

Why My Money?!

Some funny thing happens when you start talking about money as a Christian. This is uncomfortable for many. Money is one of those things that most people do not want to talk about especially when we are asked to depart with it.

If you think that money is not appropriate for Pastors to talk about then you will have to put aside much of what Jesus said during his earthly ministry.

Our attitude towards money and how we manage it is the foundation that sets the stage for every other aspect of our spiritual lives. Your revelation of God will determine your sacrifice.

The Bible tells us that tithing is a way to show that we trust God with our lives and our finances. But the tithe wasn't put in place for God's benefit—He already owns everything. He doesn't *need* our money. Instead, tithing is meant for our benefit because sacrificing a portion of our income helps us look outside our selfishness and makes us more aware of the needs of others.

In fact, one of the main purposes of tithing is to support the needs of the local church. Tithes help pay the rent (and we know that rent in NYC, Harlem is now quite steep), keep the church's lights on, heat in the winter, air conditioner, etc. Our rent continued, even though the church was closed due to the pandemic.

Tithing is an act of faith that helps us keep our priorities straight. It reminds us that we don't own anything in this life. God is in control, and we're only managers of what He's given us.

We don't give to get, but God often blesses us with more if we're good managers of what we already have. Tithing recognizes that God is our provider and that we will prosper with more than just money if we rely on Him.

We should all be giving in some way to the ministry of HCC. But when it comes to tithing, it's more of a spiritual discussion than a financial discussion. Because tithing isn't about the money—it's about the heart. It's living with the attitude that we're blessed to be a blessing.

What Is the Tithe?

Simply put the word tithe means *the tenth part*. Another way to say it is that the tithe is ten percent.

Therefore, when we talk about tithing, we mean offering ten percent of our regular income to God. And as we will see, we're talking about giving that 10% specifically to the local church.

God's Promises for Tithing

At the very end of the Old Testament, God speaks about the tithe through His last Old Covenant prophet Malachi and reveals two huge promises that are attached to the spiritual act of tithing. We at Harlem Christian Center will often quote this or other scripture's relating to tithing because it is a principle from God, not man.

“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. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field, ” Says the Lord of hosts;— Malachi 3:10-11

Windows of Heaven

God says that when we tithe it unlocks something in the spiritual realm that enables God to start acting on our behalf. Pastor Westbrook will tell us often that “your revelation of God will determine your sacrifice”, as we mentioned earlier. The first thing that happens is that God can open up the windows of heaven and begin to pour additional financial blessing into our lives if we’re willing to receive it.

That’s huge. I mean God is blessing us all the time. He even blesses the ungodly in spite of themselves (Matt 5:45). ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. At HCC, we have learned that most people who are rich continue to be rich because they are givers.

But when we tithe to our local church, such as HCC, we allow God to supercharge His blessing over our finances. It enables Him to bring increase to our finances in ways that we would never expect. We have many members of HCC who can attest to this. Just ask us.

Fortunately, when we tithe it also unlocks something else in the spiritual realm. Then God steps in and actively rebukes the devourer on our behalf to keep our finances from being drained off by all sorts of things beyond our control.

If you have any questions about tithing or need further explanation, we at HCC will surely assist you. We have attached a form that you may send a confidential message to the Senior Pastor.

*Thank you and
God bless you.*

