

The Generous Life

(A deeper look at money)



Lesson 4

The Generous Life gives generously to God's work

God says the tithe belongs to Him

Malachi 3:8 "Will a man rob God? **Yet you rob me.** "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. *New International Version*

God declared the tithe belonged to Him

Leviticus 27:30 "**A tenth** of the produce of the land, whether grain or fruit, **belongs to the LORD** and must be set apart to him as **holy**. **32** The LORD **also owns** every tenth animal counted off from your herds and flocks. They are set apart to him as **holy**. *New Living Translation*

Holy: Qodesh; sacred, consecrated to God

Qodesh in the bible

Burning Bush

Exodus 3:5 "Do not come any closer," God told him. "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on **holy** ground." *New Living Translation*

Opening of Solomon's Temple

1 Kings 8:10 When the priests withdrew from the **Holy Place**, the cloud filled the temple of the LORD. **11** And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled his temple. *New International Translation*

Treasuries of Jericho

Joshua 6:19 Everything made from silver, gold, bronze, or iron is **sacred** to the LORD and must be brought into his treasury." *New Living Translation*

Achan is unfaithful

Joshua 7:1 But Israel was unfaithful concerning the things set apart for the LORD. A man named Achan had stolen some of these things, so the LORD was very angry with the Israelites. *New Living Translation*

Joshua 7:10 But the LORD said to Joshua, "Get up! Why are you lying on your face like this? **11** Israel has sinned and broken my covenant! They have stolen the things that **I commanded to be set apart for me**. And they have not only stolen them; they have also lied about it and hidden the things among their belongings. *New Living Translation*

Malachi 3:9 **You are under a curse** - the whole nation of you - because you are robbing me. *New International Version*

Malachi 3:10 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 you will not have room enough for it. *New International Version*

Malachi 3:11 I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. *New International Version*

King James Version: rebuke the devourer for your sakes,

Message Bible: I will defend you,

New Living Translation-SE: I will guard you

Proverbs 3:9 Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; **10** then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. *New International Version*

Tithing in America

Normal congregation	10-25%
Total tithers in US	5%
All Christians average	2.5%
During Great Depression	3.3%

If the majority of Christians tithed

- An extra \$165 billion would come into churches to use and distribute.
- \$25 billion could relieve global hunger, starvation and deaths from preventable diseases in five years.
- \$12 billion could eliminate illiteracy in five years.
- \$15 billion could solve the world's water and sanitation issues, specifically at places in the world where 1 billion people live on less than \$1 per day.

- \$1 billion could fully fund all overseas mission work.
- \$100 – \$110 billion would still be left over for additional ministry expansion.

Jesus receives our tithes in heaven

Hebrews 7:6 This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. **7** And without doubt the lesser person is blessed by the greater. ***New International Version***

Hebrews 7:8 In the one case, the tenth is collected by men who die [*Old Testament Priest*]; but in the other case, by him [*Jesus*] who is declared to be living. ***New International Version***

Hebrews 7:8 And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them [*In heaven, today*], of whom it is witnessed that he liveth. ***King James Version***