

What The Bible Teaches on **TITHES and OFFERINGS**

Emmanuel Oladipo

Chapter 12: Conclusion



12. Conclusion

(a) Our Christian status

As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, our spiritual heritage includes everything that happened before the Law was given, all that was given to Abraham and his children, including the Law, and everything that the New Testament contains.

With regard to tithing, we have models from Abraham and Jacob which pre-date the Law, but they are too limited to be of help to us. One was only from booty seized from the enemy and the other was only a conditional promise. Both of them were one-off incidents rather than continuous experiences.

We also have the Law, with its blessings and curses, but thankfully, we have been delivered from the bondage of the Law. (Romans 6:21-26). As a result, our lives are guided by a superior mandate: we are no longer under the Law but under grace, (Romans 6:14).

(b) Obeying the Spirit

God's Holy Spirit communicates to us directly, showing us what the Lord requires of each one of us. Different Churches sometimes have different guidelines on these matters. We must take the words of our spiritual leaders seriously. Hebrews 13:17 teaches us to submit to those who have spiritual charge over us for they will give an account to God.

As individual believers, however, we also have the responsibility before God to do like the Bereans who examined the Scriptures for themselves to see if these things are so or not. God has no grandchildren. He is our Father and so He speaks to us directly, and we must learn to hear His voice and obey. If He tells us to give 90% of our income and we give 50%, the Pastor may be very happy with us because we multiply our tithe by five, but God will not be pleased with us. And if we know that God is happy with the 2% we give when that is the most we can do, we would hope that the pastor will not condemn us when God does not! Every discerning pastor will encourage us to act in good conscience before God.

(c) God's richest blessing

We often accuse our pastors and Church leaders of talking too much about money. The one and only reason is because collectively, we do not give as generously as God expects. If we do, there will be a totally different complaint. See what happened once with the children of Israel:

“Then Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the LORD had given ability and who was willing to come and do the work. They received from Moses all the offerings the Israelites had brought to carry out the work of constructing the sanctuary. And the people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning. So all the skilled craftsmen who were doing all the work on the sanctuary left their work and said to Moses, The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the LORD commanded to be done. Then Moses gave an

order and they sent this word throughout the camp: No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary. And so the people were restrained from bringing more, because what they already had was more than enough to do all the work.”

Exodus 36:5-7

How extraordinarily delightful! This is the level God would love His Church to run. It is the method God wants to use to bless His children individually and collectively. This will be our experience on one condition, and that is to make a habit of –

“... remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” ”

Acts 20:35