

Philippians 4:14-19: “Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. (v.15) Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; (v.16) for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. (v.17) Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. (v.18) I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. (v.19) And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”

1 Corinthians 9:13-14 “Don't you know that those who work in the Temple get their meals from the food brought to the Temple as offerings? And those who serve at the altar get a share of the sacrificial offerings. In the same way, the Lord gave orders that those who preach the Good News should be supported by those who benefit from it.”

2. Tithing is a _____ of Spiritual

2 Corinthians 8:7: “But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”

KEY QUESTION: *How is tithing connected with my spiritual growth and maturity?*

A Lack of tithing may reveal...

- My problem with _____ & a lack of _____ (Phil.4:10-13; 1 Tim.6:6-10; Lk. 12:13-21).
- My lack of _____ in God's provision (Matthew 6:25-34).
- My _____ is not in heaven, but on earth (Matthew 6:19-24).
- My _____ are backwards (Haggai 1:2-11).

3. Tithing is a _____ of Your _____ for God.

2 Corinthians 8:8: “I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others.”

Key Question:

Who do you love – God, or Money?

1 Timothy 6:10 “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”

Ecclesiastes 5:10,13 “Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. (v.13) I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner...”

Matthew 6:24: “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.”

4. Tithing Makes You Like _____.

2 Corinthians 8:9: “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”

Romans 5:8: “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son...”

5. Tithing shows you _____ God.

2 Corinthians 8:19: “What is more, he was chosen by the churches to accompany us as we carry the offering, which we administer in order to honor the Lord himself and to show our eagerness to help.”

Proverbs 3:9-10: “Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops (v.10) then your barns will be filled with overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.”

6. Tithing Keeps You from _____ God.

Malachi 3:8-12: “Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ “In tithes and offerings.”⁹ You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because **you are robbing me.**¹⁰ ***Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.*** Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “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.”¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit,” says the Lord Almighty.¹² “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the Lord Almighty.”

FINAL THOUGHTS

Why does God want you to tithe?

- To bring him honor.
- To become like Jesus in character.
- To experience spiritual maturity.
- To prove the sincerity of your love for God & the lost.
- To keep you from robbing God.

A COMMITMENT PRAYER

“Father, I know you love me and want what’s best for me. I recognize that all I have, or will ever have, comes from you. I am more interested in pleasing you than in having more possessions. I want you to have first place in my life and I am willing to begin tithing as you have commanded. Out of gratitude for all you have done for me, and in expectation that you will continue to provide for me, I commit myself to returning at least 10% of all I learn back to you. I want to begin investing for eternity. Help me remain faithful to this commitment. In Jesus’ name, Amen!”

Today’s Message: “The Skinny on Tithing”

Pastor Cory Anderson / 06.06.10 / SMC

INTRODUCTION:

1. Tithing is a _____ of Your _____ for Others.

➤ Our Love for the _____ of God.

1 John 3:16-18: “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And **we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.** (v.17) **If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?** (v.18) Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with **actions and in truth.**”

2 Corinthians 8:3-4: “For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, (v.4) they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of **sharing in this service to the saints.**”

2 Corinthians 8:13-14: “Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. (v.14) **At the present time your plenty will supply what they need,** so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality...”

2 Corinthians 9:12-13: “This service that you perform is **not only supplying the needs of God’s people** but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. (v.13) **Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves,** men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.”

➤ Our Love for those not yet in the _____ of God.

Philippians 1:3-6: “I thank my God every time I remember you. (v.4) In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy (v.5) because of **your partnership in the gospel** from the first day until now, (v.6) being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”