

## GOD'S PLAN FOR BLESSING

March 2024

Everyone loves "Top Ten Lists." For years the great late-night comedian and host David Letterman made it a beloved part of his show. The Bible gives us many reasons to tithe...certainly more than ten...but we are going to touch on these for the next few weeks. Let's get started.

### NUMBER TEN

*Because God says so!* Any reason we have for not tithing is basically a negative reaction to the fact God commanded His people to bring a tenth to Him. We resist, struggle, don't like it...but God said to do it!

#### **Leviticus 27:30**

**And 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 to the Lord.**

#### **Malachi 3:10**

**Bring all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be food in my house. And try Me now in this, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.**

#### **Matthew 23:23**

**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier *matters* of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.**

God says "Tithe." Enough said!

### NUMBER NINE

We saw number ten was simple and straightforward: Because God says so! Number nine is a little more pleasant. *We should tithe because God promises to provide for those who tithe.*

#### **Malachi 3:10–11**

**10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse,  
That there may be food in My house,  
And try Me now in this,"  
Says the Lord of hosts,  
"If I will not open for you the windows of heaven  
And pour out for you *such* blessing  
That *there will not be room enough to receive it.*  
11 "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes,  
So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground,**

## **GOD'S PLAN FOR BLESSING**

### **March 2024**

**Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,"  
Says the Lord of hosts;**

God doesn't stop with telling us to do something or else. He proceeds to tell us how our obedience will bring His blessing into our lives. God promises two things to the tither. First, He is going to bless your life so much you cannot contain it. In other words, His blessing will be so great you just have to share it. Second, He is going to beat the devil off your life so you can enjoy it. That's the kind of blessed life I want to live.

### **NUMBER EIGHT**

Ten was "God said so." Nine was "God promises to bless you." Number eight is foundational. Tithe because tithing is the very bedrock of the gospel.

**John 3:16**

**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that  
whosoever believes in His should not perish but have everlasting life.**

God loved...God gave. You cannot separate the two. The ultimate display of giving was His only Son, Jesus, who was given for us. We know the love of God in that while we were sinners, worthless, God gave His Son for us. Can our giving be anything less than an expression that the power of the gospel has impacted our lives?

### **NUMBER SEVEN**

Last week we saw tithing and giving as the very foundation upon which the gospel is built. Today we examine number seven in the top ten reasons we should tithe. *We should tithe because doing so puts God first.*

**Matthew 6:33**

**Seek FIRST the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these  
things will be added unto you.**

When saying "all these things" Jesus was alluding to the necessities of life. He taught us as long as we put Him first, and every time we tithe that's what we are doing, He will see to it that our needs are met.

Many are afraid if we tithe we will not have enough. Here is the answer to that fear. Every time you tithe, every time you give, every missionary you support, every time money flows from you into God's kingdom, you are sending a message of faith to the throne and stating for all to hear, "God is first in my life!"

## **GOD'S PLAN FOR BLESSING**

**March 2024**

### **NUMBER SIX**

As we saw last week, putting God first is a key element in the life of the tither. Number six in our top ten reasons takes things a step further. *We should tithe because we want to grow in the Lord.*

**Luke 16:11**

**And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?**

Many of us want great things from God. Healing. Blessing. Anointing. Churches want growth, parents want to see their children saved. Yet for some reason we feel we can simply disobey God in the area of tithing and giving and there is no consequence.

Jesus was straightforward. If we can't be trusted with a few dollars, who are we to think we can be trusted with the really powerful things of the Kingdom? Of course the answer is negative. I don't want a few paltry dollars to hinder my growth in the things of God.

### **NUMBER FIVE**

Here's where the proof is in the pudding, so to speak. Reason number five of our top ten reasons to tithe is *we prove the validity of God's Word*. Once more, hear the word of Jehovah.

**Malachi 3:10**

**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.**

God says He will prove it to you. Be faithful in tithing and see if His Word is reliable. Through the years I have held financial campaigns and asked people to sign pledge cards that they would tithe. I promised them if they lacked, if they fell behind, if their tithing hurt them, I would refund their money in full. Never once have I had to write that check. Tithe...test God. I promise you this: He isn't afraid of your situation. Let Him prove His goodness to you.

### **NUMBER FOUR**

If reason number five never existed, if there was no promise attached to tithing, number four alone should drive all to tithing. *We tithe because it demonstrates our love for Jesus.*

## **GOD'S PLAN FOR BLESSING**

### **March 2024**

#### **John 14:15**

**If you love me, keep my commandments.**

We prove our love for Him by doing what He commanded us to do. We don't earn His love, we show our love in return for that He has already given us. Should I ask today "who loves Jesus?" most would say "I do." Are we doing what He commanded?

- Loving one another
- Doing good, lending to those in need
- Showing mercy
- Refusing to judge and condemn others
- Giving...so that it may be given to us?

It is tempting to overlook what Jesus taught about tithing and giving and move onto the more social aspects of His commands. Never forget, Jesus taught us about tithing and giving as well.

### **NUMBER THREE**

Let's do a recap....

10. Because God said so
9. Promises to those who tithe
8. Foundation of the gospel
7. Putting God first
6. Growing in the Lord
5. Proving God's Word
4. Showing love for Jesus

*Number three in the top ten reasons to tithe is that our tithing is an investment in eternity.*

#### **Matthew 6:20**

**Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.**

When you tithe, you have a part in winning souls, in making disciples, in helping the poor, in feeding the hungry. You are laying up things in heaven which will never be touched by earthly harm. When you support, through your tithe, the "business" of this church, you are assisting in reaching people for Christ, in helping them overcome, in making disciples. Any way you look at it, that's a wise investment.

## **GOD'S PLAN FOR BLESSING**

### **March 2024**

#### **NUMBER TWO**

*The number two reason you should tithe is wonderful, it brings the joy of the Lord. Paul gave us an amazing statement.*

#### **2 Corinthians 9:7**

**So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.**

I'll be honest. When I look at some of the things, actually most of the things, my taxes are used for in this nation, I don't have much joy. Of course I still "give" them. But that is not true when I look at what my tithing does. When I survey the ministry of this local church, and the Church of God as a whole, and see the great things happening both here and around the world, my heart is filled with joy when I tithe.

When I tithe I am part of this church reaching people, discipling people.

When I tithe I am part of churches and ministries across the state, reaching people, discipling people.

When I tithe, I am part of churches around the world reaching hundreds of thousands every year for Christ I will only meet in eternity.

That brings JOY to my life!

#### **NUMBER ONE**

Well, here we are, the number one reason for tithing. *Simply put, it is this: Whatever you do, God will out do you!*

He made Himself pretty clear, He will be in debt to no man!

#### **Proverbs 19:17**

**He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord,  
And He will pay back what he has given.**

God refuses to be in debt to us. No flesh will ever glory in His presence...and that includes flesh boasting about giving. God will repay, one way or another, every tithe dollar, every missionary dollar, every ministry dollar ever given.

This is clearly seen in creation...it is His principle. Give one seed to the earth, reap numerous vegetables. That's why we are told we will reap what we sow. I give my tithe to Him, I invest in His Kingdom, and He will ensure I will be blessed in a far greater measure. Let's become tithers!