

⇒ **To those who give generously:** “Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully.” (2 Corinthians 9:6 NAS).

⇒ **To those who give freely:** “One man gives freely, yet gains even more” (Proverbs 11:24 NIV).

## 9: Tithes and Offerings are Different

We NEVER give to be saved; instead, *we give to honor the LORD who freely saved us by grace through faith in Jesus!*

⇒ Giving a Tithe is giving 10% of whatever we receive (Lev. 27:30).

⇒ Giving an Offering is giving over and above the tithe. Offerings are given ♦ for certain purposes **or** ♦ on special occasions **or** ♦ to express much gratitude.

- Years ago, when visiting one of our members, he gave an **offering** of \$88. Even though he faithfully gave a tithe, he also gave an offering – *over and above his tithe* – to express his gratitude for his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday!
- Another wonderful way to make an offering is by legally designating a percentage of our estate to our congregation. The LCMS Foundation can help you set it up and explain the tax benefits: 800-325-7912; [www.lcmsfoundation.org](http://www.lcmsfoundation.org). Thanks for your prayerful consideration!

## 10: Law and Gospel

⇒ God’s Word of LAW shows us our sins: It shows us what to do, *but we cannot do it perfectly*: “...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23 NIV).

⇒ God’s Word of GOSPEL shows us what God has done to take away our sins:

- God gave us His only Son!
- Jesus put on human flesh, lived without sin in our place, receive our sin and eternal punishment, and laid down His life!
- God the Father raised Jesus back to life on the third day to show Jesus’ victory over sin, death, and Satan!
- The Holy Spirit has given us faith to trust in Jesus alone as our Savior. Now, guided by God’s word and empowered by the Spirit, let us live unto God’s glory!

## Conclusion

If you are already tithing – *THANKS so much!*

If you are not yet tithing – *I hope this brochure encourages you to begin!* Since God’s Word cannot fail, **He will certainly bless you!**

## Connect With Us

**Website:** [www.BLC7500.com](http://www.BLC7500.com)

**YouTube:** “Benefit from the Bible”

**Facebook:** “Bethlehem Parma”

**Saturdays:** Class 3:00; Service 4:00

**Sundays:** Service 9:00; Classes 10:30

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# Tithing

## What Is Tithing?

## What Does the Bible Say?

## What Is God Promising?



**Keep Reading to Learn and Benefit!**

## Introduction

Fellow Believers: Tithing in the Old Testament is clear; however, in the New Testament, there are differences of opinion.

This brochure will help you understand:

- The key OT references to tithing.
- The key NT references to tithing.
- Some Bible references that strongly encourage every believer to tithe!

Please prayerfully consider the contents of this brochure before you make your own decision on the topic of tithing.

## What Does It Mean to Tithe?

To give a tithe is to give 10% of what God has given to us. If we think about our income,

10% sounds like a lot. However, most are giving the government and waitresses more than 10. It's true to our taxes pay for police, firefighters, and roads, and waitresses serve our food, but God has given us life, health, abilities, and jobs, and continues to sustain us and bless us in countless ways. So, don't be overwhelmed by 10%. Please keep reading to discover God's HUGE promises!

### 1: God Has Given Us All We Have

- ⇒ The Bible says: "You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But remember **the LORD your God**, for **it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth**" (Deuteronomy 8:17-18 NIV).
- ⇒ David prayed to the Lord: "Everything comes from you, and **we have given you only what comes from your hand**" (1 Chronicles 29:14 NIV).
- ⇒ The Bible says: "...What do you have that you did not receive?" (1 Cor. 4:7 NIV).

THINK: God has given us 100%; even if we worked hard to gain what we have, *it ultimately came from God!*

### 2: Receiving and Giving are Connected

Proper GIVING is based on our RECEIVING:

- ⇒ "Each of you must bring a gift **in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you**" (Deuteronomy 16:17 NIV).
- ⇒ "Now finish the work [of giving] **...according to your means. ...the gift is acceptable according to what one has**" (2 Corinthians 8:11-12 NIV).

### 3: A Tithe Belongs to the LORD

The Bible says: "**A tithe of everything... belongs to the LORD...**" (Leviticus 27:30 NIV). Therefore, in the OT, when people did not tithe, they were identified as robbers: "**Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' In tithes and offerings**" (Malachi 3:8). Is that true in the NT era? That's a difficult question, *but tithing has amazing benefits!* Please keep reading.

### 4: The Levites were Commanded to Tithe

The Levites were called to serve the LORD; the descendants of Aaron served as priests: "When you receive from the Israelites the tithe I give you as your inheritance, **you must present a tenth of that tithe as the LORD's offering**" (Numbers 18:26 NIV). The people were to give a tenth; *then the Levites were to give a tenth of what they received!*

### 5: Jesus Endorsed Tithing

Jesus said to the teachers of the law and Pharisees: "...You give a tenth of your spices--**mint, dill and cummin**. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--**justice, mercy and faithfulness**. You should have practiced the **latter**, without neglecting the **former**" (Matthew 23:23 NIV). Jesus said that **justice, mercy, and faithfulness** are *more important*, but He also said they should not neglect giving a tenth of everything, even their **mint, dill, and cummin**. **Luke 11:42** is very similar. Let's keep in mind that Jesus' ministry took place during the OT era. The NT era began when Jesus, *on Good Friday*, took away the sin of the world!

### 6: Giving to the LORD First Honors Him

The Bible says: "**Honor the LORD from your wealth, and from the first of all your produce**" (Proverbs 3:9 NAS). Wait! If we give to Him first, we may not have enough. *Such a thought expresses no faith!*

THINK: The LORD ♦keeps our heart beating, ♦gives us air to breathe, and ♦much more! Therefore, let us honor Him by giving FIRST to the work of His kingdom, and then trusting Him to provide all we need.

### 7: Disciples Give Cheerfully

As sinners we deserve nothing good, *yet God has richly blessed us in Christ now and forever!* Therefore, remembering: ♦God's gift of eternal life, ♦His promises to provide all our needs, ♦His promises to bless those who give generously, and ♦"**...God loves a cheerful giver**" (2 Cor. 9:7 NAS), *let us be filled with thanks and give cheerfully!*

### 8: Huge Blessings are Promised

- ⇒ **To those who honor the Lord in their giving:** "...your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine" (Proverbs 3:10 NAS).
- ⇒ **To those who tithe:** "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... 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" (Malachi 3:10 NIV).
- ⇒ **To those who use a large measure:** "Give, and it will be given to you... For with the [same size] measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Luke 6:38 NIV).