

Word-is-Truth Christian Church
502 Woodland Avenue
Plainfield, NJ 07062

Giving Policy

Who should give?

Those who have personally believed in the Lord Jesus Christ have the privilege of giving. This Church shall not knowingly accept gifts from unbelievers to support its work. Nothing the unbeliever does is pleasing to God since he is spiritually dead and under the wrath of God. Further, this Church shall not make individual solicitations of funds or pledges among believers. Freewill giving from believers will be accepted as the teaching of the Word motivates them.

What Preparation is needed before giving?

Giving is a part of worship and therefore it is a spiritual act. Knowing this, the first requirement for giving is the filling of the Spirit, "*God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth*" (John 4:24). Therefore, the believer should first make sure he is filled with the Spirit (Eph 5:18), by confessing his sins privately to God if necessary (1John 1:9).

What is the proper attitude for giving?

2 Cor 9:7

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Consider three points:

1. He is to give "*what he has decided...*" Each believer should be prepared to give; he should have given some thought as to how much in advance. Many seem surprised when the plate is passed and are unprepared and do not have their gifts ready at the proper time. We have all heard the saying, "it's the thought that counts." We can tell when someone gives us a gift rushed and with no thought. We appreciate the gift more when we see thought and planning went into it. Being organized in giving demonstrates that we have planned, prepared and have the proper attitude when bringing our gifts before God. Giving should be systematic (1Cor 16:2).

2. Each one is to give "*...not reluctantly or under compulsion...*" The believer should be willing to give. Therefore, believers should not be begged, coaxed, persuaded or cajoled to give. He is to give freely, as he is motivated by the doctrine he has in his soul. Each believer in this age is a royal priest (1Pet 2:9; Rev 1:6). As priests we represent ourselves before God. Giving is a private matter between the God and the believer-priest. What or how much is given is solely up to that believer. It should be determined by the believer's income and how much God has prospered (see 2Cor 8:12-15; 1Cor 16:2; Deut 16:17; Acts 11:29). Attitude is everything in giving. Giving is a barometer of the spiritual life. If a believer has the proper attitude and does not have anything to give, it is just as though he has given (2Cor 8:12).

3. When we give with the proper mental attitude, we can be sure our gifts are accepted "*for God loves a cheerful giver...*" It is our joy to serve God. God has given us so much in grace that we can never repay. If it is possible for us to do something that He loves and pleases Him, we should be overjoyed to do so. If we haven't taken time to study the proper attitude in grace giving, we

should always be ready to “...*find out what pleases the Lord*” (Eph 5:10). And, since God loves a cheerful giver, He is ready to give us even more, as we sow; we reap bountifully (2Cor 9:5, 6).

But what about tithing?

Tithing is not grace giving. Tithe means ten percent, or a tenth. The moment we suggest a believer tithe, we are violating the principle of 2Cor 9:7 above where he is to give “*as he has decided in his own heart.*” Tithing was commanded under the law to those living under the law,

Heb 7:5

Now the law requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people-- that is, their brothers--

Christians are “...*not under law, but under grace*” (Rom 6:14). God has something greater for us living under grace, that is—grace giving! God designed tithing as a system of income tax for the Jew under the law. Since the kingdom was a theocratic kingdom, God designed it in such a way that it would be supported by tithes. The Levites were to receive the tithe since they had no inheritance. Also, there was more than one tithe levied (see Num. 18:21-24; Deut 14:22-29). It is interesting that those who would promote tithing do not follow it according to God’s original design; and they cannot because the Levitical priesthood is no longer valid, “*The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless*” (Heb 7:18).

But didn’t Jesus command tithing in the New Testament?

In Matthew 23:23, Jesus chides the Pharisees by pointing out that they were careful to tithe, but neglected the weightier matters of the law, like justice, mercy and faithfulness. In this is pointed out that they should have tithed which was the right thing to do. However, we must consider the time and circumstances in which Jesus spoke.

“But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons” (Gal 4:4-5).

Jesus was under the law and being under the law, tithing would still be in force. After the death of Christ, we are not under the law for Christ fulfilled the law (Rom 6:14). Tithing is not otherwise mentioned in the New Testament, except for Hebrews chapter 7 where the regulation for tithing was “*set aside*” or done away with the Levitical priesthood.

Weren’t people before the law commanded to pay tithes?

No. Abraham was not commanded or required to give Melchizedek a tenth of his spoils (read Gen 14:20). Neither was Jacob commanded to give a tenth (Gen 28:22). In each case, they gave willingly, from the heart, not under pressure. However, it did become a command under the Mosaic law (Heb 7:5). Failure to pay tithes then would be a violation of the law and subject to divine discipline (Mal 3:8).

The command to tithe was not spiritual giving in the Old Testament and certainly cannot be brought into the New Testament without doing much harm to grace. We should remember that God owns everything we have, He even owns us! As we understand these things, let us approach the Lord with the proper attitude as we worship through giving.