

## Rewards of Tithing

Tithing symbolizes and helps express your commitment to Christ and the church. A regular plan for giving can help:

**Enrich your life:** Through giving, we offer ourselves in service and devotion to God. We become stronger in faith, more aware of others' needs, and we experience the joy of sharing with others in Christ.

**Accomplish the church's mission:** Reliable funding allows the church to plan for expenses, carry out programs, maintaining outreach activities and help those in need.

## The Origins of Tithing

The Holy Bible provides the basic Christian teaching about tithing. The Old Testament contains many references to tithing. It refers to tithing as being required of all. A tenth of possessions such as animals, grains, etc. (the best tenth of the "first fruits"), was to be set aside and offered to God in thanks for the blessings we are given.

The custom of tithing may have started before the 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C. *"All tithes from the land, whether the seed from the ground or the fruit from the tree, are the LORD's; THEY ARE HOLY TO THE LORD"* (Leviticus 27:30).

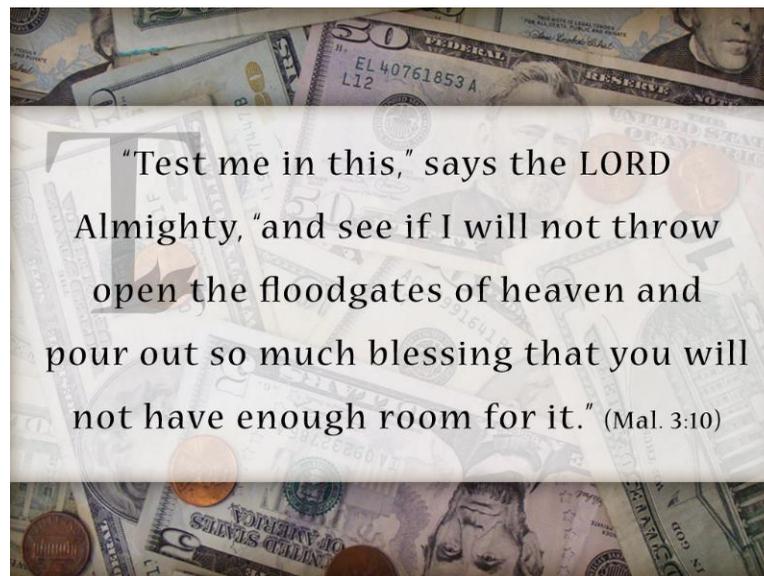
According to the New Testament, Jesus affirmed tithing as a form of stewardship. Stewardship means using everything God has given us - life, talents, possessions - to serve God with love and gratitude. Jesus encouraged giving in proportion to what we have received, praising the poor widow for her generous gift (Luke 21:1-4). The apostle Paul directed his followers to plan their contributions.

*"On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn..."* 1 Corinthians 16:2

## Tithing in the early Church

The custom of tithing changed and developed as the Church grew.

1. **Tithes were often crops or livestock.** The early Church, poor and struggling, stressed voluntary giving of whatever was available. Later, when money became more common, it replaced the practice of tithing animals, grain, etc.
2. **Tithing became compulsory.** By the 4<sup>th</sup> century, Christianity had grown to include many prosperous people who were able (and required) to give more.
3. **Tithing rules were developed.** By the 6<sup>th</sup> century, the Church decreed how tithes would be collected. Violators were punished (by excommunication in extreme cases).
4. **Tithing changed after the Reformation.** By the 16<sup>th</sup> century, compulsory tithing had alienated many Christians. The requirement was gradually abandoned in most churches.



## Tithing in Today's Church

The success of tithing depends on the understanding and participation of church members.

**Tithing as stewardship:** According to the teachings of the New Testament, church members are stewards of God's gifts and should give freely to further God's work.

**Tithing as a church program:** Many churches have organized plans for encouraging tithing and helping members to tithe.

**Tithing in estate planning:** Through your will or life insurance plan (offered by many church organizations), your estate can continue to provide support after your death.

**Teaching tithing to others:** Church members should teach their children to tithe, explain it to others, and set good examples themselves.

## Reason to Tithe

Everything we have comes as a gift from God. To show our faith and thanksgiving, we can return a part of God's gifts to us to help the Church carry out its work.

**Loving:** Through giving, we show our love for God and humanity and receive God's love.

**Growing:** It is a challenge that helps us develop self-discipline, responsibility and maturity.

**Helping:** Tithing supports programs to help those with material and spiritual needs.

*"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received"*

1 Peter 4:10

## Let's Honor The Lord With Our Giving

"Remember this, whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly.  
And whoever sows generously will also reap generously."  
2 Corinthians 9:6



## Who Tithes?

Anyone who has an income can plan ahead to make tithing a regular part of his or her budget.

**Employees:** Regularly set aside a portion of your salary.

**The Self-Employed:** Compute the tithe based on your income after business (not personal) deductions.

**Retired People:** Tithe, even if income is small. The amount is not as important as planned, consistent giving.

**Teens:** Giving a percentage from part-time jobs will help establish the tithing habit early.

**Children:** Even the young can put aside a small amount each week for God.

## How and When to Tithe?

Some guidelines for tithing...



### **Do not Designate or Place Stipulations:**

When we tithe we give without any say where or how the tithe is to be used. Designated giving is appreciated but designated giving is not tithe because it is giving with conditions. Remember, we are to be cheerful givers who trust in the Lord to bless and use the tithe for His kingdom.

**Be Systematic:** The key is to make tithing a normal part of your budget. Whatever your program of giving, keep records, be prompt and try not to miss dates.

**Tithe Weekly:** Weekly or monthly tithing helps your church plan its budget. Planning to tithe yearly often results in not having the money ready when promised. If you don't receive income on a regular basis, tithe when you receive it.

**Titling is Not a Substitute:** for other Christian obligations such as volunteering your time for church-related activities. Think of tithing as an important part of your total stewardship responsibilities.

**Think You Cannot Afford to Tithe? Financial Trouble?**  
**Check out some of these resources:**

[www.crown.org](http://www.crown.org)  
[www.nacfc.org](http://www.nacfc.org)

[www.daveramsey.com](http://www.daveramsey.com)  
[www.thelifegroup.org](http://www.thelifegroup.org)

We, as a church family here at Hurt Pentecostal Holiness Church thank you for giving your Time, Talent and Tithe! Thank you for being a partner with us as together we serve the Lord Jesus and share His love!



## What Is Tithing?

It is the voluntary giving of the first tenth of one's income to God through a systematic contribution of financial support to your home church "the storehouse". It's giving out of love and gratitude of God's blessings. It is a spiritual principle of Christian living. Anything above and beyond the tithe is considered an offering.

*"And of all that you give me I will surely give one tenth..."*

*Genesis 28:22*



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