

And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return... And the king said unto Abram, 'Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself.'

Abram said, 'I will not take a thread to a shoelace, nor any thing that is yours, unless you should say, I have made Abram rich.'" (adopted from Gen.14:14-23)

'Jacob vowed 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 raiment to put on; then shall the LORD be my God: **and of all that you give me I will surely give the tenth unto you.**' (Gen.28:20-23)

'All the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's: it is holy unto the LORD. And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, **the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.**' (Lev.27:30,32)

'The tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer unto the LORD, I have given to the Levites: **Speak unto the Levites, When you take the tithes, then you shall offer up even a tenth part of the tithe.**' (Num.18:24,26)

'Will a man rob God? Yet **you have robbed me.** But you say, How have we robbed you? In tithes and offerings... You **bring all the tithes** into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, **and test me** now with this, says the LORD, **if I will not open the windows of heaven for you,** and pour out such a blessing for you, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.' (Mal:3:8,10)

We might think, 'Okay, these are scriptures from the Old Testament. 'And the law was given by Moses, but Grace and Truth came by Jesus.' (Jn.1:17) So, we don't have the tithe-law anymore according to the New Testament. Right?' – 'Right, but Jesus put the standard even higher for the serious ones.' **Listen to what Jesus said:**

'Then Jesus loved him and said, You lack one thing: sell whatever you have, give it to the poor, and you'll have a treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.' (Mark 10:21)

'Lend, **hoping for nothing again;** and your reward shall be great, and you shall be the children of the Highest: who is kind to the unthankful and the evil... **Give, and you'll be given;** good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give to you. For with the same measure you give, it shall be given to you again.' (Luke 6:35,38)

Let's look at some, who put this into practice.



1888 – 1969



R.G. LeTourneau, at age 30, while heavily in debt, made the commitment to make God his business partner. The Lord showed him how, instead of iron catterpillars tracks, which regularly got



stuck in the desert sand or mud, to make extra large tyres, which made it much easier to manouver and work in those difficult terrains. He became a renowned 20th-century industrialist and inventor of earthmoving equipment. He famously reversed the traditional model of tithing. Instead of giving 10% of his income to God and keeping 90% for himself, **LeTourneau gave 90% of his income; living on 10%.**

Tithe is not supposed to be a ceiling where we stop giving it is the floor from where we start.

He did not see his giving as a sacrifice, but believed he was managing God's money. He is quoted, "It's not how much of my money I give to God, but how much of God's money I keep for myself." He is also famous for, "**I shovel out the money, and God shovels it back - but God has a bigger shovel.**" By 1959, he had donated \$10 million to religious and educational causes, with his foundation still holding \$40 million in assets. His giving supported the LeTourneau Foundation and LeTourneau University.

God will see to it that the giving person is the main beneficiary of his or her own giving.

John D. Rockefeller, the first U.S. billionaire and founder of Standard Oil. Although controversial, he was a Baptist who practiced strict biblical tithing, donating at least 10% of his income to 11 religious, educational, and scientific causes during his life.



1839–1937

He said in an interview, "Yes, I tithe, and I would like to tell you how it all came about. I had to begin work as a small boy to help support my mother. My first wages amounted to \$1.50 per week. I took the \$1.50 home to my mother and she held the money in her lap and explained to me that she would be happy if I would give a tenth of it to the Lord. I did, and from that week until this day I have tithed every dollar that God has entrusted me with.

And I want to say, **if I had not tithed the first dollar I made I would not have tithed the first million dollars I made.** Tell your readers to train the children to tithe, and they will grow up to be faithful stewards of the Lord."

He started tithing in 1856 and continued it even after becoming incredibly wealthy. While it began as a 10% tithe, his philanthropy grew significantly; after retiring in 1897, he donated over 500 million U\$.

But I don't own billions; what can I do? - Just START
Warm Blankets for Rough Sleepers



The Angels Came Down On a cold Winter night

If you don't give away what God lays on your heart to give, you don't own it anymore - it owns you.

"He who pities the poor, lends to the Lord; and that which he has given he will pay him again." Prov.19:17



This is not a fallacy or myth, but we can invest in our future life and send funds ahead by helping the poor presently. The dividends will far outweigh any sacrifice. The Lord is not a scrooge or greedy banker. He promised to repay and he will do so with a very generous interest and dividends.



"Whoever blocks their ears at the cry of the poor, they shall also cry themselves, but shall not be heard." (Prov.21:13)

If we are miserly and don't like to help, then the Lord cannot pay us back once we get there, as we've put nothing into our **Long-lasting Fixed Deposit Account**. Maybe **we can see the person that needs help as our bank-clerk** who accepts our funds to put into our heavenly Fixed Deposit Account. However, this only works if we give with a cheerful and happy heart.

"Let every man give from his heart, not because he has to, as God loves a cheerful giver." 2Cor.9:7

"But, we can barely make ends meet."

"I do have to take care of my family and the bills. I cannot just start helping the poor. We have hardly enough and likely the times will get worse."

If we want to be sure of not lacking in the difficult days of the recession then we should give to the deprived, the poor.

"He that gives unto the poor shall not lack". Proverbs 28:27

We take care of others and the Lord promised that he will take care of us. Funds could come from unexpected sources. If we put the Lord to the test, he might surprise us, because if we help the poor the knife cuts three ways:

1. We help a needy person and experience the joy of giving.
2. My family and I will not lack.
3. We lend to the Lord, who will pay us back on the other side with generous interest.

"If any does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." (1Tim.5:8) - If God tells us to take care of our children, then we can turn around and tell God to take care of us, his children. That is, if we **become and behave like his children**.

I can understand that we don't want to give it to a flamboyant TV evangelist. Nevertheless, there are quite a few homeless and needy around. We could give to them and happily.



A Prayer: "Lord, you said 'a new commandment I give unto you that you love one another.' (Jn. 13:34) You also said, 'Give to him that asks of you.' (Mat.5:42) - Do help us, dear Jesus, as we have fallen short in the generosity department and please change us to not be in such a hurry, assuming we're too busy to show a little love and kindness to those who need it the most; the homeless, the elderly, the forgotten." The Lord promises that, *'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, what God has prepared for those that love him, and the least of these, his children.'* (1Cor.2:9)



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Tithing and giving



I have never really written anything about giving and tithing, but then realized that even among the believers, some don't really know what tithing is.

How to Get the Maximum Dividend of our Giving Pharaohs have stored up wealth in their tombs to bring these along to the next life. This obviously did not work for them as it is still here on earth.

The best way to send it ahead is to help while we are still alive, that is when we get the maximum dividend. We can leave it in our will to some charity which is wonderful, but that is not really giving from the heart; that is because we can't keep it anyway.

What is Tithe?

Members of a church tithe, meaning they set aside 10% of their income to give away to a worthy cause. Where does this find its origine in the Bible?

'When Abram heard that his brother Lot was also taken captive from Sodom by king Chedorlaomer, he armed his 380 trained servants, he pursued them and by night he smote them. He brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother's son Lot, and his goods, the women and the people. And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was **the priest of the most high God**. And he blessed him.. **And Abram gave him tithes of all.'**