

Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4), and the apostle Paul also said, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17). It is difficult to preach about tithes. However, it is something that must be done and conveyed. I hope that there will be a movement of the Holy Spirit in your hearts through exhortations of truth and love. This is a battle against the material idols in our hearts because loving money is the root of all evil.

First, what is the tithe?

Offerings to God should be done willingly and not begrudgingly, as it is written, "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). In verse 7 of today's passage, God tells the people who have departed from His ordinances to return. How can we return to God? We must acknowledge God's ownership over us, and the tithe is the standard for that. This is not stealing from God (verse 8). We are all tenants of God's property, not owners. This is something that is only possible for those who seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33). God made a distinction between what to eat and what not to eat in the Garden of Eden. Tithing is something we should not "eat." As saints who confess God as Lord with our lips, we must not covet the holy offering that belongs to God. We must understand and observe the tithe, which is the cornerstone of faith.

Solomon said in Proverbs, "Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce" (Proverbs 3:9). He also said that when you obey, "your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine" (Proverbs 3:10). Tithing is a seed of blessing, so God tests us to try our faith. Jesus also said, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:19-20). It is precious to respond with a heart of gratitude, acknowledging the grace of the Lord who gave us life when we give offerings.

Second, why should we live a tithing life?

As mentioned in verse 10, we are to provide food in the house of the Lord and support the spreading of the gospel to all nations. Many things are needed to fulfill the various ministries of the Lord, such as evangelism and missionary work. To do these things, we dedicate ourselves by offering tithes. When we give to God's work, the Lord promises to bless our homes and everything we do. He promises to open the windows of heaven and pour out blessings. He promises prosperity for our homes, churches, and nations.

To give offerings with only the expectation of receiving blessings is wrong. Such selfish and materialistic faith should not be cultivated. However, if we focus on the work of God and the body of Christ, we will gladly dedicate ourselves and give offerings according to our faith. May our faith overflow with gratitude.

Third, what are the results of tithing?

Verses 10-12 clearly state God's promise. He promises to open the windows of heaven and pour out blessings (verse 10). He prohibits the devourer from destroying the produce of the land and ensures that the fruit of the vine does not fail before its time (verse 11). As a result, the land will be beautiful, even to the eyes of foreigners (verse 12). Considering the grace of the cross, what would we hesitate or doubt before the promises of God's word? Obedience to God's word through this precious faith is a blessed thing.

Hebrews 11:6 says, "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."

Lord! Grant us, your saints, the precious grace to live our lives in obedience to your word with faith alone! Amen!

**Bible
Memorization**

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.”
(Malachi 3:10)

**Bible
Reading**

4/15(Mon)	4/16(Tue)	4/17(Wed)	4/18(Thur)	4/19(Fri)	4/20(Sat)	4/21(Sun)
2 Sam 8-11	2 Sam 12-13	2 Sam 14-15	2 Sam 16-18	2 Sam 19	2 Sam 20-22	2 Sam 23-24

QT

Quiet Time Passage

4/15(Mon)	4/16(Tue)	4/17(Wed)	4/18(Thur)	4/19(Fri)	4/20(Sat)	4/21(Sun)
1 Kings 6:14-38	1 Kings 7:1-22	1 Kings 7:23-51	1 Kings 8:1-11	1 Kings 8:12-21	1 Kings 8:22-30	1 Kings 8:31-40

**Sharing
Questions**

1. Please share anything new or grace you have received through today's message.
2. If there is a special grace that God has given you in your life, please share it.
3. If there is anything you can offer to God with gratitude, please share what it is.