

## 4 Ways We Give as Christians Teaching Outline

**CORE VALUE #2: We're Committed to Being 100%:** *We're all in & that's how we win, so we are committed to being 100% givers, 100% loving, and 100% excellent.*

There are **4 simple ways in which we give as Christians** clearly listed in Nehemiah 12:44 that unlock the blessing, which is God's empowerment to prosper, do well, and be whole. The Bible teaches that where our money is reveals where our heart (mind) is. Practically, when you give at Harvest, it's used to change more lives.

**The Tithe** – the tithe is the first **10% of our gross income** and was originally instituted by Abraham in Genesis 14:20 as a sign of the covenant between he and God. The tithe belongs to God and is not ours and should be the first thing paid when you receive any income of any type. God desires the first and the best. Tithing is proof of your love for God. Tithing is not an "old covenant" principle. It was taught on extensively as part of the Renewed Covenant. God states that you can test Him through your tithes and offerings according to Malachi 3:8-11. God requires obedience to His Word, but He gives great mercy and according to Leviticus 27:31, if you've fallen behind on your tithing or used it for something else, God provides you with grace. With that grace, God requires a 20% increase for a total tithe of 30% of our gross income.

**Tax Returns** – *You should tithe & sow an offering when receiving any tax refunds.*

**The Offering** – the offering is what we sow above the tithe and it determines the measure of increase we experience according to Luke 6:38. While the tithe is a sustainer, the offering brings increase. For example, if your offering is in the measure of tens, your increase will be in the tens and the tithe will sustain an atmosphere of that increase. Offerings are also "seed" and should be targeted when sown by writing your petition on your giving envelope.

**First Fruits** – the first fruit is the first of your increase found in several places in the Scriptures, but made plain in Proverbs 3:9-10. For example, if you get a raise of \$1000 MORE every week than your previous job, then your first fruit would be the first \$1,000 you receive from that raise. If you did not have a job and you get a new job, the first fruit is the entire first check. You only give first fruits when you come into an increase that will be continual (i.e. raise, bonus, etc.) If you start a business, the first sale made is a first fruit. The first fruit guarantees us continual overflow.

**Love Offerings** – The Bible teaches in 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 5:17 (NIV) that, "Pastors who do their work well should be respected and paid well, especially those who work hard at both preaching and teaching," and in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:11 (NIV), "if we have sown spiritual seed among you, it is too much if we reap a material harvest from you," and finally in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:14 (NIV), "that the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should make their living from the gospel." We should sow a "love offering" to our Bishop as a gesture of our appreciation for him.

I make a covenant with God to faithfully give my tithes, offerings & first fruits starting now according to Malachi 3:10 which says *"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," Says the Lord of hosts, 'If I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.'"*

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