

## Tithing

Paul Solomon Reading Excerpt 0917 - WK - 0030 - GR - 0032 - 12/10/76

**QUESTION:** This Source has often referred to tithing by members as a source of support for the Fellowship's various ministries. You will instruct us in purposes and lessons to be learned by tithing as well as the implications of not tithing. You will advise whether members should tithe to the Fellowship, even if it means withdrawing support from other religious causes. And explain how we can best teach our members the lesson of tithing.

**ANSWER:** Yes, we have the records and those words; those teachings, both from these records and from the teachings of the ancients that should be understood in this manner:

First of all, the purpose of engaging those who come to seek in sharing through tithing is not primarily for the support of the Fellowship but rather in obedience to Divine Law, Universal Law, not an arbitrary law, a Law of the manner in which energy may be allowed to flow or exchange may be caused in relationships based upon this.

Not that you give only a tenth part of all that you have to the Father, but that you give the first fruits. For the tenth part, the tithe meant that. Abraham did not give simply one in ten of that he had, but the first part, the best part. That part that remained, then, for the self, was the portion for the support of self. But that given not for the support of that he gave it to, for who would need support? God or God's work?

Then why did Abraham give? Why did others give, and why were they commanded to give in every case that was mentioned? Did it then instruct that these are to give that the Lord's work may be supported? It did not. They were instructed to give that they might receive.

Those who come seeking to be given freely the waters of life, fail to understand that while the water is given freely, it cannot be received by those who do not give freely in return. And one has not given when the first fruits belong to God. He has only established a relationship. This is the meaning of the first fruit. That is, returning the best is that which says, "I am allowed to keep that which remains only after I have recognized the ownership of all that I have." The recognition of ownership is that which is established by the giving of the tenth to the Lord and to His cause. This, then, allows that one become a participant in the activities.

And it is not an arbitrary decision for this Fellowship or for anyone else to say that it might be participated in this manner. Universal Law has said it. God has said it. Has said it, has declared that it be so.

Those who come believing, then that they can receive from this Fellowship or any other working in harmony with Divine Cause without giving a tenth part of all they have, will find themselves disappointed and going away fruitless.

It is not your decision that it be so. It is not in your power to negate it. It is Divine Law, Universal Law, and it is simple fact that those who give a tenth part of all they have will receive through you all you have to give, however much or little that may be. And the same is true wherever they give.

Then let one select the manner in which he will give to the Father, and it will not be a consideration of giving to this as opposed to giving to that, but find that which expresses God and the best manner for establishing your relationship with the Highest through throwing open those doors. For the giving of the first fruit is the statement of the first thought. And if one gives a tithe out of that which remains when bills are paid, and this and that, where has he put the importance of the Father and spiritual growth in his life?

Be absolutely certain that the Universe will return to him in the same manner in which he gave. And in so many instances it has. have you not seen evidence that those who have given reluctantly have received so little in return out of such a bounteous storehouse?

For you have in your hands a treasure, food to fill the world. And yet those even working in these granaries, in this storehouse, are starving while surrounded with that food. Yet, they attempt to ingest, to gorge themselves with that which is at hand. Why do they not assimilate and grow? For they have not opened those doors. God is given that which remains after other consideration, and they are incapable of taking that which they have not emptied themselves to receive. The giving of the tithe is the opening of the door.

And should one give the tithe only? The support of the Fellowship and the gift of the giving heart will come over and above the first fruit. For one has not given when he has paid a debt. The paying of the tithe, then, is the recognition of a debt and is owed. No gift is given until it be above the tenth of all that you shall earn. There are no exceptions to this expression of Divine and Universal Law. It has been established and is at work.

But again, let anyone ask, "Who can out give God?" Do not be threatened, feeling that God would take away from you and leave you with less, having taken your first fruits. But rather, recognize the opportunity to let God prove that He has asked for the opportunity to prove. For He said, "Try me and see if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour out upon thee a blessing thou shalt not be able to receive."

Then try by bringing the tithes into the storehouse. See what returns. See the Law of the Tenth blessed, and know that He will return ten-fold a measure shaken down and still running over.

Then, challenge those who will, simply by allowing them to acknowledge the first fruit and attempting to understand the expression of the Law of Ten-fold Return, for it is real

as well. For the Lord will bless, always has and continues, him who gives of the first fruit. A tithe that is paid on that remains after other considerations will not bring a ten-fold return. Understand the manner in which these laws work, for it is the Law of the First Fruits.

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