

**WHAT  
THE** *Bible*  
**SAYS ABOUT  
PERCENTAGE**  
*Giving*



**Plant a seed.  
Watch it grow.**



## **What is a percentage gift?**

We find the word "tithe" mentioned throughout the Bible in both the Old and New Testaments. The word "tithe" means "a tenth part" or "ten percent". We find in Leviticus 27:30 that the "tithe," or 10% of all that man produced or acquired, belonged to God and was considered holy. This 10% gift was the minimum expectation from God for His mercy, grace and provisional care.

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## **Is a percentage gift still important to God today?**

In Luke 11:42, Jesus commended the Pharisees for giving the minimum 10% expected by God. It is amazing to note that percentage giving was the only thing Jesus ever commended the Pharisees for doing. In a letter to the New Testament churches we find God teaching us to set aside a gift for Him according to how He prospers us (I Corinthians 16:2). The principle found in this letter clearly indicates that God still wants us to continually evaluate the percentage of increase He prospers us with and to give a percentage back to Him accordingly.

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## **10 Reasons why one should give a percentage gift to God:**

### ***1. God expected it!***

"And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S. It is holy to the LORD." – Lev 27:30

### ***2. Jesus endorsed it!***

"Yes, you should tithe, and you should not leave the more important things undone either." – Matthew 23:23

### ***3. Percentage giving shows that God has first place in my life!***

"...the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always." – Deut 14:23

### ***4. It reminds me that everything I have was given to me by God!***

"And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth..." – Deuteronomy 8:18 "The earth *is* the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell in it." – Ps 24:1

### ***5. Giving a percentage gift expresses my gratitude to***

## ***God for helping me earn income!***

"On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as God has prospered you..." – I Cor 16:2

***6. Giving a percentage gift allows God the opportunity to prove to you that He exists and truly wants to bless you!***

"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it." - Mal 3:10

"But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work." – I Cor 9:6-8

These are some of the most amazing promises in the Bible. God actually offers us a challenge. In the Old Testament He says "Test me! Start giving me a percentage gift of 10% or more and see what happens". In the New Testament, God promises a

proportional amount of blessing according to the proportional amount given. He says if you limit your giving to a small proportion in comparison to how He prospers, then you can expect a small proportion of blessing. The promise goes on to say that if you give liberally according to how God prospers, then you can expect a liberal portion of blessings. Basically, God says start giving and get ready for My blessings.

## ***7. It is essential to spiritual growth!***

"But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us see also that you abound in this grace of giving." – II Cor 8:7

## ***8. It shows my love for God!***

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." – Matt 6:21 Wherever you put your money is where your affection is going to be. Every time you give back to God, you are drawn closer to Him. You may say you love God, but II Corinthians 8:8 says that your giving tests the sincerity of your love. You can give without loving but you cannot love without giving. Jesus said, "If you really love me, keep my commandments". – John 14:15 "What commandment?" you may ask. "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and

running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." – Luke 6:38

### ***9. A percentage gift is an investment for eternity.***

Jesus told us to "Store up treasures in heaven." – Matt 6:19-20 How do you do that? By investing your money in helping people get to heaven! Most of the things you spend your money on will not even last for ten years, much less for eternity.

### ***10. You cannot out-give God!***

There are more promises in the Bible connected to giving than any other subject. Giving unlocks the promises of God in your life. When you give, God always gives back to you in a greater degree. – Luke 6:38 & I Cor 9:6-8

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### **What percentage gift should I give today?**

Throughout the Bible God specifically emphasized that He expects no less than 10% of everything His people gained. Today, God wants first place in our life and desires our gifts to be the same. "Honor the LORD with your possessions and with the firstfruits of all your increase" – Pro 3:9 Giving at least 10% is mentioned in the Old Testament

law but there is no punishment mentioned for not giving. Can you imagine a law without a punishment? God established the principle of giving a minimum of 10% 430 years before He gave the Law to Moses. If percentage giving was only Jewish law, why did Abraham give 10% 430 years before the law was revealed?

Giving God at least 10% was being practiced long before the Jewish nation even existed! This is a clear indication that this principle applied prior to the law, still applies post law and should be practiced as a minimum or starting point for today.

Giving a percentage gift of 10% or more is a life principle that is to be a voluntary act. II Cor 9:7 says "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." Today God wants us to give from a cheerful heart of gratitude. A genuine heart of gratitude always supersedes a minimum expectation. Realizing God's minimum expectations in this matter of giving and committing yourself to thoughtful prayer and meditation will help you determine in your heart the right percentage gift to bring to God as you worship Him in your giving.

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### **Should I give a percentage gift on my net income or gross income?**

Which do you desire God to bless

– your net or your gross? Pro 3:9 says we are to honor God with the first part of all our income. Also, remember the principle found in II Cor 9:6 – “He who gives sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who gives bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

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### **Should I give if I am in debt?**

If you are in debt, you can't afford not to give. You need God's help to get out of debt. There are many financial principles in the Bible but the starting point is found in the principle of “give and it shall be given”. Tell God you're going to put Him first in your finances, that you are willing to obey the principles in His Word,

and you are trusting Him to help you get out of debt.

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### **The real issue**

Many will use every excuse ever invented for not giving a percentage gift to God. But in every case, an unwillingness to do what God says concerning giving can be boiled down to two motives: **First**, materialistic values. If you're more interested in “having things” than pleasing God, you won't give a percentage gift. You may store up treasure on earth, but you won't be storing up much treasure in heaven.

**Second**, unbelief. If you don't really believe God will keep all the promises He has made concerning giving, you won't do it.

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## **A prayer of commitment:**

“Father, I know You love me and want what's best for me. I recognize that all I have, or will ever have, comes from You. I am more interested in honoring You than in having more possessions. I want You to have first place in my life and I am willing to begin giving You a minimum of 10% of all that you prosper me with in my life. This gift will come from a heart of worship and gratitude for all You have done for me and from a trust that You will continue to provide for me. I want to begin investing for eternity. Help me remain faithful to this commitment. In Jesus' name, AMEN.”



# Giving at Crosspointe

Crosspointe Church operates by the gifts of regular people who want to see lives transformed by the power of the cross. In just about every Sunday morning service, someone will lead in a time of giving. Many will use envelopes or PayPal at home or on our phones to do so. To use PayPal go to <http://www.crosspointefl.com/online-giving> and follow the instructions.

We use envelopes to keep records of those who contribute to Crosspointe through cash or check so that we can issue proper contribution records to individuals for tax purposes at the end of the year. Without using envelopes, cash cannot be credited to anyone's contribution record. Also, checks that are submitted without an envelope create more work for our volunteer financial team.

Regarding the "Special Needs" section of the envelope, there are certain times when we will take a special collection for a specific need or project that is not in the budget. These collections should be viewed as "over and above" one's normal tithes and offering as the budget is based primarily on regular tithes and offerings. Information will be given as to what the collection will be used for and instructions will be given regarding how to designate money for the special collection. Unless otherwise specified, all monies that are collected that are not designated for a special need that is directed by the leadership of Crosspointe will be considered tithes and offerings and will be deposited into the "General Fund."



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**Watch it grow.** Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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**PERCENTAGE GIFT  
AND OFFERING**

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL NEEDS  
(DIRECTED BY LEADERSHIP)**

Designation: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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*Crosspointe Church exists to TRANSFORM LIVES by the power of the cross ONE LIFE AT A TIME.*