

# AN OFFERING TO THE LORD



God EXPECTS us to give to him.  
WHY?

1. To **acknowledge** his gift of life

Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce ... so that you may learn to revere the Lord your God always. (*Deut. 14:22-23*)

2. To express faith in his future provision

... bring a tithe of that year's produce ...  
so that the Lord your God may bless you  
in all the work of your hands (*Deut. 14:29*)

### 3. To fund workers/ministry

I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the Tent of Meeting. (*Leviticus 18:21*)

Old Testament picture of giving to God:

- a) “first fruits” of harvest
- b) “tithe” of income
- c) “offering” of skills, services, or goods

While the New Testament does not present tithing as rigidly or explicitly as the Old Testament, the purposes and principles of giving are the same. Jesus said that tithing does not substitute for justice and mercy and faith, nevertheless it should not be neglected. (*Matthew 23:23*)

**What do I SEE when I give?**

**PROJECT** = something we wish to build, accomplish, or achieve (specific)

**PROGRAM** = maintain the status quo, keep the wheels turning (vague)



PROJECT giving = exciting and motivating

PROGRAM giving = dull and demanding

\*I should seek to see God's  
“program” in terms of goals, people,  
and projects rather than “church” or  
“budget” or “finances”

1. I give to God ... not (ultimately)  
to projects, programs, or people

“From what you have, take an  
offering FOR THE LORD.”

*(Exodus 35:5)*

2. All my giving is an act of **sowing**  
... expecting a **harvest**

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. *(II Corinthians 9:6-7)*

3. My giving actually **generates**  
**generosity** in my attitude.

God is able to make all grace  
abound to you, so that ... you  
will abound in every good work.  
*(II Corinthians 9:8)*

4. I will have enough. God takes care of givers.

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and increase your store of seed and your harvest of righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion. *(II Corinthians 9:10-11)*

5. If I am generous with money, God will **trust me** with true (spiritual) riches.

If you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? No one can serve two masters ... You cannot serve both God and money.  
*(Luke 16:11)*

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