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**TITHING AND OFFERING
THE HABITS OF BIBLICAL GIVING
BENEFITS OF TITHING AND OFFERING
SUPPORT TO THE CHURCH FOR EVANGELISATION**

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Publisher

PREAMBLE

The Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Osogbo, through the Directorate of religious Education, is delighted to introduce to you the CATECHETICAL BULLETIN for the Third quarter of the year 2023. As is the Fifth year of this publication, we have improved further by putting all the materials of the Directorate in our website: www.osogbodioceseandere.org We are all encouraged to visit this website regularly for information, education and interaction including the use of our e-mail address as follows. info@osogbodioceseandere.org Please continue to contact us on any pressing issue in the matters of faith. We shall remain grateful to all our readers for their regular comments and contributions towards the success of our activities. We also appreciate the efforts of the Catechetical Commission member, as well as those of our contributors and sponsors for their time and sacrifice.

Thank you.

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WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT TITHING AND OFFERING

Biblical References: Lev 27:30, Mathew 23:23, Deuteronomy 14:23, Ps. 116:12, Deuteronomy 16:17 and Malachi 3:8-10.

Tithe is received by the Levites in the Old Testament because they dedicated themselves to God's work so as to be comfortable. Farmers, traders, soldiers, shepherds, fishermen, metal workers paid 10% of their incomes to the Levites whereas in our days now, Priests receive tithes for evangelisation purposes. Many in Israel were committed to tithing and the nation was blessed and even till today. In the Bible, God tells us

that we are to give the first ten percent of all we earn back to God. **Giving anything less than ten percent is not tithing.** Giving more than ten percent is more than tithing. Tithing means ten. Giving a tithe is giving ten percent of my cash income. When you pay your tithe, you will enjoy God's blessings attached to it and He will dwell in your house. I witnessed a man who, as a non-Christian, paid his tithe because he vividly believed that paying tithe is divinely backed up and it is an entrance to divine resources. If a non-Christian could pay his tithe, what about those who are called by Christ's name? The scriptures give the following reasons for paying tithes and offerings:

1. Because God demands for it (Lev 27:30)
2. Because Jesus loves it (Mathew 23:23)
3. Tithing demonstrates that God has the first place in our lives (Deuteronomy 14:23)
4. Tithing reminds us that all we have belong to God (Deuteronomy 8:18)
5. Tithing expresses our joy to God for his goodness (Ps. 116:12, Deuteronomy 16:17)
6. Refusing to tithe means robbing Him. God says "Will I rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you ask, how do we rob you? God says "in tithes and offerings... Bring your whole tithe to my house" (Malachi 3:8-10)
7. God challenges us, even to test Him in this respect. "Bring your whole tithe to my storehouse. Test me in this, says the Lord, 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! I will prevent pests from devouring your crops and the vines in your fields will be protected from plagues." (Malachi 3:10)

8. Tithing shows our love to God. "If you really love me do what I command" John 14:15. "... I want you to be leaders also in the spirit of cheerful giving... This is one way to prove that our real love is beyond mere words of mouth" 2 Corinthians 8:7-8.

9. Tithing can store treasures in heaven for you "Whoever loves money never has enough of it, whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income". (Ecclesiastes. 5:10) "Do not store up for yourselves treasure on earth, when moth and pest destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven... (Mathew 6:19)

Task: Discuss the importance of tithe and offering with a friend.

THE HABITS OF BIBLICAL GIVING

Biblical References: Proverb 3:9-10, 1Cor 16:2, 2 Cor 9:7 and 1Chronicles 29:10-14

Many people are confused of what to give to the Lord and many questions often arise at this point. The Bible makes it clear that the first part of what I earn must be given to the Lord but not the last. "Honour the Lord by giving Him the first part of all your income" (Prov. 3:9-10). We must "bring our whole tithe to the storehouse (Temple)... " (Malachi 3:1). Tithes must be brought to the house of God immediately it is available. The Bible says, "On the first day of every week, set aside some of what you have earned and give it as an offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you to earn" (1Cor 16:2). Your tithe must be on the gross amount of all you receive. It might not make sense to the carnal mind but it is the wisdom of God. Paying tithes is not only on your salary. You must tithe everything that comes into your

hands as the owner, including salary, wages, overtime pay, bonuses, unemployment benefit, child support, business profits, pensions, allowances, bank account interests, inheritance, prizes, commission and gifts.

Paying tithes is the only way to financial prosperity and God's favour. In whatever business you are in, God will pour his blessing on you. When you give to God, he gives back to you tenfold, a thousand-fold, etc. When you hold back from God, God holds back from you. It is a sort of seed-planting whenever you pay tithes. The harvest is always greater than the seed planted. The seed may be small but the harvest is always large. Your breakthrough comes when you pay tithes. God deserves the first of your earning. Ask yourself, "which amount do I want God to bless?" You cannot afford not to tithe even if you are in debt. You need to ask God for His help to get you out of your debt. Tough times are times of trial and

tribulation. Do not hold back on your tithes and offerings and do not back-slide in your faith in God's goodness. And as a child of God, it is good to give with the right attitude:

1. Give "For if the willingness is there, your gifts are acceptable according to what you have, not according to what you do not have" (2Cor.9:12) "Each one should give what he has purposed in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under pressure..." (1Cor 9:7).

2. Give cheerfully...for God loves a cheerful giver!" (2Cor 9:7). "They gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service..." (2Cor 8:3-4)

1. Give generously... "Remember this; whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will reap generously" 2Cor 9:6.

2. Give. "None of you can be

my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions". Luke 14:33

The key to giving is first to give oneself to the Lord, "...They first gave themselves to the Lord..." (2Cor 8:5). When we give ourselves to the Lord, giving to support the work of God will not be a difficult task. Giving must be part and parcel of our system.

When Pastors misuse your tithe, do not lose faith in God. Continue to pay your tithe because you are not the judge, judgement is the Lord's. Giving freewill offering to your Church is not enough. Giving is physical, tithing is spiritual. Only in tithe did God say we should test Him. Tithe leads us to the gateway leading to God's blessings. It is a covenant between God and all Christians. A promise that he would open the windows of heaven and pour torrents of blessings on you.

Task: Make a commitment to tithing and offering, trusting God to guide and bless you.



BENEFITS OF TITHING AND OFFERING

Biblical References: John 3:16, Mathew 6:21, 1Timothy 6:17-19 and Acts 20:35.

The concept of tithe and offering involves the act of giving. The essence and benefits of tithing and offering are as follows:

1. Giving makes us more like God who gave us His Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ (John 3:16). God is a giver and if we want to be like God, we need to imitate him by giving. God gave because of his great love for us. You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving. Christians are expected to be the most giving people in the world because of their mandate of agape love for one another.
2. Giving draws us closer to God. (Mathew 6:21)
3. Giving is an antidote to true life. The Bible says "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

Command them to be generous and willing to share. In this way, they may take hold of the life that is truly life" (1Timothy 6:17-19).

4. Giving strengthens our trust in the Lord. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Honour the Lord by giving him the first part of your income, and he will fill your barns to overflowing" Prov. 3:5, 9. Givers will never lack because the Bible says "Give and it will be given to you...For, with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you" Luk.6: 38

5. Giving is an investment and treasure in heaven. "Give happily to those in need, and always be ready to share whatever God has given you. By doing this, you will be storing up treasures for yourselves in heaven; it is the only safe investment to eternity." (1Timothy 6:18-19)

6. Giving is a blessing." A generous man himself will be blessed" (Prov. 22:9) "A generous man will prosper;

he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed" (Prov.11:25); "God will come to him who is generous..." Psalm 112:5

7. Giving makes a Christian to be happy. "There is more happiness in giving than in receiving" (Acts 20:35)

8. Giving strengthens the Christian community. In Acts 4:32, the Bible says, "All the believers were one in heart and minds, no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had". It will cause you to develop a generous heart. God talks more about his thoughts on giving than any other subject. There is a strong connection between your true spiritual condition and your attitude towards money and possession.

It is very important to show our appreciations to God from the material finances and blessing, given to us to enjoy. It is so unfortunate that most of us think that our possessions are due to

our wisdom and financial management. Financial stewardship involves God's claim on our finances. "And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day" (Deut. 8:18 from New King James version).

There are many relevant pecuniary covenants in return for

our stewardship:

1. Covenant of tithing: Gen 14:20; Hebrew 7:2,6; Lev 27:30; Deuteronomy 14:23; Mal 3:8-10; Number 18:25; Mathew 23:23
2. Covenant of offering: Malachi 3:8-10; 2Cor9:7; 1Cor16:1-2; 2Cor8:11-13
3. Covenant of Priestly offering: Ezekiel 44:30; 1Cor 9:14; Galatians 6:6. This is also rooted in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC).

4. Covenant of project offering: Haggai 1:3-12; Exodus 35:2-7
5. Covenant of needy/kindness offering: Deuteronomy 15:11-15; Mathew 6:1-4; Mathew 26:11; Luke 12:33
6. Covenant of family offering: 1Timothy 5:18
7. Covenant of Parental offering: Exodus 20:13

TASK: Give your time, talents and treasure to the Church.

SUPPORT TO THE CHURCH FOR EVANGELISATION

Biblical References: Genesis 14:18-20, 2Cor 8:7, 1Corinthian 16:2, Numbers 18:26; Deuteronomy 14:24 and 2 Chronicles 31:5

A tithe is a one-tenth part of something, paid as a contribution to a religious organization or compulsory tax to the government". Offering can be defined as the act of giving to God as a part of religious worship. It is a sacrifice that comes from the heart.

Tithes today are voluntary and paid in cash and kind, e.g. by agricultural products. Several European countries operate a formal process linked to the tax system allowing some churches to assess tithes. In the Bible, tithe was a requirement of the law in which all Israelites were to give ten percent of everything earned. In Genesis 14:18-20, Abraham, after rescuing Lot, met with Melchizedek. After Melchizedek's blessing, Abraham gave him a tenth of everything he had gained from battle. Genesis 28:12-22 also showed us how Jacob paid his tithe.

If a man gets his attitude towards money straightened out, then almost all areas of his life will be

straightened out" (Billy Graham). Giving remains a focal point of our stewardship responsibility. Jesus said: "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:30). A major part of Christian giving should go to the Church. God's primary instrument in achieving his purposes on earth involves the act of giving. Our gifts to God through the Church can symbolise our belief and agreement to the fact that all our possessions belong to HIM. Giving is a very major part of our spiritual standing and maturity. In practice, this happens to be the most challenging area for many people's spirituality and faithfulness. It is an area that a lot of Christians find so difficult to understand, comprehend, accept or willing to obey. And because a tithe (or any offering, generally) is between the individual and God, obedience can be preached or encouraged but cannot be enforced by any law. Many other reasons can be attributed to this attitude, namely: incomplete surrender to the Lordship of Christ, ignorance of God's character, bad experiences in the hands of men (1Samuel 2:12 -

17), carnality, materialism, love of money, false doctrines and unbelief.

Going through the scriptures, God emphasized giving. Jesus talked more on giving in his parables. Giving is a spiritual exercise that opens an access road to God. 1Corinthians 16:2 says "On the first day of every week, set aside a part of your earning to be given as an offering." The amount depends on how much the Lord has given you to earn, for all things belong to Him. Yes, giving in the Church assists the work of evangelisation and when performed in the right way, tithing can signify the level of one's spiritual maturity and support for evangelisation. 2Cor 8:7 says "just as you excel in everything else...in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness...see that you also excel in the grace of giving."

In the perspective of the Word, the word "believe" is used 272 times; the word "pray" is used 371 times; the word "love" is used 714 times; the word "give" is used 2162 times. God is a giver to an extent that He gave his only Begotten Son for us to be saved (John 3:16) and He wants us to become like Him.

TASK: Always give generously, God loves a generous giver.

BIBLE QUIZ

INTRODUCTION

Asking questions was central to Jesus' life and teachings. Jesus knew all of the answers and yet He focused so much of his interaction with people on asking them questions as a tool to teach them. The four Gospels record over [330 questions that Jesus asked](#) and 183 questions that He was asked. He used the questions to teach, to generate response and to encourage His audience to think.

Similarly, our Bible questioning or quizzing is important and is near and dear to our hearts as

Christians because it helps us, especially our young people get immersed in personal study of God's Word, builds and strengthens their walk and their own relationships with God, to gain a deeper understanding of the Bible and the sermons being preached and the lessons being taught. Bible Quiz can be summed up as "discipleship through memorizing Scripture" The following Bible Quiz should therefore be taken seriously and may be tackled in organized groups or teams to make it competitive for both young and old.

GOSPEL OF LUKE

- 1 I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent (Lk 1: 3)
 - A Paul
 - B Alexandra
 - C Theophilus
 - D Zechariah
- 2 Then Mary said, "....., let it be done to me as you have said". (Lk 1:38)
 - A I am the poor handmaid of the Lord
 - B I am was made poor for the Lord
 - C I am the handmaid of the Lord
 - D I am the lowly handmaid of the Lord
- 3 Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother, "see Him; he will be for the rise or fall of the multitudes of Israel. He shall stand as(Lk 2: 34)
 - A A symbol of glory in Israel
 - B A sign of contradiction
 - C A sign of victory
 - D A mark of contradiction
- 4 John said to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him. "..... how will you escape when divine punishment comes? (Lk. 3 vs 7)
 - A You liars of Israel
 - B You fools of Jerusalem
 - C You brood of vipers
 - D You descendant of Cain
- 5 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has anointed me to bring to proclaim liberty to captives and new sight to the blind; to free the oppressed and announce the Lord's year of mercy. (Lk 4: 18-19).
 - A Salvation to the world
 - B Healing to people
 - C Good news to the poor
 - D Deliverance to the captives
- 6 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "my friend,..... At once the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees began to wonder, "this man insults God! Who can forgive sins but only God? (Lk 5: 20-21)
 - A Your faith has healed you
 - B Get up and pick up your mat
 - C Your sins are forgiven

- D You are healed
- 7 Then the Pharisees and their fellow teachers complained to Jesus' disciples, "how is it that you eat and drink with tax collectors and other sinners?" But Jesus spoke up, (Lk 5: 30-31).
- A Healthy people don't need a doctor but sick people do
- B The righteous does not need doctor but the sick do
- C It is the sinners who need healer not the righteous
- D The one that do not sick does not need a doctor.
- 8 At this time Jesus went out into the hills to, spending the whole night in prayer with God. (Lk 6: 12).
- A Dialogue with his Father
- B To hide from people
- C To pray
- D To prepare
- 9 Don't be a judge of others and you will not be judged; do not condemn and you will not be condemned; forgive and you will be forgiven; give and it will be given to you, and you will receive in your sack good measure, pressed down, full and running over.will be the measure you receive back. (Lk 6:37-38).
- A For whatever you give
- B The kindness you give
- C For the measure you give
- D For how generously you give
- 10 Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the captain sent friends to give this message: "Sir, do not trouble yourself (Lk 7:6).
- A For I am a sinner and I am not worthy to have you under my roof
- B For I am a man of unclean lips so I am not worthy to have you under my roof
- C For I am not worthy to welcome you under my roof
- D For I am a man of authority so only say word and my servant will be cured

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