

Victory's Voice

Victory Worship International

October 2026

Giving, Our Act of Worship!

The next few newsletters I want to consider the subject of giving. The greatest giver was God Himself. He gave His Son Jesus as His greatest gift to mankind. His example stands as our way to always give. It was an act of pure worship and love. Abraham, when he was commanded to offer Isaac as an act of worship, did so without hesitation, and was rewarded for his obedience, and became the father of many nations by which the Messiah would come. Giving is always our act of love and worship to God. **It is never done out of obligation!** We do it simply because we truly love our Lord. Today I just want to touch on a question that is perhaps on some of our minds: **Question:** "What does the Bible say about **Christian tithing**?" Should a Christian tithe?" **Answer:** Many Christians struggle with the issue of tithing. In some churches giving is over-emphasized; in others it is rarely mentioned, and **believers may be unaware of the biblical exhortations about the joys of giving.** The actual "tithe" is an Old Testament command to Israel, but giving to support the work of ministry, as well as giving to those in need, is generally part of the good stewardship that God expects of each of us.

Tithing is an Old Testament concept. The tithe (or tenth) was a requirement of the law in which the Israelites were to give 10 percent of the crops they grew and the livestock they raised to the tabernacle/temple (Leviticus 27:30; Numbers 18:26; Deuteronomy 14:24; 2 Chronicles 31:5). The Old Testament law required Israelites to tithe at different times and for various purposes—to support the Levites (Numbers 18:21, 24), to celebrate the feasts (Deuteronomy 14:22–27), and to care for the poor of the land (Deuteronomy 14:28–29). Some understand the Old Testament tithe as a method of taxation to provide for the needs of the priests and Levites.

Jesus Christ fulfilled the Mosaic Law. The shadow of the ceremonial system was completed in Him. The temple was no longer needed for worship. Instead, "the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth" (John 4:23). Collectively, all who put their faith in Christ make up the church, which was instituted after Jesus' ascension. The church is both global and uniquely expressed in local gatherings of believers.

As part of the Mosaic Law, the tithe ended with

the fulfilling of the law. New Testament believers are not mandated to give 10 percent, but we are still called to financially participate in the work of the church and to care for those who spiritually care for us. 1 Corinthians 9:13–14 explains, "Don't you know that those who serve in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel." **1 Timothy 5:17–18** says, "The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For Scripture says, 'Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain,' and 'The worker deserves his wages.'" Our giving is also intended to support the work of missions (**Philippians 4:10–19**) and help those in need (**2 Corinthians 8; 1 Timothy 5:3**).

The New Testament nowhere designates a percentage of income a person should give. Christians are not obligated to give a 10-percent tithe. But Scripture does encourage believers to regularly set aside money to give "in keeping with income" (1 Corinthians 16:2; cf. 2 Corinthians 8:12). God promises His blessing on the giver: "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver**" (**2 Corinthians 9:6–7**). Some Christians consider the 10 percent figure from the Old Testament tithe as a "recommended minimum" for their giving.

Although the tithe is not obligatory for the Christian, the New Testament emphasizes the importance and benefits of freewill giving. We are to give as we are able. Sometimes that means giving more than 10 percent; sometimes that may mean giving less. It depends on the ability of the Christian and the needs of the body of Christ. Every Christian should diligently pray and seek God's wisdom in the matter of giving (see James 1:5). **However much we give, we should offer it with pure motives, a cheerful heart, and an attitude of worship.**

Until the trumpet sounds, 1 Thess. 4:13-18

Pastor George



Holding Fast The Word Of Life

Paul writes, "Holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain" (Philippians 2:16). Paul was picturing a day when he would stand in Christ's presence and the secrets of redemption would be unveiled.

Scripture says that on that day our eyes will be opened, and we will behold the Lord's glory without rebuke from Him. Our hearts will be set on fire as He opens all the mysteries of the universe and shows us His power behind it. Suddenly we will see the reality of all that had been available to us in our earthly trials: the power and resources of heaven, the protective angels, the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit.

As we behold the awesomeness of these things, the Lord will say to us, "All along, my warriors were camped about you, an army of protectors; you were never in any danger from Satan. You never had any reason to fear your tomorrows."

Then Christ will show us the Father—and what an overwhelming moment that will be. As we behold the majesty of our heavenly Father, we will fully realize His love and care for us. Suddenly, the truth will come to us in full force: "This was, and is, and forever will be *our Father*, truly the great I AM."

Paul says he "held fast" his word about God's faithfulness because he did not want to stand in the Lord's presence, thinking, "How could I have been so blind?"

The apostle is exhorting us: "I want to rejoice on that day, when my eyes are fully opened. I want to be able to enjoy every revelation knowing I trusted in His promises. I want to know that I held fast the Word of life in all my reactions to my sufferings, that I fought a good fight, that I proved my Lord faithful." May it be so for you!

David Wilkerson
God is Faithful Devotional
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October Events

2-4 Fri-Sun Fresh Wind Fresh Fire
Conference at Brookly Tabernacle
4 Sun Communion Service 11 am
10 Sat Men's Breakfast 8 am
12 Mon Columbus Day
24 Sat Evangelism Outreach weather
permitting 9 to 11 am
25 Sun Teacher Appreciation
Luncheon 1 pm

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