

“Thou shalt deal honorably with God and with all human instruments through whom God’s good is manifest for you.”

The 5th commandment says “Honor your father and your mother.” This commandment deals with right actions. It begins with our earthly parents, for they are the first instruments that God uses to bring us our good. As we learn and express right actions of justice, honesty, and cooperation with our parents we then grow to express right actions with our fellow man, ourselves and, above all, with God.

One definition in the Webster dictionary defines honor as: accepting and paying when due. This definition brings the Law of Compensation into play. This law teaches us to return full value for that which we have received. Compensation keeps our lives and the universe in balance and establishes ethical conduct. For example, the electric company provides you with electricity before you pay for it. At the end of the month, they expect a return of full value in the form of your payment. The cycle of giving and receiving stays in balance and flow. One of the necessary ways to establish ethical conduct and balance with God is the practice of tithing.

Rightly understood, tithing is a form of worship. The surest way to acknowledge God as the source of our supply is to give back a portion of all that we receive to God. We may acknowledge God in silence and in words but until we actually put tithing into practice, we have not shown our faith in God. The fifth basic principle says: “Through thought, words and action we live the Truth we know.” Tithing is our faith in action.

Georgiana tells us, “All religious work should be supported by the tithes of those who receive its blessings.” Just as God has channels to send us His good, He has channels to receive a portion of that good back. These channels are our spiritual homes expressed as churches, centers, and organizations or individuals who have spiritually enriched our lives. Organizations such as your local region, your Association of Unity Churches International, Silent Unity or Unity institute are channels of God’s good to you. These are separate from “gifts of charity” that are to be above and beyond our tithes. Tithing as a spiritual practice blesses not only the receiver but the giver.

So we have this commandment which teaches us to deal honorably with others, to do justice and cooperate with others. This leads us to the core of tithing, which keeps our relationship with our heavenly Mother/Father in balance and puts our faith into action. God’s good flows through us and back to others to express this principle in tangible form.

What the Bible says:

“You shall speak to the Levites, saying: When you receive from the Israelites the tithe that I have given you from them for your portion, you shall set apart an offering from it to the Lord, a tithe of the tithe.” Nu 18:26

"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing." Mal 3:10

"And Jesus answering said unto them, 'Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.' And they marveled at him." Mr 12:17

"Freely ye received, freely give." Matt 10:8

What Unity says:

"The purpose of the tithe is not to build churches or to pay minister's salaries, although tithes do help to do these and other good things. The real purpose of the tithe is to acknowledge that God is the source of our good and that we are aware and grateful for the good in our lives." *The Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity*, by Edwene Gaines

"Tithing is an act of faith that moves on the rich substance of the universe to prosper you mightily, and to expand your world within and without in ways you would not have dreamed possible." *The Dynamic Laws of Prosperity*, by Catherine Ponder

"Honesty: the divine law in action, which reveals that man must give an equivalent (equal value) for everything he gets." *The Revealing Word*, by Charles Fillmore

"The great promise of prosperity is that if men seek God and his righteousness first, then all shall be added unto them. One of the most practical and sensible ways of seeking God's kingdom first is to be a tither, to put God first in finances." *Prosperity*, by Charles Fillmore

Practices

- Take time apart and consider how you are honoring God. Ask yourself: Does my life feel balanced? What am I doing to cooperate with God? Is God first in my life? As you work through this process keep your journal close. Make notes on what comes up for you.
- Find a class on prosperity in your area. Many Unity churches offer Stretton Smith's "4T's" or Edwene Gaines' "The Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity." To find a Unity church in your area, go to www.unity.org/directory.
- Start a tithing plan for yourself. Think about the channels or instruments God is using to give you the good He has for you. Make an honest effort to tithe regularly. If this is not possible, start yourself on a percentage giving program, even if it begins at 1%. Make plans for the future to increase the percentage as the increase comes to you. If you are already tithing, consider prayerfully the idea of raising your percentage.
- Discuss with your triad the entries in your journal. Ask for prayer support. Be willing to do the same for them.