

**General Topics :: Tithing-In the New Testament Church****Tithing-In the New Testament Church - posted by BlazedbyGod, on: 2007/11/16 15:57**

This is just a question or thought of mine that I had:

But, if we-the Church-New Testament believers-are NOT under the Law of Moses-but are under grace, and of the Spirit of the Living God; then why do we Tithe in the New Testament?

2. In 90% of Old Testament scripture-tithing itself was mostly from what I see corn, oil, wine, oxen, etc...and only a few instances was it money.

Again, this is something that I just thought of-this is not, and I don't want it to turn into condemning people who pay tithes or condemning people who don't pay tithes-I just want your thoughts, understanding, knowledge or revelation of the topic. Thanks in advance.

:-D

Re: Tithing-In the New Testament Church, on: 2007/11/16 16:04

Careful Blaze... you're starting to think about things instead of just accepting what you've been taught!!

Thats never a good thing! ;-)

Tithing is never once taught by the Apostles to the NT church. Paul, in all of writings, including that of giving, never once even hints that the NT believer should tithe as did the OT believers under the Law.

Not once.

Never.

Zip.

Nada.

However... God owns it all. He has made us stewards of what He blesses us with. We should give ALL to God, not just 10%.

But God wants a cheerful giver. Not someone who gives out of compulsion by the Law.

Krispy

Re: Tithing-In the New Testament Church, on: 2007/11/16 16:06

Quote:

BlazedbyGod wrote:

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Again, this is something that I just thought of-this is not, and I don't want it to turn into condemning people who pay tithes or condemning people who don't pay tithes-I just want your thoughts, understanding, knowledge or revelation of the topic. Thanks in advance.

:-D

I do not believe that we tithed as in a certain percentage. They were led by the Holy Ghost and gave as every man had need. Key word here being "NEED".

Acts 5:3

But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

Acts 4:34-36

34Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

35And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

Re: - posted by reformer, on: 2007/11/16 16:22

Good post, I have dealing with tithing and offerings. I am not opposed of giving. I feel like all I have been taught was a deception of the truth. I have been spoon fed what to believe about tithing. I am going to seek scripture and not rely on someone to tell me to give. I understand there are things that need to be maintained at church, that is just part of having a building. The church I left had an annual budget of 3.5 million and 1.5 million went to personnel ministry...11 fulltime ministers, 7 other fulltime personnel, this includes medical and dental and retirement. That is separate from the debt we have acquired! Is it tithing, or is it just paying the bills. To me just ask, we need to keep the lights on and just call it what it is.

you can link to their website to look at the budget and judge for yourself.

I question if what is going on today is biblical. I do want to support the church and I think we should, I don't want to use this as an excuse on not to tithe. I am seeking God about this and believe HE will give me clear thought, and not sit in condemnation because I may miss out on a blessing from God if I don't give...hog wash!!

Blessings :-)

mike

Re: - posted by Miccah (), on: 2007/11/16 16:58

Luke 18:22 (NKJV)

So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me"

Luke 21:1-4 (NKJV)

And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had."

Everywhere you look, Jesus did not talk about tithing. The only thing that you see is where Jesus says to sell everything and give it away.

The reference of laying down everything at the disciples feet is another good verse on this.

Acts 2:44-47 (NKJV)

Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Acts 4:32-35 (NKJV)

Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (NKJV)

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written:

*“ He has dispersed abroad,
He has given to the poor;
His righteousness endures forever.”*

Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

Tithing is important, but not mandated. If anything is mandated by Jesus, I read only to give it all to the poor. In Acts and 2 Cor, we are supposed to divided amongst one another, lay it (money) at the disciples feet, and give with a cheerful heart.

I give with a cheerful heart. The Lord honors those who honor Him, and I try to honor Him daily. Giving is another way to honor the Lord.

1 samuel 2:30 (NKJV)

...for those who honor Me I will honor...

Christiaan

Re: - posted by LoveHim, on: 2007/11/16 17:14

dear brothers,

i have not talked to many people at all about this issue because my "church" is very pro-tithing. but i would encourage everyone to really look into how the early church operated and by what means they did so. many churches may use tithing to pay the bills, but then there are churches that operate on very little money but alot of love and dependence upon the Holy Spirit..

do i personally believe in tithing as something that we are bound to in the NT?? no. but i long for a church that wants people to give so that they can take all the offering and give it to those who are in need. missionaries, poor, people within the congregation who are hurting, etc.

but i understand why some people tithe and do my best not allow a disagreement on a small doctrine overshadow the unity and love with one another that we should have.. but if we're not careful, that is what can easily happen

phil

Re: - posted by BenWilliams (), on: 2007/11/16 18:35

This has always been an issue to me that I have not agreed with most churches on.

We all know that the new testament does not teach tithing, that was a requirement of the children of Israel according to the law.

First thing about that is that as gentiles, the law was not given to us, it was given to the children of Israel, we were never obligated to fulfill any part of that law. We have only been obligated to fulfill the law of our consciences.

Now, a couple of things, one has already been mentioned a bit, and that is that we are to give, as led by the Holy Spirit, not out of the letter of the law, but out of a heart that is sensitive to what the Spirit of God is saying.

I believe churches out of desperation to keep themselves running have often turned to tithing, because it is principle like, and is easy to teach, it is much harder to stand in faith, believing that God will move upon the people to support the church and its missions every month. I don't believe all churches are guilty of this, but I do believe they are not diligent to seek the Lord on this, rather they just follow tradition, because it has worked in the past, so it must be true.

I feel like the constant passing of money buckets makes a church look cheap, money hungry, and money driven. Every week, a five or ten minute sermon on tithing, and how great and good it is. Why not teach the people to hear from the Lord, and then tell them how much money the church needs a month, or a week to keep running, and let God impress upon the hearts of men and women to do what is needed.

Lastly, one thing that ministers do not talk about very much is this, when Paul was with the Jewish Christians, he told them they had a responsibility to support the ministers of God full time so that they could minister freely to the people.

But when he was with the gentiles, he did no such thing, rather he worked for a living, making tents, and then ministered when he was not working.

Perhaps if we saw a little more of that, we would see more humble pastors.

Re: Tithing-In the New Testament Church, on: 2007/11/16 20:52

Why we pay Tithe?

1. It belongs to God.
2. It is Holy.
3. Because we love Him.
4. We Obey God's commandments.
5. God appointed Jesus to receive Tithe.
6. There is no lacking in God's House
7. We may receive bountiful blessings.

8. There is no lacking in servant of God's life.

Re:, on: 2007/11/16 22:34

Quote:

Miccah wrote:

Tithing is important, but not mandated. If anything is mandated by Jesus, I read only to give it all to the poor. In Acts and 2 Cor, we are supposed to be divided amongst one another, lay it (money) at the disciples feet, and give with a cheerful heart.

I give with a cheerful heart. The Lord honors those who honor Him, and I try to honor Him daily. Giving is another way to honor the Lord.

1 samuel 2:30 (NKJV)

...for those who honor Me I will honor...

Christiaan

If I could, I'd like to add what you said about, "I read only to give it all to the poor." I personally believe that includes widows and/or orphans.

My sister is a widow and she must pay anyone to come to her house to do anything. No one from her 1,200 seat / 2 services a day church EVER has offered to come and minister to her but where has she pay her tithes for the last 20 years? You guessed it.

But I think it's terrible, if her church is doing this to her, there are millions of other widows going through the same thing.

Another post.....

Quote:

LoveHim wrote:

dear brothers,

i have not talked to many people at all about this issue because my "church" is very pro-tithing.

phil

Aren't they all? Or at least the "big" ones are. They need money to run those big buildings, this is why most churches are run like a business anymore.

I grew up going to a church where the pastor and his wife gutted a house that they owned and everything was open and we had church there for 30 years. Oh my gosh, they even kept the out house into the early 80's!!! They saved the money that came in and helped whoever needed help, had missionary journey's and in 1982 when they decided to build a church, they paid cash for it. In 1982, \$190,000 cash was a LOT of money.

My point is they made due and did not go into debt so that they had to beg bread from everyone to pay the bills of the church.

Just so no one gets the wrong idea... I believe in giving and giving with a cheerful heart!! But I do NOT believe in what most of the church today is doing... going into debt and fleecing the sheep on a weekly basis because of it.

Re: - posted by Miccah (), on: 2007/11/17 0:24

Intens4Him wrote:

Quote:

If I could, I'd like to add what you said about, "I read only to give it all to the poor." I personally believe that includes widows and/or orphans.

100% agree. I lumped them into the poor category. Thanks for pointing this out

In Christ,

Christiaan

Re:, on: 2007/11/17 0:32

A true christian pays tithe regularly, if you are not paying you are not true to God .

Re:, on: 2007/11/17 6:45

Quote:

-----A true christian pays tithe regularly, if you are not paying you are not true to God .

See... this is what I was getting at the other day. According to chandras, if you dont tithe you're not saved.

Where is the scripture to back this up?

Here's some scripture about what makes a true Christian:

Matthew 9:22 But turning and seeing her, Jesus said, Daughter, be comforted; your faith has saved you. And the woman was saved from that hour.

...nuthin 'bout tithin' there.

Luke 7:50 And He said to the woman, Your faith has saved you, go in peace.

...nuthin 'bout tithin' there.

Luke 8:48 And He said to her, Daughter, be comforted. Your faith has saved you; go in peace.

...nuthin 'bout tithin' there.

John 10:9 I am the door. If anyone enters in by Me, he shall be saved and shall go in and out and find pasture.

...nuthin 'bout tithin' there.

Salvation is not based on whether we tithe, or whether we believe in tithing... or what version of the Bible we read... or whether we listen to Christian rock... or whatever! Salvation come from God thru faith in His Son Jesus. **PERIOD.**

To add anything to it is to add to the Word of God, and when you do that you put yourself under a curse.

Now... pro-tithers LOVE to use this verse:

Luke 11:42 But woe to you, Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and pass over judgment and the love of God. You ought to have done these, and not to leave the other undone.

General Topics :: Tithing-In the New Testament Church

Jesus was speaking to the religious leaders. What people fail to consider is that He was speaking to men who were under the Mosaic Law. Jesus' death, burial and resurrection had not happened yet... therefore the Law had not been fulfilled yet... so of course He commended them for tithing! They had to in order to be in right relationship with God.

So... if you feel that a real Christian tithes, then you must accept the rest of the Law as well, and live by it. You need to keep all the dietary laws, all the sacrifices, you must worship God in Jerusalem... etc etc in order to be a "true" Christian.

I do not believe in tithing for the NT church. It's never taught. Not once. Never.

What IS taught is Christian giving... and the example we have is the NT church where they gave all and shared everything. See... actually, more than tithing is expected... of the "true" Christian. But it isn't what makes one a "true" Christian.

Faith in Jesus Christ is what makes one a "true" Christian.

Krispy

Re:, on: 2007/11/17 6:47

Quote:

-----5. God appointed Jesus to receive Tithe.

Chandras... forgive me... but I need to ask this important question in reference to this statement you made... here it is:

HUH???

Where is this in scripture?

Krispy

Re: - posted by reformer, on: 2007/11/17 9:08

Quote:

chandras wrote:

A true christian pays tithe regularly, if you are not paying you are not true to God .

People base their faith on what they do. Do we think God needs are money? I do believe God wants us to give, but I think that american churches have miss lead the congregations.

Re:, on: 2007/11/17 9:28

If you tithe to a church and you do not know where that money is going than you are not being a good steward of your money and you are just as guilty as they are. If you gave and they misused it shame on them. If you give again knowing they will misuse it shame on us. If you think there is nothing wrong with spending the churches money on a \$23,000 toilet than you need to examine yourself.

Re: Tithing-In the New Testament Church - posted by TimmyJoe, on: 2007/11/17 14:18

Quote:
-----But, if we-the Church-New Testament believers-are NOT under the Law of Moses-but are under grace, and of the Spirit of the Living God; then why do we Tithe in the New Testament?

If they tithed 10% under the law, how much more should we tithe under grace?

Why is tithing such a big issue? Do you not agree with the ministry of your church? If not find another church to pay tithe at. Do you not know what the church is doing with the money? Ask them. What is truly the motivation for folks not wanting to 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 not enough . Mal 3:10

Can we take God at his word? Pay tithe to his house and he will bless your house. Tithing is nothing more than another way to worship the good Lord, and I am thankful for all the ways we have to worship this great God.

With Love -Timmyjoe

Re:, on: 2007/11/17 15:32

If Jesus Christ does not own 100% of your money, dreams, time and life you are not his disciple. Giving a 10th of your money and a 7th of your time to Jesus is insulting.

Tithing is easy though, I did it as a false convert for a long time. To quote a friend "all those greedy people tithing with their little cash register in their minds going cha-ching.. I'll get more back in return."

Giving 100% of your entire life expecting nothing back other than for God to be glorified is another story. Now if you feel led to give 10% to your local body, God bless you, do not do it under "law" or compulsion though.

In Christ - Jim

Re:, on: 2007/11/18 7:19

Brother Jim... amen. Well said.

Krispy

Re: - posted by nowhr2hide (), on: 2007/11/18 7:48

Quote:

jjmdied2sin wrote:

Giving 100% of your entire life expecting nothing back other than for God to be glorified is another story. Now if you feel led to give 10% to your local body, God bless you, do not do it under "law" or compulsion though.

In Christ - Jim

i'll say amen to your quote.

Re: - posted by reformer, on: 2007/11/18 9:12

Here is a link to a website I stumbled onto, he wrote a long synopsis of tithing. It's a interesting read.

<http://www.bible-truths.com/tithing.html>

Re:, on: 2007/11/18 10:41

What the law could not do grace did more abound. It is not about the money. It is about the heart. Do we trust HIM? Matt 23:23 is not Old Testament. Again it is a matter of the heart. Every man should give as he has purposed in his heart. How is our heart? There is a song that says.

You can't beat God's giving no matter how you try.
The more you give, the more HE gives back to you.
You just can't beat God's giving, no matter how you try.

Again it is not about the money or the amount. It is about the heart. Everything we have belongs to HIM, including the last breath we just took. We are only stewards and are just using it. This is true for the greatest lost sinner on earth. What he has God has allowed him to have it.

Does HE do things that are supernatural? WHEN HE SAVED US, THIS IS A NEW BIRTH, A SUPERNATURAL ACT OF THE SPIRIT.

When we give for HIS purpose and HIS glory we are released from responsibility of what is done with the money. The authorities in the local body are then responsible for what they do with is brought into the storehouse. WE should seek to be involved in a church body that sows into good ground, but still yet, the giver is released after he gives for God's glory and HIS purpose.

This is not natural thinking. Natural thinking is the way the world thinks.

Re: - posted by SimpleLiving (), on: 2008/1/17 18:12

I just got paid. It's my first paycheck since becoming a true Christian. (And not believing I was already one because I said a "sinner's prayer" 24 years ago, but my heart didn't experience regeneration.)

I used to tithe, blindly, because I was told/expected to. I had fallen prey to the Word of Faith movement, so naturally it was greatly encouraged/demanded and checked-up on. ::shudder::

I've been praying and studying about this. I'm tired of being deceived so I sought God instead of relying on man's opinions and doctrines. (I've been following the "ask God first" method, seeking first *His* kingdom and *His righteousness*)

In the New Testament, Paul says that Christians should set aside a portion of their income in order to support the church (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). He says it should be an amount "in keeping with his income." Great! The issue of giving is settled. Christians should give to the church. How plain and simple is that?

Ok, How much? There is no percentage guideline like the law of the Old Testament. I need wisdom and guidance then. With the Word and the Holy Spirit as my FIRST resource, instead of asking the opinions of men, I prayed.

James 1:5 says that every Christian should diligently pray and seek God's wisdom. This includes seeking Him about our giving. If we don't ask for His wisdom on how we should give, we won't receive wisdom on how to give. The Bible is full of assurances that when we ask, we will receive. So, I asked Him for wisdom in giving.

James 2 comes along as a reminder to check our motives for asking. If someone is asking in order to find justification to not "have to" tithe/give, they're asking with a wrong motive. I sincerely want to glorify God with my giving so I asked, I believe, with a right motive.

Then I read the following verse and felt a true release from the question of giving/tithing.

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7).

No more law! No more legalism! We're free! Free to give whatever is in our hearts to give! Free to give according to our motives and attitude! I asked and I received, just like the Bible said!

Makes me wonder if we maybe complicate some issues more than they need to be?

Re: - posted by Billy7 (), on: 2008/1/18 21:45

Hi Keith,

That was a beautiful example of a Christian being taught by the Spirit how to live by faith.

"But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him" (1 Jn. 2: 27).

"...the just shall live by faith" (Gal. 3: 11).

Thanks for the testimony.

Re: - posted by reformer, on: 2008/1/19 8:10

Quote:
-----'ve been praying and studying about this. I'm tired of being deceived so I sought God instead of relying on man's opinions and doctrines. (I've been following the "ask God first" method, seeking first His kingdom and His righteousness.

Amen to that...I am in the same position, tired of being deceived and making you feel guilty about tithing. We have always tithed, but mostly because I was told too, I was told it is in the bible and so on. I found for myself that I was tired about paying the "bills" at the church and large salaries. Is the tithe actually to support the mortgage, the new building addition, the new sound system and so on and so on. Not being critical or angry but this is what I have been going through. I want to support the church, I want to give whole heartily. I want to know for MYSELF, not what some pastor says or what the mega-tron screen says during the offering.

Thanks Keith for your testimony...it encouraged me today to know that God will answer my plea in the matter of tithing.

To be faithful and obedient
Mike

Re: - posted by SimpleLiving (), on: 2008/1/20 15:22

Quote:
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Thanks Keith for your testimony...it encouraged me today to know that God will answer my plea in the matter of tithing.

To be faithful and obedient
Mike

If you'll allow me to share it, I'm finding that there's an added benefit to seeking God *first* with my questions. A benefit that's even greater than getting the answer to the question!

After so many years of being deceived by men and women, both preachers and teachers, and then coming to the Truth about salvation, I had an important decision to make - blindly follow and trust people again (which I would rather go completely cold than be that kind of lukewarm again!) or I would actually live what I professed to believe - that the Word of God is true and that He's not a respecter of persons and the Holy Spirit will teach and guide me as he did our great Bible teachers of the past.

I girded myself with scriptures of how God loves *me*! How He cares about the things that concern *me*! About how He has a plan for *me*! For *me*, not just mankind *in general*. I believed these scriptures and settled the fact right then and there to seek Him **first** and His **righteousness**. Then, and only then, when it's needed, to seek the counsel of Godly men. By taking our questions and running to others first (friends, forum members, preachers, Bible teachers, etc.,) they become idols in our lives. An idol is anything that comes before God in our lives. So, that basically puts everything on God's shoulders to answer me when I seek Him about *anything and everything*, doesn't it?

Once I realized this, I almost thought I heard a physical voice from Above sigh and say, "Finally! He gets it! And it only took 24 years!" (That's how long ago I said that silly "sinner's prayer" and thought I was saved!)

So, what's that added benefit I mentioned? Peace. Silly, wonderful, glorious, tear-worthy, praise-shouting, comforting peace! Knowing that I got my answer from God and not people. No more, "Brother so-and-so makes a good point, so that must be true. But, then again, Sister what's-her-name makes sense when she said that other thing. They both can't be right! How am I supposed to know and decide?! I just want to do what's right!!! Why does this have to be so hard????" Confusion, irritation, anger, bitterness, fear - they're gone. These things aren't from God in the first place, which should have been my BIG CLUE that I was not on the right path to begin with. But, I put up with it because I was too lazy and/or ignorant to seek God first, for myself. It's what He's been wanting from all of us all along!

The problem is, people want to be in control. They want to be right. They want to be well thought of. They want to be liked and respected by others. Stubbornness, rebelliousness and pride. Frankly, now that I've had a taste of His peace from seeking Him first, I have no energy to put into these things anymore. They wore me out anyway! You have to work too hard to keep up the kingdom you built for yourself.

I find that many (not all) people who argue either side of tithing are only trying to justify their own views on the subject. Many who are tithing do so in compulsion and fear "just in case" it's the right thing to do and they don't want to be wrong about it so they just do it. Many who don't tithe don't want to give *anything* anyway, so they're trying to justify keeping "their money" for themselves. The problem with both of these viewpoints, along with pride and stubbornness, is the motive. God is a God of motives.

So, I'm just me. I gave up the arguments and fear and rationalizations to unashamedly need, seek, and cling to a God who wants to guide me down His perfect path. I'm like a kid whose dad is taking him to Disney World. He said we're going so I know we'll get there! We may get a few flat tires, need a few mechanical repairs, give someone else a ride, and need to stop and rest along the way. But I trust him because he's my dad. We'll get there! It's the same with The Father. He says in His Word that He's prepared an amazing place where we'll always be together and never be apart again! Great, that's settled then! I trust Him so I'm going to just let Him drive.

As far as tithing goes, the New Testament says we should give to help support the church. To give in a manner that's commensurate with our income. And to do so cheerfully and willingly. I'll do my part and I'll do it with joy because I sought God's advice first and have peace about it! I'm not in control of how anyone spends the money God tells me to give them. Each of us is accountable to God for our own obedience and stewardship.

General Topics :: Tithing-In the New Testament Church

Re: - posted by Billy7 (), on: 2008/1/20 16:04

Thanks, Keith. Once again, I was blessed by your post. This is exactly what God has been dealing with me about in my walk with Him--Seek Him for His will and obey what He shows me. What else can it mean to "walk by faith" than this?

What if the sole goal of every leader in the church was to teach believers to love, trust, hear, and obey God for themselves, as opposed to teaching them to "submit" to a man or the teaching of a man? I bet the church would be a lot further along towards God's goal of "equipping of the saints for the work of ministry" (Eph. 4:12).

Re:, on: 2008/1/20 16:26

This is what the message was on today. I believe it is a privilege to be able to give to the Lord's work. If you'll study tithing in the Bible you'll see that it goes back way before Moses, so it's always been a part of our worship. The first murder was over tithing. God loves a cheerful giver.

My pastor is also the chaplain at our mission center and out of all the people that come through, over all the years he's been there, only one person ever said they tithed. That kind of shows you a little about how God takes care of people that tithe. All the people that come through those doors are in great financial need and that's usually first on the prayer list.