

# Power of Prosperity x 12

November 2009

## Chapter 11—A New Look at Tithing

“Tithing is not an end but a helpful means  
towards the end of totally living in a giving consciousness”  
Eric Butterworth

The practice of tithing—giving 10% of your income back to God—was instituted in the Old Testament. There is no reference to tithing (giving 10% of income) in the New Testament or in Jesus’ teachings. Jesus did not condemn the practice of tithing, but if He felt that tithing was a “must” in his high spiritual unfoldment, wouldn’t He have stated a clearer position?

Eric tells us, “It is important to note that Jesus was very specific in His teaching of the law of giving (note that we are drawing a definite distinction between the practice of tithing and the spontaneous process of giving): ‘Give and it shall be given unto you...’” (Luke 6:38) At the same time, Eric also notes that we aren’t meant to give in order to get.

On human levels of consciousness, we may emphasize “getting and having” as prime goals, but in spiritual consciousness, we seek the way of “giving and being” as the utmost goals. Jesus clearly tells us that the kingdom of heaven is within us. Many times the idea of the tithe goes to a God “up there” or “out there,” when in principle we know that God is within us.

Let us create within us a consciousness of giving and an attitude of gratitude for always being in the flow of God. As you look around you at your spiritual community, ask yourself, “Do I want this to be here tomorrow, next week or next year?” If your answer is yes, it requires you to step into the law of giving and receiving. Knowing that the more we give, the greater flow we create, we will receive through giving to our spiritual community. Giving to God, especially through our spiritual community, helps us to order our financial lives around principle.

Being locked in on the specific of 10% can effectively keep your receiving at the same specific level. Stepping away from the rigid 10% mandate might make some think that the church will receive less. But Eric says, “On the contrary, it should lead to a more sustained and generous outpouring, but by people who are released from the pressures and stringencies of giving to the joy and affluence of true spiritual giving.”

### The Bible says:

(Please take note that there are no New Testament Scriptures on a mandatory 10%)

“And he said to them, “Take heed what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you.” Mr 4:24

“Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” Lu 6:38

### Unity says:

“Tithing is about saying ‘thank You’ which always begins with putting some gratitude in our attitude.” *Giving Thanks*, Paula Langguth Ryan

“Tithing is based upon a law that cannot fail, and it is the surest way ever found to demonstrate plenty, for it is God’s own law of giving.” Charles Fillmore

“When you think you cannot afford to give is the very time when you cannot afford not to give!” *Secret of Unlimited Prosperity*, Catherine Ponder

### Practices

- In meditation, spend time in the silence to feel what it is like to be in the abundant, never ending flow with God. Try to visualize this as a stream of water, an overflowing fountain, a beautiful summer rain, or other metaphor meaningful to you. Place yourself in the midst of that flow. Take time with your journal to write about what came up for you in this meditation. Could you feel the flow? Were you in it or just watching? Are you willing to take the leap into the flow? What does it tell you about the kingdom of heaven within you? What kind of abundance do you experience in your life today?
- Choose one of the quotes or verses above. Take it with you into silence, repeating it. Notice if there is a particular word or phrase that has special meaning. Let that word settle into your being. Take it as a word from your inner Teacher—what is s/he trying to say to you today?
- Because tithing and giving are personal choices, you may not feel comfortable about discussing details even with your prayer triad. If you don’t, just hold each other in the flow of abundance.