

Do you tip?

Truths about God and possessions

- God owns it all – Psalm 50:10-11 *For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. ¹¹ I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine.*
 - Deuteronomy 10:14 *Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it*
 - If God owns everything, is anything really “Mine?”
- God blesses those who practice the “First Principle” – Proverbs 3:9-10 *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.*
 - Am I willing to believe that God can actually take care of my financial needs?
- God genuinely cares for me and wants me to trust Him – Deuteronomy 10:13 *and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?*

Q: Who is Mr. T?

Q: Who is Mr. T in the Bible?

A: Tithe means “a tenth.” Tithing is returning to God a tenth of what He allows you to make.

Mr. T in the Bible

- Our finances reflect our heart – 3:6-7 *For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷ From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’*
- God is serious about our heart – 3:8-9 *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.*
- God challenges us to test Him by tithing – 3:10 *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.*

Q: Where should I allocate my tithe?

A: Where I worship.

Q: Why tithe to my church?

A: A biblical church is laser-focused on Jesus’ mission which is why it’s the only organization in the world Jesus said He would build – Matthew 16:18 *“I will build my church.”*

Q: Is the tithe the total of my all my charitable giving?

A: An offering goes beyond but does not replace the tithe.

“Tithing did not become a major matter in Christianity until the patristic period, possibly because tithing was simply assumed prior to then (100—450ish A.D.).” – Lexham Bible Dictionary¹

- God guarantees to provide for us when we live by His design – 3:11-12 *I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts.*
¹² Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts.

Understanding our hesitations

- Confusing our role as Stewards with Owners.

Reality: God allows us to keep 90% of His money!

- Seeing the concept of tithing twisted.

Reality: Tithing builds a foundation for greater freedom through generosity.

- Presuming our initial feelings are totally trustworthy.

Reality: Our heart follows our money – Matthew 6:21 *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

- I'm anxious about not having enough if I tithe.

Reality: Who are you ultimately trusting to pay your bills? You or God?

- I make too much to tithe to my local church.

Reality: Am I willing to trust God with what He says is His?

Next Steps

- Start somewhere. Start giving.
- Start “First Principle” giving: God first.

¹ Charles Meeks, “Tithe,” ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).