



Rock Point Church

Bill Bush | 10.26.25

Big Idea: Tithing is a testimony, not a transaction.

Genesis 4:3-7 (NLT)

³ In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴ and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶ The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, and you must rule over it.”

Genesis 14:18–20 (NLT)

¹⁸ And Melchizedek, the king of Salem and a priest of God Most High, brought Abram some bread and wine. ¹⁹ Melchizedek blessed Abram with this blessing:

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
Creator of heaven and earth.

²⁰ And blessed be God Most High,
who has defeated your enemies for you.”

Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the goods he had recovered.

Leviticus 27:30–32 (NLT)

³⁰ “One-tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord and must be set apart to him as holy. ³¹ If you want to buy back the Lord’s tenth of the grain or fruit, you must pay its value, plus 20 percent. ³² Count off every tenth animal from your herds and flocks and set them apart for the Lord as holy.

Deuteronomy 8:17–18 (NLT)

¹⁷ He did all this so you would never say to yourself, ‘I have achieved this wealth with my own strength and energy.’ ¹⁸ Remember the Lord your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful, in order to fulfill the covenant he confirmed to your ancestors with an oath.

Deuteronomy 14:22–23 (NLT)

²² “You must set aside a tithe of your crops—one-tenth of all the crops you harvest each year. ²³ Bring this tithe to the designated place of worship—the place the Lord your God chooses for his name to be honored—and eat it there in his presence. This applies to your tithes of grain, new wine, olive oil, and the firstborn males of your flocks and herds. Doing this will teach you always to fear the Lord your God.

Malachi 3:8–10 (NLT)

⁸ “Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me!

“But you ask, ‘What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?’

“You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. ⁹ You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me. ¹⁰ Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!

Matthew 23:23 (NLT)

²³ “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.

Acts 4:32–35 (NLT)

³² All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. ³³ The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God’s great blessing was upon them all. ³⁴ There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them ³⁵ and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.

Three responses to the trust test:

- 1. FEAR - Causes us to flee it.**
- 2. FRUSTRATION - Causes us to fight it.**

3. FAITH - Brings freedom.

Matthew 6:19–24 (NLT)

¹⁹ “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

²² “Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. ²³ But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

GROUPS QUESTIONS:

1. What stood out to you most in this week's message, and why?
2. Read Genesis 4:2–7. What do you notice about the difference between Cain and Abel's offerings? What does this passage reveal about how God views our hearts when we give?
3. Have you ever experienced a time when giving, whether time, money, or something else, felt more like worship than obligation? What made it feel that way?
4. Read Deuteronomy 8:17–18. Why do you think it's so easy to forget that God is the true source of everything we have? What helps you remember?
5. In your own words, what's the difference between seeing tithing as a transaction and seeing it as a testimony? How does that shift your motivation to give?
6. Pastor Bill described three responses to the trust test. Which of those three responses feel most familiar to you right now, and why?
7. Read Malachi 3:8–12. How do you interpret God's challenge to "bring the full tithe" and His promise to bless? What kind of "blessing" do you think God is talking about?
8. Read Matthew 6:19–24. What are some ways money can become a rival master in our lives? How might tithing help us realign our hearts toward God's kingdom?
9. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6–8. What would it look like for you to give cheerfully and intentionally in this season, trusting God first and allowing generosity to be part of your testimony?