how could they possibly tithe ten percent of their income when it was so small? How are they going to eat, pay the bills, and put fuel in their car if they gave so much of their income away?

No one will have problem with giving their tithe if they understand that it is an act of gratitude. We give thanks for our blessings, and God's goodness towards us. Tithing means, "Lord, I acknowledge your help, I appreciate your hand upon my life."

Covenant Practice

"Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father's house, then the LORD will be my God. and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth." Genesis 28:20-22

The principle of tithing makes God a partner in your endeavour and ensures that you succeed. Read Genesis 31-32 and you will see that God granted Jacob that which he requested as a result of the covenant.

An Act Of Honour To God

"Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase;"

Proverbs 3:9

Acquisitiveness is one of the basic drives of mankind. Children grasp their toys and cry, "Mine!"

Beloved, worshipping or honouring God with your substance or possession shows that you acknowledge God as the source and the owner of all that you have. It also reveals that you acknowledge yourself as a mere steward or caretaker of God's wealth or resources.

Don't worship God only with your words or songs while holding back from Him your wealth or possessions!

Systematic Form Of Giving

The fact is that God knows we cannot all give an equal amount because we all have different resources, so He established the 10% percentage system of giving ensuring it would equal out.

Eternal Benefits

Giving to God's work is an investment with eternal rewards.

Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her." Matthew 26:13

In regard to the giver, Jesus said: “For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done” (Matthew 16:27). There are also eternal benefits for the recipients of the gift. For example, when you give money to an evangelical organization (including your church), and through that organization someone accepts Jesus Christ as personal saviour, then that individual will be in heaven for eternity.

Although investing to provide for future family needs is something that God wants us to do (1 Timothy 5:8), giving to God’s work is even more important, as it stores up “treasures in heaven.”

Jesus said, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. (Matthew 6:19, 20).

When you give God’s tithe to those He is working through to proclaim and teach His truth and way of life, you are supporting His work. You are then helping to spread the most important message the world can hear—that God’s Kingdom is coming and mankind must repent (Mark 1:14-15)! There is no more important work being done on earth today.

CHAPTER 5

INSPIRATIONAL TITHING STORIES

There are millions of faithful Christians who give their tithes to the Lord and are richly blessed. Here are some stories that demonstrate the importance of tithing.

Before modern industrialization, many gave tithes as a tenth of the crops of their field.

The book, “Tongan Saints: Legacy of Faith,” recounts a Tongan bishop’s memory of his grandfather:

“Grandpa Vanisi’s spirituality inspired awe in me as a child. I remember following him daily to his plantation. He would always point out to me the very best of his taro, bananas, or yams and say: ‘These will be for our tithing.’ His greatest care was given to these ‘chosen’ ones.

During the harvest, I was often the one assigned to take our load of tithing to the branch president. I remember sitting on the family horse. Grandfather would lift onto its back a sack of fine taro which I balanced in front of me. Then with a very serious look in his eyes, he said to me, ‘Simi, be very careful because this is our tithe.’ From my grandfather I learned early in life that you give only your best to the Lord.”

How I Changed My Life With a One Year Tithing Experiment

Mike Holmes, the founder of Tithehacker.com shared his personal testimony on tithing. "I'm a tither. Despite the controversy surrounding it, I'm a huge advocate of it.

I had trouble holding a steady job. My wife (God bless her) loved me, but lost almost all respect for me. Our marriage was on its last leg. She was pregnant with our 2nd child and was considering leaving. As I said she loved me but with the tight finances, the tense atmosphere, my bad attitude, and my constant complaining it was getting to her. I was working a job that couldn't pay the bills because I left my job that COULD pay the bills because the supervisors "weren't treating me right." Truth is: they weren't treating me right because I wasn't doing my job right. I was too "smart" for my own good! Oh... did I mention? I was saved. Yup, Jesus was my Savior. I read my bible, studied it, went to church, was active and well liked.

So I went to God for advice. I said, “God my life is not going the way I want. I don’t know how to fix it. What do I do?” A second later I heard the answer: “Start Tithing.”

Aftermath

What was the result of my “experiment?” My marriage greatly improved as I learned to be more generous, more disciplined, and responsible for my actions. I learned to take my eyes off me and point them at the greater problems in the world. Oh...and I paid off all my personal debt! Debt that I had trouble with for years was paid in one year.

Edward Stokes Rich Was 12 When He Began To Enjoy The Blessing Of Tithing

When he was 12 years old he worked at night for a local newspaper to help his single mother earn money for his family.

Whenever Edward received money he gave it to his mother, who'd pay tithing on it. One time his mother said, "Edward, I know that you have no overcoat, and you must walk many miles to and from work each night. With winter coming soon, it's going to be very cold when you walk home at four or five o'clock in the morning. So I'll give you your tithing money and you can either pay your tithing or buy an overcoat.

I'll leave the decision up to you." Edward hurried to the Bishop's house and paid the tithe.

The next week Edward's Aunt Mary came over and gave Edward a coat her sons had outgrown. It fit him and was better than any coat he could have bought. Since then, Edward's decided to always give his tithe.

The first USA billionaire said once in an interview:

Yes, I tithe, and I would like to tell you how it all came about. I had to begin work as a small boy to help support my mother. My first wages amounted to \$1.50 per week. The first week after I went to work, I took the \$1.50 home to my mother and she held the money in her lap and explained to me that she would be happy if I would give a tenth of it to the Lord.

I did, and from that week until this day I have tithed every dollar God has entrusted to me. And I want to say, if I had not tithed the first dollar I made I would not have tithed the first million dollars I made. Tell your readers to train the children to tithe, and they will grow up to be faithful stewards of the Lord.

— **John D. Rockefeller, Sr.**

Just as God gave oil to Rockefeller, He wants to give sources of wealth to His children. There are many treasures yet to be discovered, multi-million dollar ideas, opportunities... Of course, God is hoping to find faithful and diligent servants whom He can give them to.

Rockefeller began tithing even as a child, and became one of the richest men in the history of mankind through the business of petroleum. He came from a poor family and an absent father. But his mother taught him to put down a root of faithfulness, which still today brings prosperity to the Rockefeller family (his fortune when he died in 1937 was US\$ 760 billion, adjusted to today's rates. This is more than 12 times the wealth of Bill Gates).

Being faithful upon little is a test of character. Before giving much to someone, you test that person's character by observing how he or she behaves when in charge of little.

TITHING FOREVER

In studying the Scriptures, one very important thing to understand is that some laws, principles and commandments were given to a certain group of people, or given for certain dispensations. There are other laws, principles and commandments that are universal and eternal. The principle of tithing is one of these eternal principles and ordinances of God.

If the only time Melchizedek manifested was to receive tithe, and he lives continually as a priest before God, it means the principle he came to establish remains.

Today's tithing under the order of Melchizedek transcends generations.
The LORD give you understanding!

Author's Profile

Chinedumazuh Azuh is the Pastor World Leaders Cyber Church, CEO Learning Lab Nigeria, Radio/TV Personality and Publisher of Hundreds of Works on Multiple Channels.

With his dynamic technique and masterful authority of his work, time and again he receives high accolades from his audiences as one of the most dynamic Thought Leaders of our time.

He is a Preacher that is graced with unusual teaching anointing that has blessed several hundreds of thousands of people globally.

www.worldleaderscyberchurch.org

