

Grace-Giving: Generosity and Gratitude

1. Prior to the Mosaic Law there are two instances where “tithe” is referenced.

A. Abraham Gen. 14:18–20

B. Jacob, Gen. 28:20–22

Genesis 28:20, “Then Jacob made a vow, saying, ‘If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on,

Genesis 28:21, “‘so that I come back to my father’s house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God.

Genesis 28:22, “‘And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God’s house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You’.”

2. The Mosaic Law

- **a. Tithing included possessions, not simply money.**
- “Thus all the tithe of the land, of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord’s; it is holy to the Lord” (Lev. 27:30).

2. The Mosaic Law

- **b. The first tithe supported the bureaucracy of the theocracy.**
- “to the sons of Levi, ... for an inheritance, in return for their service which they perform, the service of the tent of meeting” (Num. 18:21–23).

2. The Mosaic Law

- **c. A second tithe provided for a national celebration of the grace and generosity of God (Deut. 14:22–24).**

2. The Mosaic Law

- **d. Each third year another 10 percent was to be given for use in supporting “the Levite, ... the alien, the orphan and the widow” (Deut. 14:28–29).**

3. Free-will or grace giving

- **“Honor the Lord from your wealth, and from the first of all your produce; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine” (Prov. 3:9–10).**

3. Free-will or grace giving

- **“There is one who scatters, yet increases all the more, and there is one who withholds what is justly due, but it results only in want” (Prov. 11:24).**

3. Free-will or grace giving

- Moses raised money through a freewill offering: “Tell the sons of Israel to raise a contribution for Me; from every man whose heart moves him you shall raise My contribution” (Ex. 25:1–2; cf. 35:5, 21).**

3. Free-will or grace giving

- **Other passages: Lev 22:28–23; 23:38; 27:30; 27:30–31; Num. 15:3; Deut 12:6; Ezra 1:4; 3:5**

4. The national bank for storing the tithes was in the house of God, simply referred to as the house.

5. God chastised the nation for failing to fulfill their Mosaic Law responsibilities by bringing their tithes to the storehouse. (Mal. 3:8, 10)

6. In the Church Age we are no longer under the Mosaic Law. Christ was the end of the Law, Rom 10:4

the Old Covenant has been superseded or replaced by the New Covenant (Heb. 8:13—

“When He said, ‘a New Covenant,’ He made the first obsolete.”

Key Principles

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- a. **Giving, even under the Mosaic Law was not part of the means of spiritual growth. It is the outworking of genuine grace orientation and gratitude in the soul for all God has provided.**

Key Principles

- **b. Grace does not mean you don't have an obligation or responsibility to give, but that it is up to your volition.**

Key Principles

- c. **Grace doesn't mean it's free.**

Tithing in the New Testament

**1. Tithing is mentioned in the gospels only in reference to the legalistic practice of the Pharisees:
Luke 11:42, 18:12**

2. Our Lord taught that giving was to be a private matter, between the believer and God.

Matthew 6:2, “Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

Matthew 6:3, “But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

Matthew 6:4, “that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.”