

Biblical Tithing



What Is Tithing?

Tithing is a spiritual law given by God to humankind to assist people in finding abundance, fulfillment, and gratitude in their everyday lives. The law of tithing is to give 10 percent of one's increase back to God.

Tithing is God's idea. It is an act of worship and surrender showing Him that we trust Him with our life. God asks us to give Him the first ten percent of our income. In return, He promises to bless the other ninety percent (Malachi 3:6-15). God knows it is a sacrifice to surrender our hard earned money because it represents what we have exchanged for our lives. When we choose to be obedient to God's word, He promises He will take care of us and multiply the money we have given back to Him.

Origins Of Tithing

Before the Israelites entered the land God promised to give them, He told them: "All the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's. It is holy to the Lord" (Leviticus 27:30, emphasis added throughout). What gave God the right to claim 10 percent of everything they produced from the land? His claim is based on a simple and an often-overlooked truth: He owns everything! This fundamental premise is repeated in the Bible. "The earth is the Lord's and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1; compare Exodus 19:5; Job 41:11). The tithe is simply the divinely ordained degree to which He expects us to give back to honor Him and to acknowledge that He gives everything to us. The first account in the Bible of this ancient practice of giving is found in Genesis 14:18-22. Abraham, after his defeat of four kings, tithed on the spoils of the war to Melchizedek, the priest of God Most High. Abraham obviously understood that tithing was an appropriate way of honoring God with one's physical possessions.



This example shows several important principles we can apply today. Abraham, whose exemplary life of service and obedience to God caused God to describe him as the father of the faithful (Romans 4:11), was not compelled to tithe. He gave willingly and voluntarily as an act of great humility. He showed respect and reverence for God, and to Melchizedek, who was both "king of Salem" and "priest of the Most High God" (Hebrews 7:1). Jesus Christ, the King of all the universe, serves in this royal and priestly office today (Hebrews 6:20), and to tithe is to show Him appropriate honor. This example also demonstrates Abraham's enormous personal integrity and character. He chose to keep his promise to God rather than give in to the temptation to use the spoils of his victory for himself (Genesis 14:22-23). Abraham understood the premise for giving a tithe to God: He is Possessor of heaven and earth (verse 19). Abraham recognized that he was blessed by God Most High, who made his victory and all his blessings possible.



Why Tithe?

"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 you will not have room enough for it" (Malachi 3:10 NIV).

Tithing incorporates our worship to partnership with God, supports His mission, ministry and church. It is an expression of loyalty and thanksgiving that connects us with God's Promises and blessing.

By returning one-tenth of our increase to Him, we remember God is the owner of everything he has entrusted into our hands. Deuteronomy 14:22 says, "Be sure to set aside one-tenth of all the crops you harvest each year."



Tithing At Bethel

At Bethel URC, we believe that tithing is an important means of being obedient to God, showing our gratitude and providing help for fellow Christians and the needy in this world. The task of collecting tithes for Bethel URC is placed upon the deacons* of the church. During each worship service a free will offering is taken for various causes that are supported by the Church. The congregation is encouraged to give joyfully to the offering, that their gift might be a blessing unto others.

In order to help facilitate giving, collection envelopes are also made available in the pews at the church for the use of the congregation. On the envelope the individual can identify the date, along with their name and/or their tithing number. The money given can be specified for an approved cause (as detailed in the church directory/website), the general budget of the Church and/or to order collection notes.



Collection notes are prepaid notes that come in \$1, \$2 and \$5 increments. These notes can be placed in the offering and designate that amount to be given for a specific cause.

Members of the congregation are also given a tithing number that allows them to receive a tax refund for the giving that they do. This applies to any monies given to the free will offerings, budget or any gift that is for a cause supported by Bethel URC.

*Deacons are a group of men elected by the Congregation to serve in the following capacity:

- Continuing in prayer and supervising the works of Christian mercy among the congregation.
- Acquainting themselves with congregational needs.
- Exhorting members of the congregation to show mercy.
- Gathering and managing the offerings of God's people in Christ's name.
- Distributing these offerings according to need.
- Encouraging and comforting with the Word of God those who receive the gifts of Christ's mercy

Contact Us

We would love to hear from you and welcome contact and/or your feedback!

Mailing Address:

Bethel United Reformed Church

730 - 101 Street SW

Calgary, Alberta

T3H 3Z5

Canada

Phone: (403) 249-9971

If you would like more information about this topic or would like to have us contact you please fill out the below information section and place in the collection plate or in the deacons mailbox.

Bethel URC of Calgary Contact Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I would like more information regarding:

Biblical Tithing _____

Joining Bethel URC _____

Programs @ Bethel URC _____

Other _____

About Bethel United Reformed Church of Calgary

Bethel United Reformed Church is a family-minded church. We offer many opportunities for all family members to become involved. This involvement helps us to draw closer together as a family of believers in our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Bethel United Reformed Church is an official member of the federation called the United Reformed Churches of North America (URCNA), and our roots go back to the sixteenth century Protestant Reformation. We are indebted to such men as Martin Luther, Ulrich, Zwingli, John Knox and John Calvin, who directed the church in the 16th century back to the infallible teachings of the Holy Scriptures. Bethel URC seeks to continue that Reformation teaching still today.

Having been organized in 1992, our congregation, at the outset, did not have its own church building and, for a number of years, Sunday worship services were held at several locations throughout Northwest Calgary. With the purchase of a parcel of land in 1997 at the corner of Old Banff Coach Road and 101 Street SW, it became possible to make plans for our own church building and construction of the new facilities commenced in 1999.

Assisted by many dedicated volunteer workers who readily donated their time and significant gifts of materials from several generous donors, the project took approximately two years to complete. With thanks and praise to our God for His faithfulness and ascribing all glory to Him (Psalm 115), our church building was dedicated on January 25, 2002.



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What is Tithing?

When Did It Start?

Why Tithe?

United Reformed Church of Calgary
bethel

