

## How Now Shall I Give?

Matthew 6:21

### Summary

This sermon will examine the Biblical precedence that God has ordained for us to follow with regard to the nature of giving. We will examine several OT and NT passages on tithing with the main focus upon the nature of **Giving**. We will pose the following central question.

**Central Question** – *How much dare I keep?*

### Five Basic Principles of Tithing

**Principle #1** – Expression of Gratitude (OT / NT / BOTH)

- **Deuteronomy 14:22-23**
- **2 Corinthians 9:7**
- **Key Point** – This key principle will explain the basic concept that the tithe is not a punishment that God has enacted upon mankind in response to their sin against Him. The tithe is meant to be an expression of joy and gratitude.

**Principle #2** – Part of Worship (OT / NT / BOTH)

- **Leviticus 27:30-33**
- **Key Point** – This key principle helps the Christian understand that the OT command for tithing was part of the Mosaic Law as described in Leviticus 27 which means that it was an essential part of worship. The tithe today is still an integral part of worship yet people miss out on this act of worship every week.

**Principle #3** – Used to Support Ministries (OT / NT / BOTH)

- **Deuteronomy 14:27**
- **Key Point** – This key principle helps us understand that the tithe is used to support ministries of different kind that are spreading the message of the Gospel. The local church utilizes the tithe to pay ministers and support staff, support missionaries, and to reach out to the local community through benevolence and evangelism. These are merely a few items that the church uses the tithe for.

**Principle #4** – Teaches People to Fear God (OT / NT / BOTH)

- **Deuteronomy 14:23**
- **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**
- **Key Point** – This key principle will help us understand that the tithe merely reinforces a healthy fear of the God. We must correctly define that healthy fear of the Lord as a healthy respect and reverence for the Lord to keep with the proper meaning of the translation.

**Principle #5 – *It is not* an Act of Discipleship (OT / NT / BOTH)**

- **Matthew 19:21**
- **Luke 14:33**
- **Key Point** – This key principle will help us understand that God expects us to go well beyond a mere 10% when reflecting upon our gifts to Him. As Christians we must remember that God wants 100% of us not a mere 10%.

**Closing Question to Wrestle With:** *The question is not can I afford to tithe but rather can I justify a lifestyle that consumes 90% or more of my income?*

**Investment Tip #4**

Make a 40 day commitment to give a minimum of 10% to the Lord in the areas of your time, talent, and treasure.

**Questions to Consider**

1. Do I believe that tithing is a command of God that I am expected to follow today? Why or why not?
2. What does it mean to give my life in its entirety to the Lord? When does this start?

**Memory Verse**

**Matthew 6:21** – For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

