

Hello, ChatGPT. Let us talk about tithing. Do you know anything about the tithe?

ChatGPT said:

Yes, I can help you with that.

Let's talk about **tithing**.

What is the tithe?

A **tithe** traditionally means *one-tenth* (10%) of a person's increase or income. The concept comes from the Bible, particularly the Old Testament, where God's people gave 10% of their produce, livestock, or earnings to support:

- The **Levites** (who had no land inheritance)
- Worship and temple service
- The poor and needy
- Festivals and community worship

Where does the idea come from?

Some foundational passages:

- **Genesis 14:18–20** – Abraham gives Melchizedek a tithe of the spoils.
- **Genesis 28:20–22** – Jacob vows to give God a tenth if God protects him.
- **Leviticus 27:30–32** – The tithe belongs to the Lord; it is holy.
- **Numbers 18:21–24** – Tithes assigned to the Levites.
- **Deuteronomy 14** – Includes festival tithes and provisions for the poor.
- **Malachi 3:8–10** – The famous passage about “bringing all the tithes into the storehouse.”

Tithing in the New Testament

The New Testament does **not command Christians to tithe** in the same way the Mosaic Law did. Instead, it emphasizes:

- **Generosity**
- **Willing giving**
- **Supporting ministry and the poor**

Key verses include:

- **2 Corinthians 9:6–8** – Give cheerfully, not reluctantly.

- **1 Timothy 5:17–18** – Support those who labor in preaching and teaching.
- **Acts 2–4** – Early believers shared everything and gave freely.

Jesus mentioned tithing when speaking to Pharisees (**Matthew 23:23**), affirming its place in the Law but emphasizing *justice, mercy, and faithfulness*.

How churches interpret tithing today

Different denominations teach different things:

- **Some churches** teach that Christians should still give a 10% tithe as a baseline.
- **Others** say giving should be Spirit-led without a fixed percentage.
- **Many believe** the principle of putting God first in finances is more important than the exact number.

If you'd like, we can go deeper into:

1. **The purpose of tithing**
2. **The difference between tithes and offerings**
3. **Whether Christians today should tithe**
4. **How the tithe connects to blessing**
5. **What happens if someone cannot afford a tithe**
6. **Historical Jewish tithes (there were actually multiple kinds)**

Just tell me which direction you want to explore.

You said:

All of them: 1 to 6, please.

ChatGPT said:

Sure — here is a clear, complete explanation of **all six topics (1 to 6)** regarding the tithe. I'll make each section easy to understand and grounded in Scripture.

1. The Purpose of Tithing

In the Bible, tithing was never just about money; it had multiple spiritual and practical purposes.

A. To honour God

Tithing was an act of worship that acknowledged God as the source of everything.

“The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof.” — *Psalms 24:1*

By giving the first 10%, people were saying:

- “God is my provider.”
- “I put God first.”

B. To support the Levites (full-time ministers)

The Levites had no farmland or inheritance, so the tithe sustained them.

Numbers 18:21 — “I have given the Levites all the tithes... for their service.”

C. To support worship, the temple, and ministry work

The tithe funded:

- temple operations
- priests
- sacrifices
- maintenance of holy places

D. To care for the poor

Certain tithes were used to support:

- strangers
- orphans
- widows

(Deuteronomy 14:28-29)

E. To teach trust, obedience, and dependence on God

Deuteronomy 10:12 — “...that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always.”

This means tithing shaped the heart, not just the wallet.

2. The Difference Between Tithes and Offerings

Tithe = fixed 10%

- Required under the Law
- “First fruits”
- A baseline

Offerings = anything above the tithe

Offerings were:

- voluntary
- from the heart
- expressions of love or gratitude

Examples:

- freewill offerings
- thanksgiving offerings
- almsgiving to the poor
- giving to special projects (temple building, missions, etc.)

Today, many churches follow this principle:

- **Tithe:** regular support for ministry/church
 - **Offering:** missions, charity, building fund, special causes
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3. Should Christians Today Tithe?

The New Testament approach is different from the Old Testament law.

A. The New Testament does *not* command the tithe

There is no verse where:

- Jesus commands Christians to tithe
- Paul commands the Gentile churches to tithe

Instead, the emphasis shifts to **grace-based giving**.

B. The principles remain valuable

Even though the Law is fulfilled in Christ, the **spiritual principles** of tithing still bless people:

- Putting God first
- Supporting ministry
- Funding the Gospel
- Helping the poor
- Teaching generosity

C. The New Testament standard is actually *higher*

Under grace, believers are led by:

- the Holy Spirit
- love
- generosity
- willingness

Many believers give *more than* 10%.

D. Why many Christians still tithe today

Because tithing:

- provides a consistent commitment
- trains the heart
- is easier than deciding an amount every week
- is a faith discipline
- aligns with biblical patterns

So:

No, Christians are not forced to tithe — but yes, tithing remains a powerful and beneficial spiritual principle.

4. The Tithe and Blessing

A. Old Testament promise

Malachi 3:10 is one of the strongest promises in Scripture:

“Bring the whole tithe... and I will open the windows of heaven... and pour out a blessing...”

This included:

- protection from devourers (unexpected losses)
- prosperity
- abundance

B. New Testament principle

The New Testament echoes the same spiritual law:

“Whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” — *2 Corinthians 9:6*

“Give, and it shall be given to you...” — *Luke 6:38*

Even though the system of the tithe changed, the **principle of God rewarding generosity** remains.

C. Tithing aligns your finances with the Kingdom

People who tithe often experience:

- better stewardship
- fewer financial accidents
- supernatural provision
- discipline and order
- increased faith
- protection in crisis

Not because of magic, but because giving aligns you with God’s design.

5. What if Someone Cannot Afford to Tithe?

This is a **common and important question**.

A. God never wants giving to be a burden

The New Testament is clear:

“Give according to what you have, not according to what you do not have.”
— *2 Corinthians 8:12*

Meaning:

- God looks at the heart, not the amount.
- If someone has very little, God does *not* demand they give 10%.

B. Tithing is not meant to cause suffering

God never intended:

- debt
- lack
- fear
- pressure

Giving should be joyful:

“God loves a cheerful giver.” — *2 Corinthians 9:7*

C. Some people tithe *as their faith grows*

For some individuals:

- Start with 1%, 3%, 5%
- Build up to 10%
- Or stay where they feel peace

D. God honours willingness

Jesus praised the widow who gave only two small coins — not because of the amount, but because of her heart (Mark 12:41-44).

6. The Three Types of Tithes in Ancient Israel (Most People Don't Know This)

Historically, Israel actually had **more than one tithe**:

A. The Levitical Tithe (10%)

Given yearly to support the Levites (Numbers 18:21-24).

B. The Festival Tithe (10%)

A second tithe used for:

- national feasts
- worship celebrations
- community gatherings
(Deuteronomy 14:22-27)

People would bring food, wine, oil, etc., to enjoy in God's presence.

C. The Poor Tithe (Every 3rd Year)

Every third year, the tithe was used to help:

- orphans
 - widows
 - foreigners
 - the poor
(Deuteronomy 14:28-29)
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✓ Summary

Here is the entire teaching in simple form:

- **Tithe = 10% used to support God's work and teach trust.**
 - **Offering = anything above the tithe, freely given.**
 - **Christians are not forced to tithe, but many choose to because it is spiritually powerful.**
 - **Tithing is tied to blessing — not as a transaction but as a spiritual principle.**
 - **If someone cannot afford to tithe, God understands; giving is about willingness, not pressure.**
 - **Ancient Israel had multiple kinds of tithes — for Levites, festivals, and the poor.**
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If you want, we can go deeper into:

- **How tithing relates to Rhema (spoken word revelation)**
- **The spiritual laws behind giving and receiving**
- **The difference between “curse” in Malachi 3 and grace through Christ**
- **How modern churches use tithes today**

Just tell me which one you want next.

You said:

For a \$80,000.00 salary after tax in Australia for 2025, the estimated net pay is approximately \$61,933 per year or \$5,161 per month. If he/she wants to give a tithe, how much is it?

ChatGPT said:

If we calculate the tithe as **10% of the net (after-tax) income**, then:

Net Income (After Tax):

- **\$61,933 per year**
- **\$5,161 per month**

Tithe = 10%

Annual Tithe

$10\% \times \$61,933 = \$6,193.30$ per year

Monthly Tithe

$10\% \times \$5,161 = \516.10 per month

✓ Summary

- **Annual tithe: \$6,193.30**
- **Monthly tithe: \$516.10**

If you want, I can also calculate:

- tithe based on **gross salary**
- tithe based on **weekly or fortnightly pay**
- a sliding-scale tithe (if someone wants to start with 3%, 5%, etc.)

You said:

Why don't we calculate the cost of living first? If the gross salary is only \$35,000,00 and they have a lot of children and a mortgage, etc, they might not be able to live.

ChatGPT said:

You are absolutely right — **a tithe should never be calculated in isolation from real life.** The Bible *never* teaches people to give in a way that destroys their ability to live, feed their children, or meet essential needs.

Let's break this down clearly and biblically.

✓ 1. The Bible NEVER tells people to give money they do not have

This is extremely important.

"Give according to what you have, not according to what you do not have."

— 2 Corinthians 8:12

This means:

- God does **not** expect giving to cause hardship.
- God looks at the **heart**, not the exact percentage.
- Someone with a low income is **not expected** to give the same as someone with a high income.

✓ 2. Cost of Living MUST be considered first

You are correct:

If someone earns **\$35,000 per year** (after tax maybe ~28k)

AND they have:

- high rent or mortgage
- many children
- car expenses
- utilities
- food
- transport
- school needs
- medical costs

...it may be **impossible** to give 10% without harming the family.

In such cases:

- 👉 God does not demand 10%
- 👉 God does not want the person stressed or in debt
- 👉 Giving a smaller amount is perfectly acceptable
- 👉 God receives the gift based on the heart, not the amount

✅ 3. Tithing under grace is proportional, not compulsory

In the New Testament:

“Each one should give **as he is able**, in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure.”

— 2 Corinthians 9:7

This verse directly teaches:

- Giving should be **realistic**
- Giving should be **joyful**
- Giving should be **free**, not forced
- It must not damage your financial survival

✅ 4. For low-income earners, “tithing” may simply mean:

✓ 1–2%

or

✓ Whatever amount they can give with peace

or

✓ Giving time or service instead of money

or

✓ Supporting others in non-financial ways

God sees:

- the sacrifice
- the heart
- the intention

Not the number.

God never said:

“Give 10% even if you suffer.”

But He did say:

“I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” (Matthew 9:13)

✓ 5. Example: A family earning \$35,000/year

After mortgage, food, bills, school needs, transport...

Chances are:

- There may be almost no extra money left
- Giving 10% (\$3,500) would be unrealistic
- It could cause stress, debt, or even not enough food

In this case:

- A small gift (even \$5 or \$10 a week) is completely acceptable
 - God honours the **heart**, not the percentage
 - The Church should NEVER pressure them
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✓ 6. Giving should always be after basic living needs

Here is a biblical order:

1 Provide for your household first

“Anyone who does not provide for his own household is worse than an unbeliever.”
— 1 Timothy 5:8

Providing for family comes *before* giving.

2 Then give with joy from what remains

Not from what puts you in hardship.

📌 Conclusion (Very Important)

Tithing is a **principle**, not a punishment.

If someone:

- earns little
- has a large family
- has high living expenses

Then **God does not expect 10%**.

They should give only what they can give peacefully — even if it's very small.

And God receives it as if it were 100%, because He sees the heart.

If you want, I can also help you calculate:

- A **realistic tithe/offerings** based on cost-of-living
- A **tiered giving plan** (1%, 3%, 5%, etc.)
- A **budget template** to see what someone can afford
- A biblical explanation of **grace giving vs law tithing**

Just tell me what direction you want next.

You said:

But some churches talk about tithing every Sunday.

ChatGPT said:

You've touched on something very real, very common, and often confusing for many people. Let's talk about **why some churches talk about tithing every Sunday** — and what the Bible actually says — so you can understand it clearly, without pressure.

✅ 1. Why Churches Talk About Tithing Every Sunday

There are **several reasons**, and they vary from church to church.

A. To remind people to support the ministry

Churches have expenses:

- rent or mortgage
- electricity and water
- pastors' salaries
- outreach programs
- events
- missions
- equipment
- children's ministry
- music, livestream, etc.

Tithing is a simple, steady way to keep the ministry running.

B. Because it is part of their denomination's teaching

Some denominations (especially Pentecostal, Evangelical, Charismatic churches) teach the tithe very strongly.

C. Because of tradition

Many churches simply continue what earlier generations taught.

D. Because they sincerely believe in the spiritual benefits of tithing

Pastors often teach tithing because they genuinely believe it:

- brings blessing
- creates financial peace
- trains a person to be generous
- puts God first

E. Sometimes, because the church has financial needs

This is the uncomfortable part:

- Some churches talk about giving because they *need money to survive*.
 - Sometimes this becomes too frequent or too pressuring.
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✓ 2. What's the problem?

Talking about giving is **not wrong** — Jesus and Paul taught about giving too.

The issue is **HOW** churches talk about it.

A. If it becomes pressure

“Give or you’re not blessed.”

“Give or you are cursed.”

“Give or God won’t help you.”

➡ This is unbiblical under the New Covenant.

B. If it ignores people's real financial situations

A struggling family with:

- debts
- low income
- many children
- mortgage
- high cost of living

...should *not* be made to feel guilty for giving less, or giving in smaller ways.

C. If churches use Malachi 3 incorrectly

Malachi 3 is often preached every Sunday, but it was written:

- to Israel
- under the Old Covenant
- to people with land and livestock
- for temple and Levite support

Not to New Testament believers under grace.

✓ 3. The New Testament does NOT command weekly tithing messages

In the early church:

- There is **no record** of weekly tithe sermons.
- Giving was voluntary and joyful.
- No fixed percentage was given.
- Needs were shared freely.
- Paul collected offerings only at specific times, not every Sunday.

The New Testament emphasizes:

“Give according to your ability.” — 2 Corinthians 8:3

“Each one should give what he decides in his heart.” — 2 Corinthians 9:7

“Not reluctantly or under pressure.”

If a person feels *pressure*, it is no longer grace.

✓ 4. When weekly tithing messages are healthy

- ✓ If they remind people of generosity
- ✓ If they explain how giving supports the community
- ✓ If they encourage faith without guilt
- ✓ If they emphasize freedom to give what someone can afford

This is good, balanced teaching.

✗ 5. When weekly tithing messages become unhealthy

- ✗ When they make people feel guilty or condemned
- ✗ When they threaten curses on people
- ✗ When they ignore the poor
- ✗ When they treat tithe as a law
- ✗ When the church budget becomes more important than people's lives

If someone makes \$35,000 a year with many children and high expenses, **God does NOT want them to give 10% and then struggle to live.**

✅ 6. God cares about the heart, not the number

God looks at:

- the heart
- the willingness
- the faith
- the love

Not the percentage.

Jesus praised the **widow** who gave two coins, not the rich who tithed (Mark 12:41–44).

📌 Conclusion

Some churches talk about tithing every Sunday because they want to uphold biblical generosity and support the ministry.

But:

- No one should be forced.
 - No one should be guilty.
 - No one should give beyond what they can afford.
 - God is not angry with people who cannot give 10%.
 - The New Covenant emphasizes **freedom and grace**, not pressure.
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If you want, I can go deeper into:

- The difference between **manipulative giving** and **biblical giving**
- How to discern if your church is balanced or unbalanced
- The difference between tithing under the Law and giving under Grace
- A biblical model of giving for **low-income families**

Just tell me which one you want next.

You said:

What should a Healthy Church do?

ChatGPT said:

A **healthy church** does not just preach sermons or collect offerings — it cultivates spiritual, emotional, relational, and financial health for its people.

Here is a clear, biblically grounded picture of what a **Healthy Church** should do:

✓ 1. Teach the Full Gospel — Not Just Money

A healthy church:

- focuses on **Jesus**, not finances
- teaches **salvation, discipleship, holiness, love, forgiveness, prayer, faith, righteousness**, and **the Holy Spirit**
- does NOT overemphasize giving, wealth, blessings, or “prosperity” every week

Money is important, but it must never overshadow Christ.

✓ 2. Support Members — Not Pressure Them

A healthy church **NEVER**:

- pressures people to tithe
- shames poor families
- threatens curses
- manipulates emotions
- uses fear to increase giving

A healthy church **ALWAYS**:

- teaches that giving must be **free and joyful**
- acknowledges that some families struggle financially
- encourages people to give what they *can*, not what they *cannot*
- helps the needy, instead of taking from them

This aligns with:

“Give according to what you *have*, not according to what you do *not* have.”

— 2 Corinthians 8:12

✓ 3. Care for the Poor, Not Burden Them

A healthy church:

- supports single parents
- helps families in hardship
- assists with groceries, bills, rent, etc.
- provides counselling, mentorship, financial education

In the early church:

“There was not a needy person among them.” — Acts 4:34

The church is supposed to **lift burdens**, not add burdens.

✓ 4. Teach Responsible Giving

A healthy church teaches:

- giving is a **heart decision**
- generosity comes from **love**, not obligation
- tithe is a **spiritual principle**, not a law
- God cares about **priorities**, including family needs

They teach balance:

First provide for your household. — 1 Timothy 5:8

Then give according to ability. — 2 Corinthians 8–9

✓ 5. Practice Financial Transparency

A healthy church:

- shows how offerings are used
- publishes annual or quarterly financial reports
- explains ministry budgets
- handles donations responsibly
- avoids lavish spending or pastor luxury lifestyles

Transparency builds trust.

✓ 6. Develop People, Not Just Programs

A healthy church invests in:

- spiritual growth
- Bible study
- prayer groups
- mentorship
- youth development
- healing and deliverance ministry
- marriage and family support
- mental/emotional well-being

The focus is on **making disciples**, not building an empire.

✓ 7. Follow the New Testament Giving Model

Healthy churches follow biblical patterns:

✓ Give willingly

✓ Give with joy

✓ Give according to your ability

✓ Give cheerfully

✓ Give without pressure

✓ Give to support the ministry and the poor

This is exactly what Paul taught.

✓ 8. Build Community & Love

A healthy church:

- creates a culture of love and belonging
- welcomes newcomers
- builds meaningful relationships

- helps people feel seen, known, and loved
- protects members from spiritual abuse
- encourages unity instead of competition

Jesus said:

“By this everyone will know you are my disciples — if you love one another.”
— John 13:35

Love is the mark of a healthy church.

❤️ 9. Shepherd People, Not Control Them

A healthy church:

- lets people make their own decisions
- does not control finances, marriage, time, or choices
- does not force loyalty
- does not manipulate with guilt or shame
- protects people’s freedom in Christ
- guides with gentleness

A pastor is a **shepherd**, not a **controller**.

✓ 10. Encourage Balanced Teaching on Money

A healthy church teaches:

- wisdom
- stewardship
- budgeting
- contentment
- generosity
- avoiding debt

...not “give more and God will make you rich.”

They teach **financial health**, not financial pressure.

✚ SUMMARY: A Healthy Church Should...

- ✓ Put Jesus at the center
- ✓ Teach the Bible, not manipulation
- ✓ Encourage giving without pressure
- ✓ Help the poor and struggling
- ✓ Be financially transparent
- ✓ Build strong community
- ✓ Shepherd with love, not control
- ✓ Focus on discipleship, not money
- ✓ Honour families' financial realities
- ✓ Protect people from spiritual abuse

If you want, I can also show:

- The **signs of an unhealthy church**
- Questions to ask to evaluate your own church
- A comparison between **Old Covenant tithing** and **New Covenant giving**
- What a church should say during a healthy offering message

Just tell me what you'd like next.