

“The Corn Crate Principle”

Living a Generous Life Series

Selected Scriptures

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Old Testament principles relating to financial giving:

- 1. The principle of the tithe:** Give God a tenth.
(Leviticus 27:30-33; Numbers 18:21-32; Deuteronomy 14:22-29)

“I have watched over 100,000 families over my years of investment counseling. I always saw greater prosperity and happiness among those families who tithed than among those who didn’t.”

Sir John Templeton from Brian Kluth,
Forty Day Spiritual Journey to a More Generous Life,
Colorado Springs, CO, www.GenerousLife.org, p. 57.

- 2. The principle of the firstfruits:** Give God your best.
(Deuteronomy 26:1-3)

“First things belong to God. The first day of the week belongs to God. The first hour of the day belongs to God. The first portion of your income belongs to God. When you make God first, He can help you.”

James MacDonald from Brian Kluth,
Forty Day Spiritual Journey to a More Generous Life,
Colorado Springs, CO, www.GenerousLife.org, p. 67.

The following quotes are taken from Brian Kluth's *Forty Day Spiritual Journey to a More Generous Life*, Colorado Springs, CO, www.GenerousLife.org:

“Your bank and credit card statements are theological documents. They tell who and what you worship.”

Brian Kluth, p. 12.

“Giving 10% isn't the ceiling on giving; it's the floor. It's not the finish line of giving, it's just the starting block.”

Brian Kluth, p. 15.

“Giving is a giant lever positioned on the fulcrum of this world, allowing us to move mountains in the next world. Because we give, eternity will be different—for others and for us.”

Randy Alcorn, p. 57.

“The only investment I ever made which has paid consistently increasing dividends is the money I have given to the Lord.”

James Kraft, Founder of Kraft Foods, p. 80.

“A wealthy Christian man who lost everything in a financial downturn was asked if he ever regretted all the giving he had done to the Lord's work. He replied, ‘What I gave, I still have. What I kept, I lost.’”

Brian Kluth, p. 64.

Tithes: Deuteronomy 12; 14

“At first glance, the concept of tithing seems simple. Leviticus 27:30–33 says: ‘A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord. . . . The entire tithe of the herd and flock—every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd’s rod—will be holy to the Lord.’ Ten percent of everything the land produced was to be set aside, to be used as God commanded.

Other passages expand our knowledge of Old Testament tithing. Numbers 18:21–32 instructs that tithes were to be used to maintain the Levites. That tribe was set apart to serve God, and its members were not given a district when Israel possessed the Promised Land. Deuteronomy 12:5–14 and 14:22–29 introduce another tithe, to be collected every third year for local distribution to the needy. Some argue for as many as three separate tithes designated in these passages. It is likely that there were at least two: the annual 10 percent taken for the support of those who served the Lord, and the third-year tithe taken to sustain the widow and orphan.

The Lord has always been concerned with the heart attitude of worshipers. The grateful believer who did not find the required tithes enough to express his or her devotion was invited to bring freewill offerings as well.”

Stephen D. Renn, *Expository Dictionary of Bible Words*,
Hendrickson Publishers, Peabody, MA, 2005

¹**tithe** \□tɪθ\ *verb*

tithed; tith•ing [Middle English, from Old English *teogothian*, from *teogotha* tenth] *verb transitive* before 12th century

- 1 : to pay or give a tenth part of especially for the support of the church
- 2 : to levy a tithe on verb intransitive : to give a tenth of one's income as a tithe

²**tithe** *noun*

[Middle English, from Old English *teogotha* tenth; akin to Middle Low German *tegede* tenth, Old English *tīen* ten — more at TEN] before 12th century

- 1 : a tenth part of something paid as a voluntary contribution or as a tax especially for the support of a religious establishment
- 2 : the obligation represented by individual tithes

first•fruits \□fərs(t)-□früts\ *noun plural*

14th century

- 1 : the earliest gathered fruits offered to the Deity in acknowledgment of the gift of fruitfulness
- 2 : the earliest products or results of an endeavor

Merriam-Webster, I. *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*. (Eleventh ed.) Merriam-Webster, Inc., Springfield, MA