

## Biblical Principles of Giving

3 P's of Giving: Priority, Percentage, and Progressive.

Priority - Giving should be a first priority in our spending plan

Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; (Proverbs 3:9 ESV)

Percentage - Our giving should be a percentage, or proportional, as God prospers us

Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the **FIRST day of EVERY week**, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, **as he may prosper**, so that there will be no collecting when I come. (1 Corinthians 16:1-2 ESV)

The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives. (Deuteronomy 14:23b LB)

Progressive - Our giving should be progressive, or grow, as God prospers us

Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes **and** contributions... 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 3:8, 10 ESV)

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. (2 Corinthians 9:6 NIV)

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“I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc., is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditures excludes them.” — C.S. Lewis (1898-1963)

# Frequently Asked Questions [FAQ]

<http://library.generousgiving.org/FAQ>

<http://www.crown.org/LIBRARY/>

## *What is the tithe?*

The word “tithe” comes from an Old English root meaning “one tenth.” The tithe was an offering of one’s agricultural income to the Lord as an expression of thanks and dedication. Today we commonly think of the tithe as “10 percent”. The Bible also includes provision for freewill offerings and personal giving above and beyond the tithe, so that the tithe never stood alone.

## *Should I tithe from my take-home pay or my gross income?*

Instead of asking, “How much am I required to give?” why not ask, “How much can I give?” For those who choose to tithe as a starting point for disciplined generosity, let us consider this question: Who deserves the first and best part of our income, the government or the living God? (The answer is clear; see Proverbs 3:9.) Giving more to the Lord may require sacrifice—and that should be our aim if we seek to imitate the generosity of Jesus.

## *Should the entire tithe go to the church?*

When we recognize that God owns everything and all blessings come from Him, our role as managers, or stewards, becomes evident. Part of being a good steward is giving back to God a portion of what He has entrusted to us. It is not that God needs our money. Rather, giving serves as an external, material testimony that God owns both the material and the spiritual things of our lives and that He is the source of all our supply.

Ideally, the church should serve as the storehouse in God's economy today. Then people's tithes would simply be given to the church. When we obey Him and pay our tithes to the church, God holds the leaders of the church responsible for the distribution of the tithes (see Nehemiah 12:44-45, 13:5, 13). Crossroads Community Church does not see the tithe as a “law” but, rather, as an indicator of obedience to God's laws. The principle of tithing is just that—a principle and not a law—and God is looking for the right attitude in a person's giving.

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*“If a person gets his attitude toward money straight, it will help straighten out almost every other area in his life.” — Billy Graham (1918-)*

*“Earn as much as you can. Save as much as you can. Invest as much as you can. Give as much as you can.” — John Wesley (1703-91)*

*“Charitable giving should be a spiritual, rather than economic, decision. Economically, charitable giving never pays.” — Ron Blue (1942-)*