

Firstfruits Stewardship

The Tithe and the Christian, Part 1

Threefold Giving in Scripture

Type	What It Is	Purpose	Biblical Support	Key Idea
Tithe	Regular giving (10%) on one's increase	Support the worship and ministry of the Church	Gen 14:20; Lev 27:30; Mal 3:10; Matt 23:23; 1 Cor 9:14	Belongs to God (firstfruits, stewardship)
Freewill Offering	Voluntary giving above the tithe	Special Projects	Exod 35:21; 2 Cor 9:7	Overflow of generosity
Alms	Giving to those in need	Care for the poor	Deut 14:28–29; Matt 6:2; Gal 6:10	Love of neighbor

Ownership and Stewardship

1 Chronicles 29:10–16

Therefore David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: “Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. ¹¹ Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. ¹² Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. ¹³ And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

¹⁴ “But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. ¹⁵ For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. ¹⁶ O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own.

Proverbs 3:9–10

⁹ Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce;

¹⁰ then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

The Tithe In Genesis

Genesis 14:18–20

¹⁸ And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) ¹⁹ And he blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; ²⁰ and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!” And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Genesis 28:20–22

²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, ²¹ so that I come again to my father’s house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, ²² and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God’s house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you.”

The Tithe in the Law and Prophets

Leviticus 27:30

³⁰ “Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the Lord’s; it is holy to the Lord.

Malachi 3:8–10

⁸ Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. ⁹ You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. ¹⁰ Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

Anglican Catechism Q. 338

What is an appropriate standard of giving for you as a Christian?

A “tithe,” which is 10 percent of my income, is the minimum standard of giving for the work of God’s Church and the spread of his kingdom; yet I should generously give of all that God has entrusted to me. (*Genesis 14:17–20; Leviticus 27:30–33; Deuteronomy 14:22–29; Malachi 3:6–12; Matthew 23:23; Luke 21:1–4; 2 Corinthians 9:6–7*)