



Malachi 3:6-12, Leviticus 27:30, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8
09.28.2025
Brian Lightsey

Foundational Financial Facts

- **God owns everything.** (Psa. 24:1; Hag. 2:8)
- **God is the source of everything I have.** (Deut. 8:18, 1 Chron. 29:14)
- **God expects me to give back to him proportionally, purposefully, generously, and joyfully.**

Malachi 3:6 "I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. 7 Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty. "But you ask, 'How are we to return?' 8 Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' "In tithes and offerings." (NIV)

Leviticus 27:30, "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." (NIV)

The word "tithe" means **10%**, and it was the required giving amount under the Old Testament Law.

Why would we give less now under grace than they gave then under law?

Deuteronomy 16:16 No one should appear before the Lord empty-handed: 17 Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you. (NIV)

1 Corinthians 16:1 Now about the collection for the Lord's people...2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up... (NIV)

Deuteronomy 14:23 ...The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives. (TLB)

I cannot say that God is first in my life if he is last in my budget.

1 Timothy 6:18 ...be generous and willing to share. (NIV)

2 Corinthians 9:6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." (NIV)

The Law of the Harvest: The more we sow, the more we reap.

- **When we give, we are blessed.**

Proverbs 22:9 Whoever is generous will be blessed... (GW)

Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (NIV)

Malachi 3:9 "You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. 10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. 11 I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the LORD Almighty. 12 "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty. (NIV)

God blesses us not just to raise our standard of living but to raise our standard of giving.

We struggle with giving because it is human nature to want what we do not have and to take what is not ours.

Example: Adam & Eve (Gen. 2:16-17; 3:5-6)

When we consume what belongs to God, we discard the seeds of blessings for our lives.

Practical Tip: Every time I receive income, I give to God first, not last. (Prov. 3:9: "firstfruits")

Will I cling or will I bring?