

# THE ELDERS AS PROMOTERS OF TITHES

*Volume 3*  
*Section B*



*“One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”*

**Proverbs 11:24-25**



It is necessary for the elders to teach the church the different facets of tithing and how to prevent some modern deception that the enemy wants to introduce to the people of God.

***“A generous person will prosper.”***

*Ibid.*

***The tithe is ten percent (10%), that is, one tenth of our income or profit.***



# I. Poverty does not justify infidelity



*“Even if the church is composed mostly of poor brethren, the subject of systematic benevolence should be thoroughly explained, and the plan heartily adopted. God is able to fulfil [sic] His promises. His resources are infinite, and He employs them all in accomplishing His will. And when He sees a faithful performance of duty in the payment of the tithe, He often, in His wise providence, opens ways whereby it shall increase.”*

**GW 222**



- Some may say that the poor should not return a tithe because of the small amount of money that comes to them.
- God does not ask for quantity; God asks for fidelity.
- If we receive little, the Lord knows we will return little.
- If we receive much, the Lord knows we will return much.
- From what God gives to us, we return a tithe to Him.



- Nine-tenths is more profitable to us with the blessings of God, than retaining everything and being without His blessings.
- Here is the promise, “*A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*”

*Proverbs 11:25*

*“Nearly all the Macedonian believers were poor in this world’s goods, but their hearts were overflowing with love for God and His truth, and they gladly gave for the support of the gospel. When general collections were taken up in the Gentile churches for the relief of the Jewish believers, the liberality of the converts in Macedonia was held up as an example to other churches.”*

**SC 171**



*“Better a little with the fear  
of the Lord than great wealth  
with turmoil. Better a small  
serving of vegetables with love  
than a fattened calf with  
hatred.”*

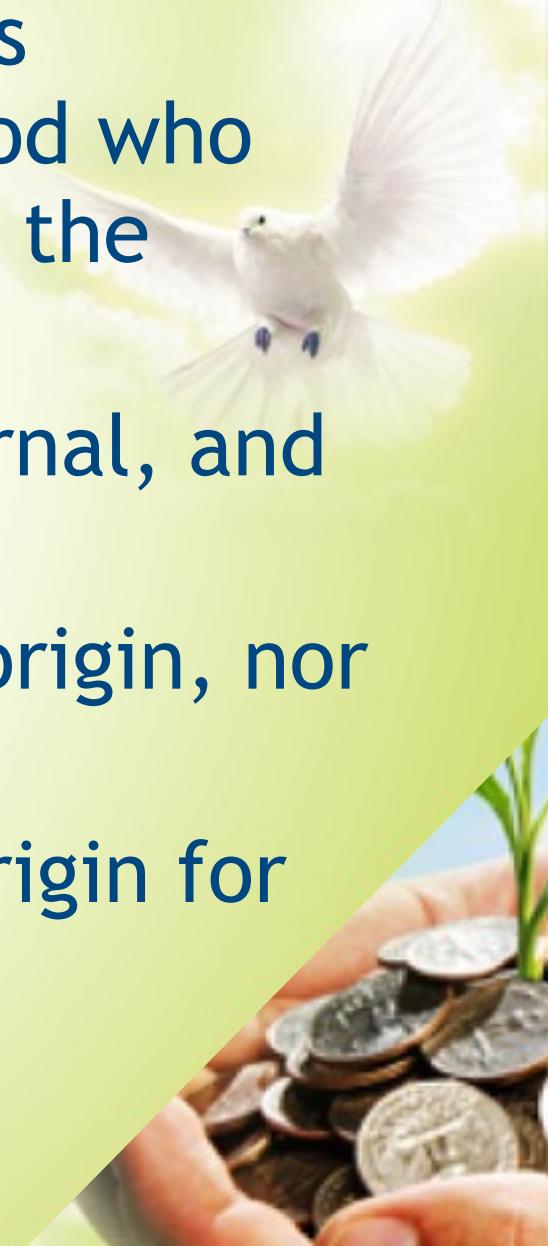
*Proverbs 15:16-17*



## **II. The tithe is as eternal as is the Law**



- The principle of tithing was established by the same God who instituted the principles of the moral law.
- Therefore, its scope is eternal, and eternal as its Author.
- It is not a norm of human origin, nor is it for a given time only.
- It is a principle of divine origin for all time.



- The principle of titling has not and will not change.
- God expects our compliance in the giving of our tithes to be just as faithful as the obedience we offer when we observe the Ten Commandments.
- We cannot have zeal to comply with the Ten Commandments and at the same time minimize the importance of being faithful in returning our tithes.



*“The special system of tithing was founded upon a principle which is as enduring as the law of God. This system of tithing was a blessing to the Jews, else God would not have given it them. So also will it be a blessing to those who carry it out to the end of time.”*

**1TT 385**



*“God gives man nine tenths, while He claims one tenth for sacred purposes, as He has given man six days for his own work and has reserved and set apart the seventh day to Himself. For, like the Sabbath, a tenth of the increase is sacred; God has reserved it for Himself.”*

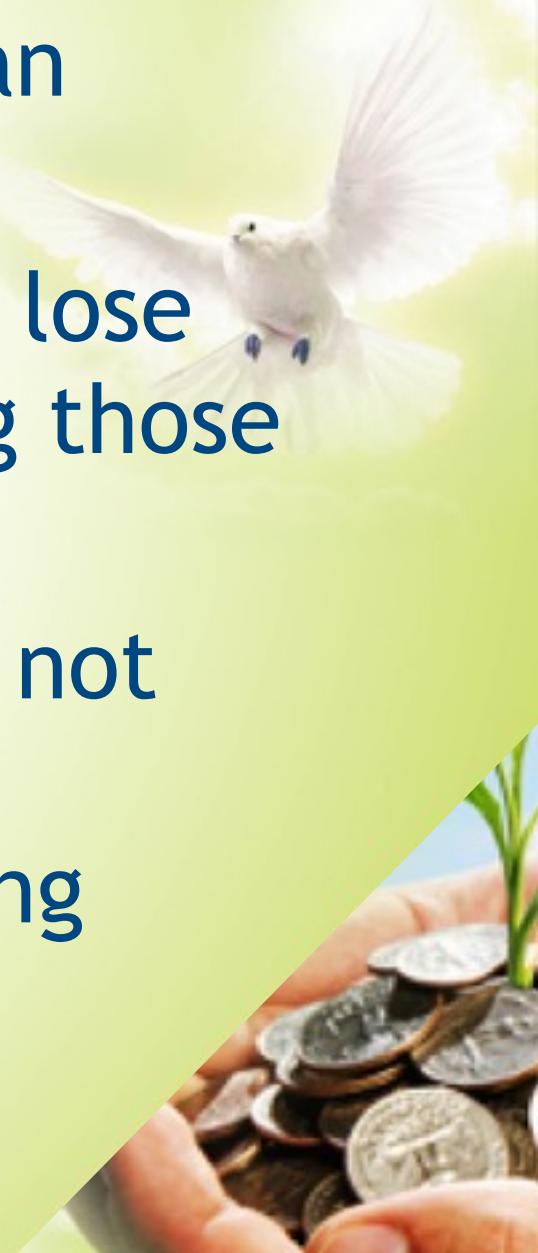
**1TT 374**



### **III. Faithfulness yields prosperity**



- If we are faithful, we can claim God's promises.
- If we are unfaithful, we lose the privilege of claiming those promises.
- Faithfulness to God will not bring poverty, but unfaithfulness could bring want.



- No one will be left helpless by returning to God what is His.
- But we could bring ruin upon ourselves when we retain what belongs to God.



*“Those churches who are  
the most systematic and  
liberal in sustaining the  
cause of God are the most  
prosperous spiritually.”*

**1TT 385**



*“Those who are selfishly withholding their means need not be surprised if God’s hand scatters. That which should have been devoted to the advancement of the work and cause of God, but which has been withheld, may be entrusted to a reckless son, and he may squander it.*



*A fine horse, the pride of a  
vain heart, may be found dead  
in the stable. Occasionally a  
cow may die. Losses of fruit or  
other crops may come. God can  
scatter the means He has lent  
to His stewards, if they refuse  
to use it to His glory.*



*Some, I saw, may have none  
of these losses to remind  
them of their remissness in  
duty, but their cases may be  
the more hopeless.”*

**3TT 80**



## **IV. Final recommendations**



**The elders need to teach the church, among other things, the following:**

- Give God the first place in your life.
- The first thing to do is set aside what belongs to God, the tithe.



- Do not use the tithe for personal gain even if you resolve to return it later on.
- Remember that your stewardship duty to God ends when you return the tithe.
- Be conscious that the tithe is not yours; it is God's.



- God does not look at the amount; God looks at the faithfulness.
- Faithfulness in stewardship brings abundance of spiritual blessings from God.
- Material blessings: “*When [God] sees a faithful performance of duty in the payment of the tithe, He often, in His wise providence, opens ways whereby it shall increase.*”

**GW 222**



# Conclusion

*“The one who proclaims the message of mercy to fallen men has another work also, –to set before the people the duty of sustaining the work of God with their means.*



*He must teach them  
that a portion of their  
income belongs to God,  
and is to be sacredly  
devoted to His work.”*

**GW 224**

