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Worship, the Duty of the Church

Worship is expressing to God your acknowledgment of His glory. Worship has many aspects to it but it all stems from your attitude. A person can go to church, but the going in itself is not worship. But if their attitude is to give honour to God, then he is worshipping. While man sees the action you are doing, God looks behind the action and honours why you are doing it, or the attitude of your heart. This is the principle behind our giving to God.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

~ James 1:17

But everything comes from God.

~ 1 Corinthians 11:12

Since everything we have comes from the Lord, then it make sense that what we have should be used for the Lord. When we take from God and horde it for ourselves, we are robbing God of His own possessions and He will not bless us with more.

Tithing or Offerings

Tithing or offerings are returning to the Lord a portion of all that He gives us. It is an attitude of acknowledging our dependence upon the Lord, and an act of our gratitude by giving a portion of it back to the Lord for His kingdom work.

Read **Mark 12:41-44**.

- Why did Jesus say she gave more?
- What was Jesus teaching His disciples?

Jesus understood the connection between giving and blessing and the attitude behind it all.

The term "tithe" actually means "tenth" for that was the required percentage that the people in the Old Testament were required to give.

The believers in the New Testament were not told to change that percentage but note what they were instructed:

- Acts 11:29
- 2 Corinthians 9:6,7,8
- 1 Timothy 5:8
- 1 John 3:17
- Acts 20:7
- 1 Corinthians 16:2

From reading the passages what important principles emerge?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

There is a saying that goes like this, "unequal giving but equal sacrifice". Each person must determine before God what they can give and make such a sacrifice joyfully unto the Lord.

Remember God does not need your money, yet He honours your acknowledgment and attitude towards your money and possessions. That means everyone should be tithing regardless of how much or how little you have.

God Blesses Those who Bless Him

It is a simple and basic principle, and yet very true. The Lord knows how hard it is for you to tithe but He will honour you if your attitude is one of worship. But how does God honour us?

Read **Malachi 3:6-10**.

- How was God being robbed?
- What is the promise of God's blessing?

Always remember that your giving is not to the church, but to the Lord. Therefore, you can not use your tithe as a means to influence votes or as a sign of your approval or disapproval.

If you do then you are not giving joyfully to the Lord. If the spiritual leadership is misusing the offerings, God will deal with them, your part is completed between you and the Lord as soon as it is out of your hand.

