



# To Tithe or not to Tithe

Scott Huckaby's struggle with God over tithing

Notes: The Scripture references in this testimony are taken from the New King James Version.

Soon after God saved me in 1990, I wrestled with Him over how much of our hard-earned pay should be given to the work of the church.

I should point out that Teresa was already in sync with God about this and was willing to go along with what ever I decided. So this struggle were pretty much between God and me.

This struggle started when the Lord brought Malachi 3:10 to my attention... *"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse... and try Me now in this... if I will not... pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it."*

Well I certainly wanted the Lord's blessing but I rationalized that surely this was not for the Age of Grace. This had to be an Old Testament thing for those during the Dispensation of the Law.

But the Lord showed me Matthew 23:23 where Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for neglecting justice, mercy, and faith while reinforcing the idea that God expected His children to pay a tithe.

So I concluded that we should give a tithe but debated with the Lord as to whether this was ten percent of our gross or net.

But the Lord led me to Proverbs 3:9... *"Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the **firstfruits** of **all** your increase."*

It was hard to read net into that, and I had a hard time determining what should be included and excluded in calculating what the net should be anyway.

So I concluded that we should indeed tithe our gross income, but I asked the Lord how this was possible since everything we made went to pay bills except for a little savings.

In response to this, the Lord led me to another biblical principle: **GET OUT OF DEBT !** We are commanded in Romans 13:8 to, *"Owe no one anything except to love one another."*

We applied this to our finances by using our savings to pay off debts. Once we had done this, our monthly cash flow improved so that not only tithing was possible but we were able to boost our contributions to savings as well.

At this point, the decision to tithe came down to a simple step of faith. If God is who He claims to be, tithing is really a no-brainer.

So we started tithing several years ago and I can tell you that God has been faithful to His promises and **has** blessed us not just in general but specifically in our finances, *"for whatever a man sows, **that** he will also reap"* (Galatians 6:7).

I have been with Texas Instruments over 20 years now and have not felt like I was ever close to being laid off... and TI has something of a reputation for this due to the cyclic nature of the semiconductor business. Being a good worker is no protection if you find yourself in the wrong organization at the wrong time.

God has also blessed us in our financial plans... Teresa and I are on track to make a career change in 5 years to something that is closer to the desires of our hearts.

So if you're struggling with God over tithing, I'd encourage you to put God to the test... He loves to demonstrate His faithfulness to His promises!