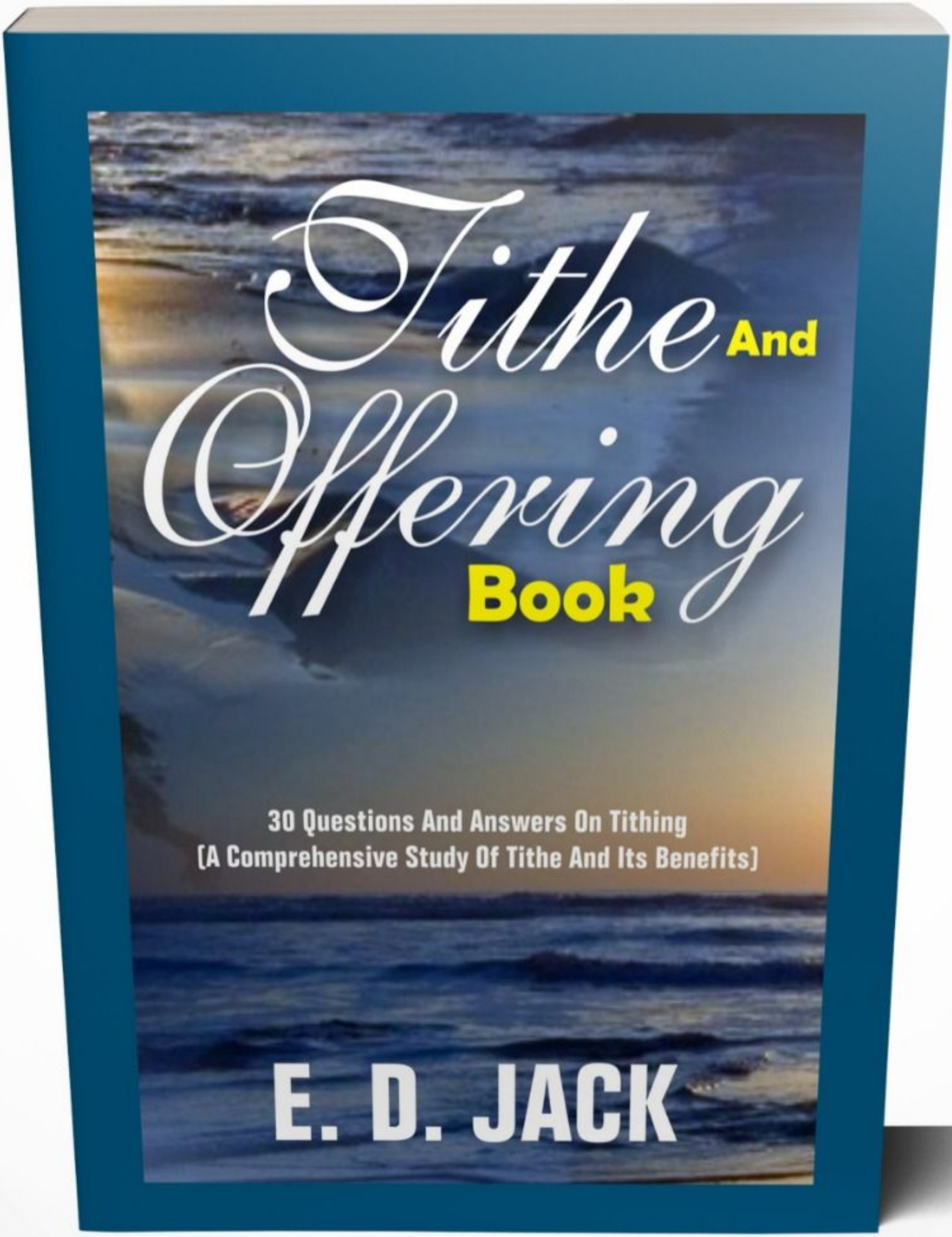

Tithe And Offering Book
30 Questions And Answers On Tithing
[A Comprehensive Study Of Tithe And Its Benefits]
E. D. JACK

TITHE

AND

OFFERING BOOK

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30 Questions And Answers On Tithing (A Comprehensive Study Of Tithe And Its Benefits)

E.D. JACK

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You shall not lose your reward.

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the Holy Spirit, my Helper.

INTRODUCTION

By experience as a teacher both in the classroom and the church, I know that it is possible to teach on a subject matter and still not be able to help everyone listening to you understand what you have taught. Some people need to hear a teaching more than once before they can assimilate it. This is why training and retraining is helpful. It is wrong to blame people for doing the wrong thing if you have not taught them the right thing.

No doubt, many believers do not pay tithes because they have not been sufficiently taught the importance of tithe or they probably need to hear such teachings again and again. This is the reason for this book. This book covers virtually every question people often ask concerning tithe. All the answers to the questions are Bible-based, simple and easy to understand.

My sincere and heartfelt prayer is that the Holy Spirit who granted me inspiration to write the book will grant you the spirit of revelation in the knowledge of Him and restore to you all your lost opportunities and blessings the devil has stolen from you.

QUESTION 1: WHAT IS TITHE?

In Leviticus 27:30, 32, the Bible clearly explains what tithe is.

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD ... And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.
Lev. 27:30, 32

Let's look at how some authors define 'tithe'.
Jacobson N. Owgwu, the author of **TITHE YOURSELF OUT OF POVERTY** said, "The word tithe literally means "tenth". Tithe is a 10% pay as you earn (PAYE) tax placed by God on all resources derived from Him".

In his book, **PRINCIPLES OF COVENANT WEALTH,** David Ibiyeomie said, "Tithe is one tenth of all your financial increase. This includes your salary, wages, financial gifts and favours. It is a systematic release of a tenth of all your increase to God." He also said, "Tithing is a

demonstration of your obedience to God. When you pay tithe here on earth, Jesus receives it in heaven".

And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth. (Hebrews 7:8)

Furthermore, David Ibiyeomie said, "Tithing is the only act that creates an account (financial credit) for you in heaven. And Leviticus 27:32b says that the tenth shall be holy unto the Lord."

Dr. Bill Winston defines tithe as "One tenth of all legal incoming cash both earned and unearned."

The General Overseer of The Redeemed Christian Church of God, Pastor Enoch Adeboye said, "Your tithe is one tenth of your income increases or profit. It belongs to God and should be set aside for God immediately after the promises comes. The Bible makes it clear that aside from stealing from men, it is possible to steal from God".

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Mal. 3:8

QUESTION 2: WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF TITHE?

The reason some Christians do not pay their tithes is because they think that tithe is one of the laws God gave to Moses and has been nullified by the coming of Christ. But this is not true. The truth is when you believe wrongly, you talk wrongly and act wrongly.

It is true that the Jews tithed under the law, but tithe is older than the law. The practise of tithe started long before God gave the law to Moses. Also, tithe started before the Israelites journey from Egypt to Canaan. It actually originated from Abraham the father of the Christian faith. Abraham did not operate under the law. He operated under grace. His relationship with God was purely on the platform of faith, grace and mercy. Tithe was practised 430 years before the law.

And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all, Gen. 14:20**.**
And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee. Gen.

28:22

Abraham must have received divine insight into the subject matter of tithe. This revelation prompted him to tithe to Melchizedek, the priest of the Most High. Melchizedek was a type of Christ for the Scripture says there's no record of his family history. He had neither father nor mother (there was no record to trace them).

And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

Gen. 14:18-20

For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; Without father, without mother, without descent,

having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.

Heb. 7:1-3

In Genesis 17:1-7, God entered into a covenant with Abraham to bless, prosper and to multiply him and his seed. One of the things Abraham was supposed to do to ensure the manifestation of this covenant of abundance and to sustain it was to remain connected to the covenant through tithe.

The covenant of supernatural supplies which God made with Abraham was for him and his seed.

And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.

Gen. 17:7-9

All the seed of Abraham who practice this covenant principle were blessed in their generations. The covenant God made with Abraham stood them over and above their colleagues and contemporaries. For example:
Isaac was greatly blessed

But my covenant, my promise and my pledge, I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year.
Gen. 17:21 AMP

And the man became great and gained more and more until he became very wealthy and distinguished; He owned flocks, herds, and a great supply of servants, and the Philistine envied him. And the Lord appeared to him the same night and said, I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will favor you with blessings and multiply your descendants for the sake of My servant Abraham.
Gen. 26:13, 14, 24 AMP

Jacob Was Mightily Blessed

But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.

Gen. 17:21

And your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times; but God suffered him not to hurt me. If he said thus, The speckled shall be thy wages; then all the cattle bare speckled: and if he said thus, The ringstraked shall be thy hire; then bare all the cattle ringstraked. Thus God hath taken away the cattle of your father, and given them to me. And it came to pass at the time that the cattle conceived, that I lifted up mine eyes, and saw in a dream, and, behold, the rams which leaped upon the cattle were ringstraked, speckled, and grisled. And the angel of God spake unto me in a dream, saying, Jacob: And I said, Here am I. And he said, Lift up now thine eyes, and see, all the rams which leap upon the cattle are ringstraked, speckled, and grisled: for I have seen all that Laban doeth unto thee.

Gen. 31:7-12

I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands.

Gen. 32: 10

Joseph Was Also Mightily Blessed

But my covenant, my promise and my pledge, I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year. Gen. 17:21 AMP

And the Lord was with Joseph and he [though a slave] was a successful and prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all that he did to flourish and succeed in his hand.

Gen. 39:2-3 AMP

But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it. The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.

Gen. 39:21-23

Israel Was Blessed Because Of The Covenant.

And God heard their sighing and groaning and [earnestly] remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob.

Exo. 2:24 AMP,

And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

Exo. 3:8

The Believers In Christ. God through Christ connected the believers to the blessings of the covenant

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith …

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus ... And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Gal. 3:13, 14, 26, 29

Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the law and made it possible for us to receive Abraham blessings.

And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Gal. 3:29

God through Christ has established the everlasting covenant with us in our generation

And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

Gen. 17:7

The blessings of this covenant does not manifest simply because we are the seed of Abraham, they manifest because we key into the covenant by tithing and sowing seeds.

All the seeds of Abraham who prospered in their days believed in tithing and giving.

And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.
Gen. 28:22

Abraham practised tithing on the basis of sustaining his covenant relationship with God. Jacob must have seen his own father (Isaac) following the same pattern religiously; hence, his decision to do the same. Each of them knew without any iota of doubt that tithe was established to sustain their covenant of prosperity with God.

To get rid of doubt from the minds of the people of Israel concerning tithe and ensure that the blessings of Abraham continued, God decided to officially gave it to Moses as a law.

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD ... And

concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.
Lev. 27:30, 32

Tithing law was necessary because the people of Israel did not understand the language of grace but that of the law. Anything that was not enshrined in Moses' law was not considered important and mandatory. Therefore, to ensure continuity in servicing the covenant of prosperity, God decided to code the instruction of paying tithe with the language of the law.

Therefore, when God put the Law of Moses to an end and replaced it with the new covenant which Christ cut with his own precious blood; tithing was not affected because it did not come with the Law of Moses.

As long as the blessings of Abraham continue, tithe, which is the "connecting rod," remains in vogue. The coming of Christ did not abolish tithe; rather, he affirmed it.

QUESTION 3: IS TITHE SCRIPTURAL? ARE THERE EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE WHO PAID TITHES IN THE BIBLE?

Tithe is scriptural. There were so many things people did in the Bible days that were not recorded in the Scripture. The Bible confirms this to be true in John 20:30

And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.

However, there are so many examples that are recorded in the Scripture:

1. Abraham paid tithe (Gen. 14:20; Heb. 7:11)
2. The Jews were commanded to tithe (Lev. 27:30-34; Mal. 3:8-10)
3. Jacob tithe (Gen. 28:22)
4. Levi in Abraham (Heb. 7:9)
5. Hezekiah and Israel (II Chr. 31:2-6, 12, 14, 20-21)
6. Nehemiah and Israel (Neh. 13)

7. Hypocrites (Matt. 23:23; Luke 11:42; 18:12
8. Christians.

In the New Testament, no specific individual was mentioned. But in Matthew 23:23, Luke 11:42 and 18:12, Christ mentioned tithe. There are Scriptures in the New Testament that clearly show that the great Apostle Paul was not only referring to giving but also tithing. Such scriptures include:

Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock? Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen? Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ. Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which

wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

1 Cor. 9:7-14

Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

Gal. 6:6

Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.

1 Tim. 5: 17-18

The above Scriptures dwell more on giving to cater for the welfare of the priests which was one of the reasons tithe was demanded from the people by God. Looking at the above Scriptures closely, you would notice that Paul certainly had tithe in mind but refused to emphasize it for the following obvious reasons:

Firstly, among them could be that the people were already used to the ordinance of tithe. So, he had no reason to overemphasize the issue.

Secondly, he did not want to emphasize tithing at the expense of the most important message he was bringing to the people (that is, the message of salvation).

Thirdly, there is every possibility that Paul read or heard about the rebuke of the Pharisee by Christ for upholding the ordinance of tithe over and above justice, mercy and faith. Therefore, in order not to confuse the people or break their focus, he felt that the tithe should be left the way Christ put it which is to pay close attention to Christian virtues while continuing to pay their tithes.

QUESTION 4: DID JESUS TEACH TITHING?

In the New Testament, Jesus also taught tithing. He actually commanded the observance of tithing. Matthew 5:17 says that Christ came not to abolish the laws but to fulfill them.

In Matthew 23:23, Jesus Christ gave His endorsement for tithing while chastising Scribes and Pharisees.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier [matters] of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

He did the same in Luke 11:42 when he said:

But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

QUESTION 5: DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT SUPPORT TITHING?

Tithe started with Abraham in the Old Testament but did not stop with him. In the New Testament, Christ approved this ordinance. He did not condemn it; rather, he commended the Pharisees for paying the full amount of their tithes to God. He, however, blamed them for neglecting other important teachings of the law which include mercy, honesty and justice.

Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not ... Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Matt. 23:1-3, 23

Tithe Was Not Given Under The Law.

It is important to note that the ordinance of tithe was given several years before the law was given. In his well-researched material on tithing, Orogwu said, “It is true the Jews tithed under the law. But tithe is older than the law itself. Jacob in Genesis 28:22 vowed to give God a tenth of all the things God shall give him.

Also, the institution of tithe preceded the journey of Israelites from Egypt and their settlement at Canaan. Tithing actually originated from Abraham, the father of the Christian faith, who paid a tenth of his possession to Melchizedek, the priest of the Most High, as recorded in Genesis 14:18-20 and Hebrews 7:1-3.

This principle was further handed down to Moses by God as a precept that should be observed by the children of Israel who are descendants of Abraham.”

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD.

Lev. 27: 30

The practice of tithe was to continue forever as long as priests (pastors) served in the temple. To receive Abraham’s blessings as his spiritual children, we must continue in what Abraham started.

QUESTION 6: WHY PAY TITHE?

The purpose of tithe is clearly stated in the Scriptures. These are:

1. **Tithe Belongs To God:**

Leviticus 27:30 says, “And all the tithe of the land, [whether] of the seed of the land, [or] of the fruit of the tree, [is] the LORD’S: [it is] holy unto the LORD.” The New Testament says nothing to change God’s instruction on tithing. The tithe is still holy and still belongs to God.

2. **Tithing Is An Affirmation Of the Sovereignty of God:**

When we tithe, we pay allegiance to God as the Sovereign over our lives because it is at His mercies that we exist and own all that we have. The best (and first) of our time, talent, substance and treasure ought to be for God. In the same way as our time and talent, God is interested in our honouring him with our tithes. That way, we ensure complete obeisance to Him as the Author and Finisher of our faith and all the things that happen to us.

Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall

burst out with new wine.

Prov. 3:9-10

3. Tithe Is A Continual Reminder That God Is Your Source:

Anyone that accepts Christ must receive Him as Lord. By definition, a Christian is one who has received Jesus Christ. Since He is Lord, when we receive Him, He becomes Lord of our life. As Lord of our life, He has complete say about what we do with all our money, not only ten percent of it. Tithing acknowledges in a tangible way the Lord's ownership of us and all we have.

4. Tithing Is Worship Of The Lord:

Paying tithe is worship. It is the recognition and worship of the One who created and actually owns all. Worshipping God in a prescribed manner has existed since the Garden of Eden. Cain and Abel knew the correct way to worship God. But one of them chose not to worship Him as prescribed. The right way to worship was to give something they owned in recognition of God in a prescribed manner.

If we do not worship God with our substance, it is not true worship. The Scripture says, "True worshippers of God must worship Him in spirit and in truth." Therefore, any Christian who loves the Lord should desire to give

everything to Him. Tithing is just a starting point, not a maximum limit. Tithing is not to meet God's need or the church's needs, but to worship God; that is, to put Him in His rightful place – first place in our lives.

5. Tithe Is God's Means Of Supporting His ministers:

The Bible has made it clear that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel. The priests of the Old Testament lived from their temple service. God gave the tithes to them.

And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, [even] the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Num. 18:21

Tithing today is also required to continue to support full time ministers and workers in the Lord's vineyard.

Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live [of the things] of the temple? And they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel?

1 Cor. 9:13-14

6. A blessing is promised to those who pay their tithes.

The blessing that comes with tithe payment can be seen in Malachi 3:10-12

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that [there shall] not [be room] enough [to receive it.]. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

These blessings are still valid and available to all who dutifully pay their tithes today. As 2 Corinthians 1:20 says, “All the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen.” Tithing is the foundation of creating wealth. If we expect to prosper, we must learn to give our tithes and offerings cheerfully.

QUESTION 7: WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PAYING TITHES?

God's promises for those that honour Him with ten percent of their resources are many. In Malachi 3:10-12, we can identify several benefits God promised His obedient children. He said:

1. ***"I will open you the windows of heaven..."*** Opening the windows of heaven means so much coming from the one who created everything. It means that the Lord will open doors of new ideas, businesses and other unimaginable opportunities, if only you obey. The Lord promises to revive and renew every person who obeys Him.

In her famous book, **God's Will Is Prosperity**, Gloria Copeland said, "Without revelation knowledge of tithing and how to worship God with His tithe, you do not have a solid foundation in which to receive the exceeding great financial promises that God is offering. The very basic beginning of Bible prosperity is tithing."

2. ***"I will pour you out my blessing..."*** This means you will experience the hand of God in all areas of your life including health, wisdom, favour, knowledge, etc. God's gracious hand will be upon all areas of your life to produce excellent results.

In his devotional, Pastor E. A. Adeboye said, "Not paying your tithes can introduce a curse from God into the blessings He has given you. If a man curses you, someone with a higher spiritual authority can break the curse. For example, if your pastor curses you, the general overseer with a higher spiritual authority can break it; but if God curses you, to whom will you run? It is important you pay back to God 10% of everything He gives to you. It is also important you do the way He expects it to be done. Your tithe must be brought into God's storehouse, and God must be given a free hand to spend it as He directs. Some people believe that as children of God, they can use their tihes to rescue someone who is in need or in critical condition in the hospital. No! You don't have that right! If you spend your tithe like that, in God's record, you will still be a debtor."

3. "There shall be no room enough to receive..." God Almighty declares in His word that whoever brings tithes into His storehouse will be prosperous. This simply means expansion in every area. In fact, the

Scripture says that there will not be room enough to receive the prosperity and blessings God has in store for the one who obeys Him. One of the ways God can prosper you and multiply your blessings is by giving you sound and functional ideas. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were tithers and givers and God gave them divine ideas for divine prosperity.

4. "I will rebuke the devourer for your sake…" According to Malachi 3:11, I Peter 5:8, John 10:10, when you are faithfully paying your tithe, your life and those connected to you are preserved. An author said, "When you do not pay your tithe, you make things difficult for yourself even when prayed for. It becomes difficult for prophecies to be fulfilled in your life." The devil is the devourer of blessings and only God can protect from the antics of the devourer (John 10:10). Tithe is so important to the Lord that He promises to paralyze and cripple the enemy so that he will not be able to touch anything in your life. These include: health, finance and business. He will prevent theft, accidents, fraud, sickness, and setbacks. If you obey the Lord, these things will happen to prove Him. This is the Word of the Lord!

5. "Neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts..." It does not matter the business you are in, you are assured that the Lord will prevent the devil from attacking it, bringing

setbacks or other means that can destroy it. The statement “neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field” means that near-success syndrome is terminated. When you tithe, God terminates frustration, stagnation and failure.

6. “All nations shall call you blessed…” God has promised that He will bless and prosper you so much that the nations of the world will see His blessings upon you. In other words, God will promote you and establish you in all areas.

7. “For ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of Host...” When you become a faithful tither, God will unleash His glory upon you such that your generation will envy you and adopt you as a role model. Believers who are not tithers can bring hardship to the organizations they work for. Most organization’s financial struggles begin when such people (non-tithers) are employed into the position of leadership.

QUESTION 8: CAN I PAY MORE THAN 10% AS TITHES?

The Scripture recommends and recognizes ten percent of your income as tithe. If you faithfully tithe this ten percent, which is one tenth of your income, you have fulfilled that Scripture and completely obeyed God on the commandment to tithe.

However, if out of your own volition and love towards God you decide to go the extra mile, I am sure God will not ignore your commitment or sacrifice, but will reward you accordingly. Another way you can do this is: after paying your tithe (10%), you can still give that extra as seed. This way you can attract both the blessings from tithe and the blessings from the seed. In Malachi 3, God mentions tithe and offering separately. The blessings from sowing seeds are well spelt out by Christ in Matthew 6:33 and Paul in 11 Cor. 9:6.

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For

with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. Luke 6:38

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

11 Cor. 9:6

However, giving can only yield maximum result after you have paid your tithe.

QUESTION 9: WHAT HAPPEN IF I DO NOT PAY MY TITHES?

This question is the same as saying “what happens if I do not obey the word of God”.

The answer to this question can be found in Job 36:11-12

If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures. But if they obey not, they shall perish by the sword, and they shall die without knowledge.
Job 36:11-12

Also, in Malachi 3:9, the Bible generously gives us insight into what will happen to tithe defaulters.

Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.
Mal. 3:9

The Scripture says “ye are cursed with a curse...” what curse does the Bible refer to? The answer can be found in Deuteronomy 28:15-68.

In his book, **Discover The Secret Of Divine Prosperity**, Rev. Etim Oboh (a Senior Minister with Assemblies of God Church) gives a classical example of what tithe defaulters would experience. He said. “A man was sacked from his job and he remained for quite a long time at home without any job. Thank God that he had a good wife that assisted him during this hard time. Someone preached Christ to him and he gave himself unto the Lord. He came to our counseling session and told us about all his plight. From the Scriptures, I assured him that God would surely visit him again. In fact, we advised him to look out for business since he had a registered enterprise before then. We told him that our only problem was if God starts blessing him, would he be able to sustain His blessing on him? He promised Heaven and earth unto God. Two or three months later he had his first breakthrough followed by bigger ones. God granted him favour so that people in the church who were dealing with the materials he was supplying gave it to him on credit.

Money started coming in. His house wore a new look. He had changes of apparel. His relations returned in succession to take their own cuts while

the blessing lasted. He came for an advice on how to respond to these people. Good things kept flowing as he travelled across the city. In all these things, he never dropped a single tithe unto the Lord from month to month. Someone called his attention to these lapses. He bluntly told the person that he doesn't believe in tithing because it is under the law. I was told of his comment. I remembered I told him about this initially when he was still in trouble and he didn't tell me he does not believe in tithing. But now money has come, his eyes became big and he snatched the Lord's portion.

God gave him time to repent and he refused. The Lord removed His hand from helping him and the business collapsed. He went into debt. He couldn't solve the problem and avoided me for some time. But when he couldn't avoid me anymore, he came asking me to pray for him, that if God would bless him again, he would be faithful in his tithing. The one who knew the heart withheld the blessing from coming as a further test. When he could not endure, he left the church as one in need. Of course, God will help him on one condition, that is, if he repents with the whole of his heart from stinginess and greed and obeys God with his tithe and offering.

Time and space will not allow me to bring several examples of those I personally know whose businesses failed because of their failure to tithe

faithfully. Some failed to do it and advised others not to, believing that tithe will benefit the Pastor whom they think should be a suffering man while praying for them."

Pastor Enoch Adeboye also said, "Not paying your tithes can introduce a curse from God into the blessings He has given you. If a man curses you, someone with a higher spiritual authority can break it; but if God curses you, to whom will you run? It is important you pay back to God 10% of everything He gives to you. It is also important you do it the way He expects it to be done. Your tithe must be brought into God's storehouse, and God must be given a free hand to spend it as He directs."

QUESTION 10: WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO PAY TITHE?

First and foremost, if we know what tithe is, then when to pay it will not be a problem. In earlier chapters, we defined tithe as one tenth of your income, increase or profit. If tithe is a part of your income or increase, it therefore follows that the best time to pay your tithe is when it comes. That means tithe should be paid when there is an income or when there is an increase (profit).

This can be done daily, weekly or monthly. Some organizations even do it annually. However, keeping your tithe till the end of the year could be risky because you might be tempted to use it thereby bringing multiple problems upon yourself, family and business.

As a businessman or woman, if you can pay your tithe weekly, don’t wait till the end of the month.

QUESTION 11: WHO IS EXPECTED TO TITHE?

Tithe is one tenth of your legal income. Therefore, everyone who earns salaries, receives allowances or makes gain on a business venture as well as anyone who receives cash gifts is expected to pay one tenth as tithe to God.

QUESTION 12: MUST I TITHE 10%? WHAT HAPPEN IF I TITHE LESS THAN 10% OF MY INCOME?

Tithe is ten percent of your income. If it is less than 10% then it's not tithe. Tithe should not be confused with offering. When you are giving freewill offering, you are at liberty to decide how much you want to give to God.

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.
11 Cor. 9:6-7

In the case of tithe, it is a mandatory one tenth of your income. I have been to churches where people drop just anything as tithe. But such giving does not attract blessings because it is an act of disobedience and hypocrisy before God. If these people were true to themselves, they would have

known that what they gave was not their correct tithe. Most times, they do it to satisfy their conscience that they have tithe.

In one of his teachings, Pastor Adebayo said, “Some people think ten percent is too much for God. If you are one of such people, wait until you compare ninety percent of something with hundred percent of nothing.”

QUESTION 13: CAN I USE MY TITHE FOR CHARITY OR AS DONATION TOWARDS CHURCH PROJECTS?

Tithe is ten percent of your income, increase or profit. The Bible gives specific instruction on how to use tithe.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.
Mal. 3:10

It is to be brought to the house of God and should be administered by the priest, pastor-in-charge or authority as led by the Spirit of God. How the tithe should be used is spelt out in that same Scripture.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not

open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Mal. 3:10

Therefore, you don't have the right to decide how your tithe should be used neither do you have the right to spend your tithe on charity or any other donations.

Pastor E. Adeboye said, "Some people believe that as children of God, they can use their tithes to rescue someone who is in need or in critical condition in the hospital. No! You don't have that right! If you spend your tithe like that, in God's record you will still be a debtor."

Free donations towards charity and church projects are noble and worthy causes. But it is unscriptural to use your tithe for such services. Beside, anyone who uses his tithe for charitable services, etc. is greedy, self-centred and a hypocrite in that while he is pretending to be a generous giver, he is at the same time stealing from God. This is what the Bible describes as doing the work of God deceitfully.

Cursed be he that doeth the work of the LORD deceitfully …

Jer. 48:10

Anyone who truly loves God and the poor will obey God by paying his tithe in the church, giving towards kingdom projects as well as giving to the poor.

QUESTION 14: IS TITHE FROM STOLEN MONEY ACCEPTABLE TO GOD?

This is a very important question. The answer cannot be given in one sentence neither can it be answered by simply saying yes or no. To answer the question, therefore, I would divide the question into 2 parts: first, what would make a thief want to tithe from his stolen money? Secondly, is tithe from stolen money acceptable to God?

1. What Would Make A Thief Want To Tithe From His Stolen Money?

Only the thief can give a vivid answer on his source of inspiration or what motivates him to tithe. However, we will attempt to highlight some of the likely reasons a thief would want to tithe from his stolen money.

(i) Fear Of Being Caught And Punished: It is possible that robbers who pay tithe might be thinking that if they pay tithe on their stolen money, they would appease God and by so doing stop Him from punishing them.

(ii) **Faith In God's Word:** It is possible also that the robbers who tithe from their stolen money do so because they have faith in the promise of God concerning tithers.

It is logical to think that a man who risks his life to steal another person's money would not want to waste such money by paying tithe unless he believes that such spiritual exercise would bring him more gain, blessings and multiply his "blessings".

(iii) **Recognition of The Sovereignty of God:** The third likely reason why robbers tithe is possibly because of their recognition of the sovereignty of God. Since they cannot go to their victims and apologize for hurting them and stealing from them, they decide to go through God. They believe that if they could corner God and get Him to forgive their sins, then the curses heaped on them by their victims would be of no effect.

Based on the three reasons given above, the robbers should be commended for their faith in God's Supremacy and power. However, all these reasons cannot justify their sin of robbing people of their hard-earned money.

Forgiveness and salvation cannot be earned through good works but by accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour and subsequently living a holy life.

2. Is Tithe From Stolen Money Acceptable To God?

The second part of the question is that, is tithe from stolen money acceptable to God? Well, we cannot speak for God. Let's look at what His word says:

For I the LORD love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Isa. 61:8

God says He hates robbery, even though what is stolen is used for sacrifices. No doubt, God does not accept all offerings, seeds or sacrifices. The Bible proves this to be true. Let's look at some examples:

And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

Gen. 4:3-5

God does not only look at the gifts we offer, He also looks at the giver, that is, the person who offers such gifts. Both the content and the container are important to God. That is why the Bible says God loves a cheerful giver. It is possible for God to reject someone's offering on account of his attitude (heart condition). Our heart condition is one of the qualities God looks at before receiving an offering from anyone.

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.
11 Cor. 9:7

One of the likely reasons Cain's offering was rejected is because his heart was not right.

"Why are you angry?" the Lord asked him "Why is your face so dark with rage?"
Gen. 4:6 (LB)

Hebrews 11:4 also proves that Cain did not offer his gift by faith. If God does not approve your person, He will not accept your tithe and offering.

By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

Heb. 11:4

Let's see other scriptures that prove that God does not accept all offerings:

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

Prov. 15:8

The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination: how much more, when he bringeth it with a wicked mind?

Prov. 21:27

And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

Mal. 1:8

If God does not accept you, He will not accept your tithe and offering. Dr. Bill Winston defines tithe as “all LEGAL incoming cash both earned and unearned.”

David Ibiyiomie said, “You can only pay tithe from a LEGITIMATE source.” That means if it is not legitimate, it is not acceptable.

QUESTION 15: SHOULD I TITHE ON GIFTS SUCH AS CARS, HOUSES, ETC?

What we give or refuse to give to God is not a function of law or compulsion; rather, it is a function of our love and disposition towards God. Giving to a large extent depends on our relationship with God. Our love and intimate relationship with God ought to define our giving.

Pastor E. Adeboye said, “To demonstrate His love for the world, God had to give something. Giving is a means of expressing love. No matter how much you profess love, it may never be taken seriously until you give something. Also, we see that love gives its best. It is possible to give to a beggar without loving him. If you really love someone, it will be expressed through the quality of gift you give the person. If we were to examine our claim of love for God by the gifts we give to Him, it would be difficult to believe our claim.

Some people love God with their lips but not with their pockets … the love some people profess to have towards God does not affect their substance, time or talent. How sincere is their love for God.”

In Leviticus 27:30, 32, God instructed the Israelites to tithe on the land (the seed of the land, or the fruit of the tree). They were also commanded to tithe of their herd and flock.

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD ... And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.
Lev. 27:30, 32

These people were farmers. Today, however, tithe is to be paid on legal incoming cash. Dr. Bill Winton defines tithe as, “One tenth of all legal incoming cash both earned and unearned.” It is impossible to pay tithe on every gift you have received but you can give a worthy offering to the Lord as a mark of respect, worship and appreciation for His kindness and magnanimity.

QUESTION 16: WHICH ASPECT OF MY INCOME IS TITHABLE: NET OR PROFIT?

Business Tithing

Any business generally reflects the values of its principal owners or managers. It is the reflection of these values that determines whether a business is labeled Christian or non-Christian.

In other words, if the owner or the manager of a particular business practices kingdom principles, the likelihood of paying corporate tithes is very high by the business.

A business that has been set up to glorify God and reflects the Christian virtues would have the following business functions:

1. Generating profits in a godly way
2. Evangelizing
3. Discipling
4. Funding God’s work- through corporate tithing & special donations
5. Providing for needy.

Biblical Justification

The principle of tithing from a business is not dramatically different from tithing out of personal income. Actually, most Scriptures on giving in the Old Testament deal with business-generated income, since few people were actually employees in the sense they are today.

The vast majority of people in Old Testament times were employed in agriculture. The precedent for tithing from a business is clear in God's Word:

Honor the Lord from your wealth and from the first of all your produce.
Prov. 3:9

In the Old Testament the Hebrew people brought a percentage of their increase to the *Lord's storehouse.* The keepers of the storehouse, the Levites, in turn used what was given to care for the widows, needy foreigners in the area, orphans and the Levites. In the New Testament, in addition to all the above, tithes and offerings are also used for spreading the gospel and administrative support of a local church.

The Scriptures seem to imply that the tithe's purpose is to be a testimony of God's ownership and thus it is meant to be individualized.

It was never intended that everyone or every business should give the same amount or in the same way but that each should give bountifully and cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:6-7). Giving should come from our hearts. For that reason, the tithe should not be considered a “law” but, rather, as an indicator of obedience to God’s laws.

Tithe on Gross or Net Profit?

It was the great 19th century preacher, Charles Spurgeon, while addressing a home mission's inaugural conference at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in south London in 1889, who said, "In all of my years of service to my Lord, I have discovered a truth that has never failed and has never been compromised. That truth is that it is beyond the realm of possibilities that one has the ability to out give God. Even if I give the whole of my worth to Him, He will find a way to give back to me much more than I gave."

Because it is impossible to out give God, it becomes a moot point to question whether a business should tithe on gross or net profits.

By your standard of measure it will be measured to you; and more will be given you besides.
Mark 4:24

If a business strongly believes in honoring God from the increase He provides, that business should consider tithing from the gross profits and

trust that God will provide what is needed after the business pays any creditors and the other expenses.

Many times business profits are tied up in noncash assets such as building, equipment, stocks, or product. An answer to the tithing question that some Christian's businesses have chosen to follow is to give a partial ownership in the business as a tithe. So, as the business prospers, so does the Lord's portion. Although there is a biblical admonition to give from the first fruits, or the increase of the business, a business should not give from the portion that belongs to any creditors or any employees.

Business tithes should be given from business profit after overhead expenses, employees' salaries, and creditors have been paid. Each employer should then tithe on the amount they receive as a salary.

Corporation Tithing

Corporations, unlike sole proprietorship businesses, are usually owned by a conglomerate of people from all walks of life and different religious beliefs.

Since one person usually does not own all the stock in a corporation, an individual might consider giving a tenth of the increase in his or her individual stock in the corporation to the Lord.

An alternative method might be to take one-tenth of the company stock and set up a Christian foundation with it, and then set a goal to control the company’s future growth and declare the dividends to God’s work.

God’s Admonition Must Be Obeyed

Individuals as well as businesses should look for ways to give, rather than trying to find ways to prevent or hinder giving, remembering always that God is more interested in our hearts than in any actual gift amount.

There is an admonition in God’s Word to give from our first fruits, or the increase. This would apply to business as well as personal income.

However, a business owner must remember that the business tithe should be only on the profits that belong to the business, not on what rightfully belongs to creditors, stockholders, employees, or other stakeholders in the business

QUESTION 17: AFTER PAYING TITHE ON MY PERSONAL INCOME, SHOULD I TITHE AGAIN FROM THE PROFIT OF MY BUSINESS?

Our actions and inactions are direct products of the spiritual insight we have in a matter. The level of insight we enjoy depends largely on the relationship we have with the Holy Spirit, amount of light we receive, books we read, people we listen to and places we have visited.

Before his death, Jesus told His disciples that He had so much truth to share with them but that they would not be able to grasp those truths because the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, had not yet come.

I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

John 16:12-13

Furthermore, He said that when the Holy Ghost comes, he would teach them all things.

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.
John 16:13

Some truths in the Scripture are difficult to grasp except the Holy Spirit sheds light on them or reveal them to the searcher. One of such truths is tithing. In reality, you and your business (organisation) are two entities. You are an institution and your business is also an institution. Your business can grow and flourish. It can also come under attack and die (crash). Therefore, as you pray for yourself, pray also for your business. As you come under a divine coverage and connect divine wealth through tithing, bring your business too under the same coverage by tithing from its profit.

Not only your business, teach the members of your family to tithe. This truth may be hard to comprehend yet it is the absolute truth, and the secret of kingdom wealth.

QUESTION 18: AFTER PAYING TITHE, SHOULD I STILL GIVE OTHER SPECIAL OFFERINGS AND SEEDS?

Tithe is different from offering. In Malachi 3:8, the Holy Spirit painstakingly separated tithe from offering.

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Mal. 3:8

That Scripture says **TITHES** and **OFFERINGS**. The people were cursed for defaulting in tithes and offerings. Tithe is one tenth of your income or increase while offering is given willingly to God.

TYPES OF OFFERINGS

There are different types of offerings, which include the following:

1. **Sacrificial Offering:** Sacrificial offering is that seed you give to God in spite of pains or the needs you have at the moment. It is a seed with a great price. This type of seed turns captivity around.

And when the king of Moab saw that the battle was too sore for him, he took with him seven hundred men that drew swords, to break through even unto the king of Edom: but they could not. Then he took his eldest son that should have reigned in his stead, and offered him for a burnt offering upon the wall. And there was great indignation against Israel: and they departed from him, and returned to their own land.

11 Kings 3: 26-27

2. **Prophet Offering:** This is the offering you give to your pastor as an appreciation for what God uses him to do in your life or for a definite need in your life.

And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

11 Chr. 20:20

Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Phil. 4:15-19

Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

Gal. 6-6

And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless. 8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

1 Tim. 5:7-8

3. **Kingdom Project Offering:** This is the offering you give towards building of the house of God and other kingdom projects.

Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, Even three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses withal: The gold for things of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and for all manner of work to be made by the hands of artificers. And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the LORD?

1 Chr. 29:3-5

4. **Welfare Offering:** This is the offering given to help those who are in need.

He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor.

Prov. 14:31

He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.

Prov. 28:27

5. **Freewill Offering:** This type of offering is given as you will. That is why it is called ‘freewill offering’.

Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee.

Deut. 16:17

Tithe is like putting the foundation of a house but offering is like putting the super-structure upon the foundation. If you lay a foundation of a building yet never put one brick upon it, you will not have a house. And if you build a house without putting a solid foundation under it, it will collapse in a storm or cyclone. Tithe connects you to the covenant of wealth but offering releases the blessings. If you tithe without following it up with good offerings and seeds, you may obtain such blessings as good health and longevity but you will certainly not prosper in material things. What releases prosperity are the combined forces of tithes and good offerings.

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Mal. 3:8-10

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Luke 6:38

Tithe insures your life from plagues, diseases and attacks. David Ibiyeomie said, “The first thing tithe does is to preserve your life. Tithe is supernatural insurance; it insures your life from plagues and attacks.”

QUESTION 19: AS A TRADER DEALING WITH DIFFERENT PRODUCTS OR COMMODITIES, HOW CAN I CALCULATE MY TITHES?

One of the reasons for tithing is to honor and worship God as our Source and our Helper. With this in view, we must not approach the issue of tithe with levity, carnally or deceitfully. As much as we can, we must approach it reverentially, faithfully and with honesty.

There are two options on how you can calculate your tithe as a trader who is involved in selling different commodities. One way is to take daily stock of your goods and keep daily records of your sales. This way, you can ascertain the profit per product sold. This method, however, could be very cumbersome and sometimes difficult and frustrating. If you adopt this method, then you must be willing and determined to follow it through.

The second option or method which many people consider to be easy to practice is to pay yourself salary or allowance. If you adopt this method,

you must be sincere with yourself and pay your tithe from the salary or allowance you allocate to yourself.

It is wrong to pay yourself ₦5000.00 as salary and pay tithe of ₦500.00 whereas you intend to use ₦35, 000.00 for your needs. The watchwords here are ‘honesty’ and ‘integrity’.

QUESTION 20: SINCE I STARTED PAYING TITHES, GOD HAS LIFTED ME FINANCIALLY. BUT SOME OF MY FRIENDS STILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO TITHE. HOW CAN I HELP THEM?

I am glad to hear that since you are committed to tithing, your financial situation has changed positively. This is exactly what God promised to do for those who obey Him by paying their tithes and giving their offerings (Mal. 3:10-12).

One how to help your friends and other people who are in the same spiritual state, let's first and foremost look at reasons why some believers do not tithe.

Reasons Why Some Believers Do Not Tithe

1. They believe that it is one of the laws of Moses and only practiced in the Old Testament. But this is not true because the ordinance of tithe was given 430 years before the law.

2. They believe that they are giving to their Pastor. Tithe is your covenant responsibility towards God. The Pastor may receive it on behalf of the church to the glory and honour of God but it is God who rewards you (Mal. 3:10-12).

3. They believe that when their businesses improve, they will start tithing. This is a lie of the devil to keep these dear ones on one spot. The truth is that as long as they are not tithing, their businesses will continue to suffer from one set back to another.

4. Some people do not want anyone including their Pastor to know the actual amount they earn per month. They reason they do not want anyone to know is because they thought that church might ask them for more financial assistance which they may not be willing to offer.

5. Some people are afraid that their spouses may get to know the actual amount of money they earn per month. Tithe is a confidential matter and records of member's tithe.

6. Some People Refuse To Tithe Because They Don't Like Their Pastor.

Some people are so wicked to the extent that that they are sad when their Pastors are happy and happy when their Pastors are sad. One of the ways they chose to regulate their Pastors' standard of living is to ensure that they do not have sufficient money for themselves and their families. In some churches, people form cliques and sometimes insist on the removal of their Pastors. To press their charges further, they may refuse to pay tithes or render any financial support until their demands are granted. Tithe is personal and goes beyond church politicking. Anyone who is mindful of fulfilling his destiny will not play politics with his tithe.

7. Some people do not pay their tithes because they are crossed with their pastor's wife.

Some church members seem to arrogate to themselves the ministry of watching, criticizing and frustrating their pastor's wife. They like everything the pastor does but hate everything his wife does. This is the spirit of witchcraft. It is called "Reformed Witchcraft". This is not to say that pastors' wives are always right. I am, however, referring to those who have deep-rooted hatred towards their pastor's wife.

One of the ways this 'Reformed Witchcraft' is practised in the church is by withholding their tithes just to get at their pastor's wife. People

who are engaged in such secret battles with their pastors and their wives usually experience mysterious diseases and financial crises.

Ways To Help Such People:

1. The first step to helping such people is to ask the Holy Spirit, the Author of the word, to open their eyes of understanding to know that tithing is God's divine way of prospering His children.
2. Keep teaching them what the word says concerning tithing.
3. Remain faithful in your tithing so that God's blessings will keep multiplying in your life. This may eventually convince them to give it a try.
4. Show them love and be patient with them until they catch the revelation of tithing and begin to tithe. Be careful not to criticize them especially when they experience set back. Do not link every bad experience they have to their disobedience to tithing. This may harden them the more.

QUESTION 21: WHERE SHOULD I PAY MY TITHE, AND WHO SHOULD I PAY IT TO?

Tithe is holy unto the lord and should not be treated shabbily or with disdain.

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD … And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.
Lev. 27:30, 32

Malachi 3:2 reveals where God wants us to pay our tithe – the storehouse. The storehouse God is referring to is 'the church'. That Scripture says further, "… that there may be meat in mine house ..." What is the meat God is referring to here? It is the word of God.

But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of.
John 4: 32

Tithes should be paid in the church where you are fed with the word of God in order to keep the flow of the word. However, if your church or pastor does not believe in tithe, then you are at liberty to pay your tithe wherever the Spirit of God directs you in order not to lose your covenant blessings.

QUESTION 22: HOW IS TITHE SUPPOSED TO BE USED?

Tithe is holy unto God (Lev. 27:30). When we pay our tithes in the church, Jesus receives them in heaven (Heb. 7:8).

Concerning how tithe should be used, David Ibiyeomie said pointedly, “Tithe is a multi-purpose seed that is presented to the house of God. Your tithe is like tax paid to the Government of any nation which is used for several purposes for the betterment of the citizenry.” In his own book, Jacobson says, “There are three principal reasons why tithe is demanded and is paid.

The first is that it is God’s legitimate share of our incomes and possessions.

It serves as wages for serving Ministers.

It serves as financial support to the church in the execution of her programmes aimed at evangelizing the word of God.”

This is my advice to you: once you paid your tithe in the church, don’t probe into how the management uses the tithe. If you can trust them to care

for your soul and that of the members of your family, trust them also to manage the church resources appropriately.

Every church is supposed to have a finance committee and managerial board that help to manage the funds that come to the church. And every pastor must be accountable to God as well as the people.

QUESTION 23: SHOULD I TITHE ON OUR CHILDREN'S SCHOOL FEES AND FOOD ALLOWANCE MY HUSBAND GIVES FOR THE UPKEEP OF THE FAMILY…?

First and foremost, we must know that our relationship with God is by faith. Any service we render including giving and tithing is only acceptable if it is done on the platform of faith. That is, if it is not by faith, it is a sin and unacceptable to God.

And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.
Rom. 14:23

If your relationship with God is based on faith, then your services too must be faith-based. And since faith does not fail, you can, therefore, be confident that any service you render to God will bring you great rewards.

No doubt, children school fees given to the school by your husband through you is not your income, it belongs to your son's or daughter's school. However, concerning the allowance given to you for the upkeep of your family, you may tithe from it because it is an income. It is an income in the sense that you are at liberty to spend it as you wish. This is where the level of your faith comes to play.

Some people don't have problem tithing from such "income" whereas those with little faith may find it very difficult to do so.

The truth is that this issue is beyond tithing. It bothers on the level of faith and love of an individual towards God. However, if you do not tithe from it, (that is, money from food allowance given by your husband for the family), you have not committed any sin because it is not your direct income or profit.

QUESTION 24: MY HUSBAND DOES NOT BELIEVE IN TITHE. CAN HIS UNBELIEF AFFECT THE FAMILY'S FINANCES?

If you pour water on your head, it will drip down to your feet. The man (the husband) is the head of the wife and the leader of the family. Therefore, any wrong decision taken by the head (the husband) will ultimately affect the family. For example, if as a result of not paying his tithe his business nose-dives, the financial stress or challenges he will go through will definitely have effect on the total well-being of every member of the family.

It is based on this fact that I always advise and encourage women to talk to their husbands and if possible plead with them to tithe because when calamity would come, no member of the family will be spared.

In addition, while trusting the Lord to speak to your husband, you must remain faithful in your tithing as the Lord may look at your commitment and show you mercy.

QUESTION 25: AT WHAT AGE SHOULD SOMEONE START TO PAY TITHE?

This question is addressed in my answer to question 27

QUESTION 26: I PAY MY TITHE FAITHFULLY BUT MY FINANCES HAVE NOT IMPROVED. WHY IS IT SO?

Several reasons may be responsible for this. Let's examine them closely:

1. **Laying The Foundation Without Building The House:** Tithe is like laying a foundation of a building. If you build without foundation, that house will not be able to withstand storms; it will fall. However, the foundation itself is not the building. After laying the foundation, you must build on it. So, tithe is the foundation of covenant wealth, but giving or sowing of seed releases the wealth.

   You could say tithe provides the foundation for covenant wealth and provides divine security for your wealth while giving is actually what ushers you into kingdom wealth.

   Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts,

if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

Mal. 3:10-11

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Luke 6:38

Tithe is like a tank full of water but giving is the tap that releases the water from the tank. You may have a big tank of water. But if there is no tap, the water cannot be released. The size of the tap also determines the volume of water you can get. Paying tithe is actually the beginning not the end of action.

2. **Unfaithfulness:** Tithe is ten percent of your income or profit. Sometimes, people deliberately pay less because they think that ten percent is too much to be given as tithe.

   At times, some businessmen or businesswomen, after making huge profits in one or two transactions, spread the tithe of such profits to cover many months instead of paying it at once. They do this to deceive their Pastor. Such deceitful attitude will attract punishment from God instead of blessing.

3. **Cheating Others:** Some employers of labour are very fraudulent. After entering into agreement on the salary they would pay their employees, they renege on their promises. These are users of men and covenant-breakers. Instead of blessings, such people will receive curses from God.

   In addition to this, some employees collect money from their employers for the work they did not do. This is deceit! The reward of such practice is poverty.

4. **Laziness:** Laziness is one of the major causes of poverty. Lazy people are condemned to poverty.

How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? 10 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

Prov. 6:9-11

If you are faithfully paying your tithe but refuse to work, you will remain as poor as ever. The Bible does not encourage laziness; rather, every child of God ought to be as hard-working as their father is.

But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

John 5:17

5. **Negative Attitude:** God is not only concerned about our giving, He is also concerned about the attitude of the giver. If you give grudgingly or unwillingly, your tithe or offering will not be accepted by God.

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

11 Cor. 9: 6-7

6. **Lack Of Prayer And Confession:** In Matthew 13:25-28, Jesus told a parable about an enemy who went to plant tares in the field where wheat was planted by the owner of the farm. One of the plans of the devil is to keep you perpetually in poverty so that he can weaken you and frustrate your destiny.

Therefore, after paying your tithe and giving your offering, don't go to sleep. In fact, the best time to pray is after you have paid your tithe and given your offering. Someone said, "A closed mouth is a closed destiny." Once your tithe or seed leaves your hands, your mouth must remain open to water your seed, resist the devil and command your harvest.

A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled. Death and life are in the

power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. (Prov. 18:20-21)

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

James 4:7

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Mark 11:23

7. **Impatience:** Some people lack the capacity to wait until the seed they planted geminates, grows up and brings forth fruit.

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Jas. 1:4

True prosperity is a process. It is not magic - it is a process.

Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Jas. 5:7

After tithing and giving your offering, you must wait prayerfully, faithfully and patiently. That is why the Bible says, "Having done all … stand!"

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Eph. 6:13

It is through faith and patience that we can obtain the promises of God.

That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
Heb. 6:12

QUESTION 27: ARE CHILDREN EXPECTED TO PAY TITHE? IF THE ANSWER IS YES, AT WHAT AGE SHOULD THEY TITHE?

The Bible has not specifically told us the age one should start paying tithe. However, if we know what tithe is, the purpose and benefits of tithing, then it would not be difficult determining whether or not children should tithe.

What Is Tithe?

Let's look again at what tithe is. Tithe is one-tenth of all legal incoming cash both earned and unearned (that is, from your labour and from gifts).

Let's also look at the purpose of tithe briefly. There are many purposes, amongst them are:

a) It was established as a means of worship (Deut. 26:7-10).

b) It was established for the propagation of the gospel (Mal. 3:10).

c) It was established as a legal means to bless you (Deut. 26:15).

d) It was also established as a test of your obedience (Deut. 26:16-17), etc.

Based on the definition and purposes of tithe mentioned above, we can conclude that even babies in the womb can pay tithe. But how can they do this seeing that they are still babies? Their parents especially mothers can keep account of all financial gifts to their children and tithe on their behalf. As these children grow up, their parents should also drum into their ears the importance of paying tithe without supervision on every financial income excluding their school fees.

You may ask: why should children pay tithe since they are not working and some are below the age of accountability?

Well, the first reason they should pay tithe is because tithe is not about age. It's about the covenant of God. Tithe is both earned (what you work for) and unearned (financial favour). Every recipient of the blessings of God is a debtor to God. God said, "Owe no man" (Rom. 13:8). He cannot fight for others and not fight for Himself.

Secondly, tithe provokes divine security. If you truly want your children to have divine security, paying tithe should not be a problem.

Thirdly, children also have destinies they must fulfill as they grow up. Therefore, paying tithe can enhance their performance in life and subsequently help them fulfill their destiny without stress.

QUESTION 28: SOME CHRISTIANS DO NOT TITHE BUT THEY SEEM TO PROSPER MORE THAN THOSE WHO PAY THEIR TITHES. WHY IS IT SO?

This is one of the questions most believers often ask. It is similar to the question: “Why do bad things happen to good people while the wicked seem to be cruising on majestically?” This question is dealt with extensively in my book, ***The Challenges And Exploits Of Job (Why Bad Things Happen to Good People).***

Now, to answer the question on why some non-tithers seem to prosper more than those who are paying their tithes, we shall divide this question into two parts:

The first part is: Why do some people seem to prosper despite their tithe default?

The second part is: Why do some people pay tithes yet they are not prospering? This question is captured in answer to question 26 written thus:

I PAY MY TITHE FAITHFULLY BUT MY FINANCES HAVE NOT IMPROVED. WHY IS IT SO?

To answer the first part of the question, let us put the record straight:

Firstly, it is the will of God for all His children to prosper.

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

3 John 1:2

God constantly looks for opportunity to release His blessings upon His children. Secondly, Jesus has redeemed every believer from the curse of poverty. This makes every child of God a candidate of wealth.

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.

Gal. 3:13

This Scripture, however, does not automatically bequeath wealth upon every child of God otherwise Christ would not say, “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and

running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again". (Luke 6:38)

Apostle Paul also would not say, "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." (11 Cor. 9:6-7)

What these Scriptures render is that although it is the will of God for us to prosper, we have a role to play in the manifestation and fulfillment of this desire in the heart of God.

So, where does tithe come in? Tithe is given as a token of covenant for the fulfillment of this kingdom wealth. Tithe, therefore, serves as a connecting rod between the promise and its fulfillment. It is a means of worship, response to and recognition of the power and faithfulness of God in providing for us. It is not only the money you pay as tithe that counts before God but the spirit of gratitude for God's goodness towards you and your complete trust and dependence upon Him for continuous supply of your needs. If you know this truth, then paying tithe would not be a struggle

or a matter of compulsion. Your obedience to this command makes you a custodian of wealth on earth.

There is a difference between living on your salary (which may be ‘fat’ depending on your position in your organization) and divine wealth transfer which only God can give. The truth, however, is that your salary can only take care of your immediate needs. What tithe does for you is to position you for kingdom wealth which far exceeds any salary your organization can offer. Kingdom wealth is not possible until you become a faithful tither. Tithing is the foundation for financial prosperity. It is the connecting rod. Every tithe defaulter is limited in knowledge, ideas, finances, etc. The Scripture cannot be broken. Until your obedience is complete, your glorious future will remain a mirage.

Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee. Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart. If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up, thou shalt put away iniquity far from thy tabernacles. Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust, and the gold of Ophir as the stones of the brooks. Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defence, and thou shalt have plenty of silver.

For then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty, and shalt lift up thy face unto God.

Job 22: 21-26

A good number of people grow their businesses into blue-chip companies through advertisements, deployment of requisite skills leading to the building of a mega financial power base. Nevertheless, such levels of growth are not sustainable because there was no divine coverage over such businesses. Sometimes, such people lose everything in the end upon the liquidation of such businesses. The best coverage is not an insurance company policy (although this is good). God is the best and ultimate insurance you need. When you fully obey God, He becomes your defense and enemy to your enemies.

Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defence, and thou shalt have plenty of silver.

Job 22: 25

He promised to rebuke the devourer for your sake if you are a tither.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. Mal. 3:10-11

In conclusion, no tithe defaulter can permanently be ahead of those who are faithfully paying their tithe. It is a matter of time. Sooner or later, they will pay for defaulting in their tithes. Before long, untiring and faithful tithers will receive their reward also.

He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

Rev. 22: 11-13

There is no basis for comparing the two: those who obey God and those who disobey Him. The difference between the two is like light and

darkness. Also, remember that those who refuse to pay tithe to God usually pay it to Satan though mysterious losses, sicknesses, loss of opportunities, break away, unexplainable delays, etc.

QUESTION 29: I BELIEVE TITHE IS SCRIPTURAL. WHEN I WAS IN THE UNIVERSITY, I USED TO TITHE IN THE FELLOWSHIP. EACH TIME I DID, GOD REWARDED ME ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. BUT MY CHURCH DOES NOT BELIEVE IN TITHE. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

First and foremost, I thank God who has revealed the mystery of tithing and its benefits to you.

Concerning your church, as long as you are led by the Spirit of God to continue to worship in that church, you have a role to play. Firstly, it is your responsibility to continue to pray for the eyes of understanding of the leaders to be opened towards this truth.

Secondly, prayerfully give a copy of this book in your hand and other anointed materials on tithe and true prosperity to your pastor and church

leaders.

Thirdly, share the testimonies of the benefits of tithe you and other people have experienced with your church leaders.

Fourthly, do not stop paying your own personal tithes so that your breakthrough and testimonies will not stop.

Fifthly, if your pastor refuses to collect your tithe on behalf of the church or refuses to pray for you after you have paid your tithe, then prayerfully look for another church where tithe is taught and practised and send your tithe there.

QUESTION 30: WOULD THOSE WHO DO NOT PAY THEIR TITHES ENTER HEAVEN?

This is a very technical and sensitive question which also requires a very careful and tactful answer in order not to endanger the faith and future of the believers in Christ especially young converts.

First and foremost, we must know that there are Biblical requirement for salvation and entering the kingdom of God. To receive salvation, one is required to confess and believe that Jesus is the Son of God and receive him as his or her personal Lord and Saviour.

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Rom. 10:9-10

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That

which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.
John 3:5-7

Another requirement is to repent from dead works or self-righteousness and believe on the righteousness of God which Christ made available through his blood which He shed on the cross of Calvary.

Therefore, entering into heaven is not based on whether or not we pay tithe. It is based on whether or not we confess and believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that he came to die for the sins of the whole world and accept him as our Lord and Saviour.

However, the ordinance of tithe is so crucial that God regards defaulters as thief. The consequences of defaulting in tithe transcend this present world. That is, it has eternal consequences. Let's take a brief look at some of the consequences:

1. If you don't pay your tithe, the covenant God made with Abraham our father (which tithe is the connecting rod) may be affected in your life and generations.

2. If you don't pay your tithe, you cannot flow at the level of wealth God intends for you and this will subsequently hinder the plan and purpose of God for your life and those around you. Your poverty does not glorify God instead it limits and frustrates His work on earth. For example, people who ought to come to God through His glory in your life may never do so.

   God wants you to prosper so that through your prosperity He can win the world to Himself.

   Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

   3 John 1: 2

   Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem.

   Zech. 1:17

3. One of the reasons why tithe is demanded by God is so that there will be meat (the word of God) in the house of God.

   Another reason is to cater for the needs of the ministers or God and Levites (Church workers) who serve in the temple. When the temple priests and workers (staff) are not taken care of, they abandon God's temple and go out to source for money to take care of their needs and the needs of their families.

   This is exactly what happened in the days of Nehemiah.

   Then I commanded, and they cleansed the chambers: and thither brought I again the vessels of the house of God, with the meat offering and the frankincense. And I perceived that the portions of the Levites had not been given them: for the Levites and the singers, that did the work, were fled every one to his field. Then contended I with the rulers, and said, Why is the house of God forsaken? And I gathered them together, and set them in their place. Then brought all Judah the tithe of the corn and the new wine and the oil unto the treasuries.

   Neh. 13:9-12

The consequences of depriving priests and church workers their dues and subsequent abandonment of the temple are far-reaching. It has eternal consequences in that people who ought to be won to the kingdom of God are allowed to stroll to hell and the sheep which Christ died for are allowed to wander into the hands of wolves, anti-Christ and deceivers because they have no shepherd to lead them. Some of them have returned to their former master, the devil.

The truth is that the consequences of your faithfulness or unfaithfulness in tithing does not stop with you and your immediate family but also impinge on generations yet unborn.

It was the weight of such eternal consequences and the prompting of the Holy Spirit that made Apostle Paul say:

Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.

1 Tim. 5:17-18

PART 2: BREAKING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP THROUGH TITHING

One of the blessings of tithing is that it can break financial hardship in your life, ministry, business and family.

Let’s look at some people’s experiences:

Oral Roberts:

Making reference to Oral Robert, David Ibiyeomie stated thus in one of his books, “Oral Roberts was on his death bed as a teenager when he remembered his tithe. He told his mother, ‘I have some tithe there in my suit pocket, help me go and drop it in the church. I do not want to get into heaven owing God. That was how he got healed.”

A Medical Doctor:

Ibiyeomie also recalled how a medical doctor in his ministry was mysteriously delivered from a life threatening pains. Read it for yourself.

“A medical doctor in our commission was attacked by a strange stomach upset. All the Pastors prayed for him but he was still in severe pains that threatened his life. He suddenly remembered that he had not paid his tithe and as he wrote his cheque, the life threatening pains disappeared.”

Kenneth And Gloria Copeland:

Gloria Copeland, in one of her books, said, “When we first learned that God’s Word meets our needs, we were living in Tulsa, Oklahoma where Kenneth was enrolled in Oral Roberts University… Financially, times were hard. I really think that we were supernaturally in debt! No matter how hard we tried, we wouldn’t get out of debt. We just seemed to get in deeper and deeper. Let’s face it, borrowed money was our source. After we paid the bills, there was no money left for anything else. Old obligations were left unpaid, and there was threat of a lawsuit. I can remember standing in the check-out line at the grocery store, praying in the spirit, and believing God that I had enough money to pay for the groceries in my basket. Whatever I had in my purse at the time was all we had!

We didn’t know then what we know now about operating in the laws of prosperity. We were just beginning to learn about the integrity of the word….”

“The very basic beginning of Bible prosperity is tithing.” “…We had set our affections on the word of God. Our commitment to obey God’s word won over circumstances, people and Satan.”

J. C. Penny:

James Cash Penny, founder of a chain of American mid-range department stores, was taught tithing by his mother as a little boy. He grew up to own the J. C. Penny Company Inc. He was a billionaire in his time. He was a tithe-made businessman. He once went astray and stopped tithing. Then, he started nose-diving. But he quickly repented and was restored by God.

Rockfeller:

John Davidson Rockfeller was an American oil industrialist, investor and philanthropist. As a sixon (sanctuary keeper) in the church, he became the world richest man and the first American worth more than a billion dollars. He was a committed tither and a tithe-made businessman. He was the founder of the Standard Oil Company, which grew to dominate the oil industry and became one of the first big Trusts in the United States.

He once wrote, “I believe it is every man’s religious duty to get all he can honestly and give all he can.”

My Personal Experience:

Before I made granite resolve to pay both personal and ministry tithes, I had in the past faced some financial difficulties that could not be humanly explained. I often used to wonder how one could pray and study the way I did yet remained in abject poverty.

It was such that the harder I tried to come out of poverty through prayer, the deeper I sank into it. But once in a while when I decided to tithe, I noticed that I also had very little relief. If I continued tithing for a season, I would enjoy supernatural help. But once I stopped tithing, I would hit the bottom of the pit again. I thank God for His timely intervention. My eyes of understanding was opened and tithe became a must do in my life and ministry after a careful study of the following books: **Principles of Covenant Wealth** by David Ibiyeomie, **God's Will Is Prosperity** by Gloria Copeland and **Tithe Yourself Out Of Poverty** by Jacobson Orogwu. Now, I don't need anyone to remind me to tithe because the supernatural help I enjoy on a daily basis constantly reminds me.

Jacobson n. Orogwu:

Jacobson Orogwu is the author of **"Tithe Yourself Out of Poverty"**. Let's read his personal testimony and what his pastor said about him:

“Jacobson Orogwu found Christ as his personal savior in 1978. He worked with a private company in Enugu between June 1979 and January 1983. Resigning his appointment in January 1983 in search of greener pasture, he founded his first promising business – Jacjerima Company in February of the same year. This baby company collapsed in 1986, because God permitted it as a result of disobedience to tithe payment.

Depressed for two years after having been plagued into serious financial indebtedness to his bankers, he then sought for the answer with God.

With gratitude to our Lord Jesus Christ, the merciful and gracious God, he is now happily and rapidly surviving with his new venture – DOORWAY FINANCE COMPANY NIG LTD, incorporating the Atlantic Publishers and others”.

Jacobson’s resident Pastor as at the time, Rev. Michael Ibekwe of Assemblies of God Church, New Haven, Enugu, Nigeria said; “Jacobson Orogwu who has been my local church member since 1987 when he was a grievous tithe defaulter until 1987 when after he received the revelation as to the cause of his poverty, commenced vigorous and faithful tithing. When in 1988, he witnessed a dramatic progress in his material and spiritual lives resulting from his faithful tithing, he decided to write his experience in

order to help the Christian community rise from her self-imposed abject poverty into sufficiency.”

R. C. Le Tourneau:

In his book, **Ideas Rule The World**, Sam Adeyemi writes about the experience of R. C. Le Tourneau thus: “R. C. Le Tourneau, a multi-millionnaire in the United States, once operated by this principle (tithing and giving). He said that when he became a bachelor, he noticed that new roads were constantly being created in America and the equipment being used in moving the sand was very small. It took them a long time to move the earth. He wondered what was to be done. As he began to pay tithes, he began to see designs of heavy equipment in his dreams. He brought together industrial architects to whom he described what he saw. Then they brought out the designs …

He noticed that whenever he stopped paying tithes, the dreams stopped coming. God’s Spirit told him that the ideas were in response to the tithes he was giving and that God would bless him through those ideas. After some time, Le Tourneau made the mistake of not paying his tithe. The company went into deficit by the same amount that should have been paid for tithes. After the payment of this backlog, the dreams continued. Giving to God is our gateway to divine ideas.”

Mr. Le Tourneau later raised his tithe to 90 percent of his income. The 10 percent remaining was sufficient for him all through his life time. You need to understand that when we give money, which is a physical seed, God gives us ideas, which are spiritual seeds.

Sam Adeyemi:

The Pastor of one of the fastest growing churches in the city of Lagos, Nigeria, Pastor Sam Adeyemi said, “There is a clear difference between good ideas and God ideas. Not all good ideas are God ideas but all God ideas are good ideas. Divinely inspired ideas have made a world of difference in my life. So whenever I pay my tithe, I expect fresh insights from God. This is why the Holy Spirit gets people to give more today than ever before. Though it is grossly criticized by the world but this is God’s wisdom in operation.”

A Prospering Young Man:

In his book, Rev. Oboh shared how tithe transformed the life of a young man in his ministry. He said, “There is this young man I know in the church I pastor who is so faithful in his tithing that he pays above his normal tithe every month. God in response opened unto him his door of blessing that from the little work this man has, God adds great favour to him in such a way that he is looked upon as one of the richest in the church. He started a building and completed it in a matter of months, while training his children in higher institutions. At every opportunity he has, he advises Christians to be faithful to God in their tithing and giving in addition to holy living.

Make no mistake about this, God watches over what we do with our tithe and offering and looks into your attitude to these things while you pray to be prospered by Him and consider whether you merit it or not.”

The Lawyer:

In one of his teachings, Pastor Adeboye told an interesting story about an encounter he had with a certain Lawyer who also owned a bakery.

He said he tried to encourage the lawyer to become a faithful tither in order for his business to flourish but he argued that tithing has nothing to do with financial breakthrough.

He even told him that if tithe is necessary he would like God to prove it to him. Pastor Adeboye assured him that God heard him and would surely prove the reality of tithe to him.

A few weeks after this encounter, the man lost six cases he was handling in the court. His workers at the bakery also resigned en masse. He pleaded with them and even promised to double their salaries but all to no avail. So, he could not make sales for months because there was no production.

Pastor Adeboye said when the lawyer saw the calamities that befell him, he repented and promised God that he would pay his tithe faithfully. That same day he made the promise to God, workers started going to his bakery to

apply for job. He reopened his bakery and his business flourished more than before.

The breakthrough did not stop there. The lawyer took the six cases he lost in the lower court to the court of Appeal and won all the cases.

God says, “Return unto me, and I will return unto you.” When God returns to you all your lost blessings shall be restored.

For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit

before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

Mal. 3:6-12

Be Wise

Wise people do not argue with the word of God, they only obey.

The song writer J.H. Sammis summed it up thus:

When we walk with the Lord,

In the light of His word,

What a glory He sheds in our way!

While we do His good will,

He abides with us still,

And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey! For there's no other way

To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

But we never can prove

The delights of His love,

Until all on the altar we lay;

For the favour He shows.

And the joy He bestows,

Are for them who will trust and obey.

Then in fellowship sweet

We will sit at His feet,

Or we'll wait by His side in the way;

What He says we will do,

Where He sends we will go,

Never fear, only trust and obey.

Friend, after reading through this book, God expects you to start paying your tithe and not allow the devil steal your blessings anymore.

May the Holy Spirit who divinely placed this book in your hands help you to obey God always. Amen.