

God and Your Finances

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I. Introduction.

A. How we deal with our money is an important issue to God.

II. How we relate to money.

A. Money is not the root of all money, the love of money is.

B. We are not to trust money.

C. We are not to seek to be rich.

D. We are not to think money belongs to us.

III. How we get money.

A. We are not to gain money by stealing, usury and gambling.

B. We are to make wise investments.

C. We are to make money by working.

IV. How we spend money.

A. We are to use money to provide for our family.

B. We are to use money to pay our debt. (2 Corinthians 4)

C. We are to save money. (Proverbs 21:20)

D. We are to give our money.

V. Tithing and giving.

A. Tithing before Moses.

1. Tithe means a tenth.

2. Abraham and Jacob gave a tenth, but no one before this.

3. Abraham gave a tenth but he was not under compulsion.

4. Jacob's tithe was illegitimate. (Genesis 28)

5. No giving in the pre-Mosaic period was mandatory. (Genesis 41:34)

6. Giving was voluntary.

B. Tithing during the period of Moses and the law.

1. A first tenth was required. (Leviticus 27:30)
2. The emphasis was on quantity.
3. The tithe was for the Levites and their service. They ran the nation. (Leviticus 28)
4. The tithe was a form of government.
5. There was a second tithe that was ten percent to fund the festivals. (Deuteronomy 12)
6. There was a third tithe at five percent for the poor.
7. The total giving of the tithe was around twenty-five percent.
8. The best of the crop was demanded. (Numbers 18:2; Proverbs 11:24-25; Exodus 25; 35:4, 21; 36:5)
9. Freewill offerings were voluntary, but taxation was required.
10. Pay your taxes and God will bless you.

C. Giving during the period of Christ.

1. Jesus taught to pay taxes even though the system was corrupt. (Matthew 17:24)
2. God has designed government, and he has designed the governed to pay taxes under it. (Matthew 22:17, Romans 13:11)
3. We have to be in tune with giving to God whenever and wherever, which forces us to be in tune with the Spirit.
 - a. Giving as an investment with God. (Luke 6:38, 2 Corinthians 9)
 - b. Giving needs to be sacrificial.
 - c. Giving is not a matter of how much one has—it is a matter of the heart. (2 Corinthians 8)
 - d. Giving affects spiritual riches.
 - e. Giving responds to need.
 - f. Giving is a demonstration of love and not law. (Romans 15)
 - g. Giving is to be planned. (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
 - h. Giving is to be generous. (2 Corinthians 8)
 - i. Giving blesses. (2 Corinthians 9)

Application Questions:

1. Which principle regarding our relationship to money do you find to be most difficult?

2. When have you seen God bless someone for honoring him with their finances? Should we always expect this kind of blessing?

3. What should giving look like in light of the teaching and work of Jesus? Explain.
