Tithing

**And blessed is the most high God,**

**which hath delivered thine enemies into Thy hand.**

**And he gave him tithes of all.**

***(Genesis 14:20)***

**Affirm: “I do not depend upon persons or conditions for my prosperity. God is the Source of my supply, so I now put God first financially. I tithe my way to prosperity. The voluntary, faithful tithing of my whole income now operates the law of ever-increasing prosperity for me. Yes, I now tithe my way to peace, health and plenty!” *(Catherine Ponder, in The Dynamic Laws of Prosperity, p. 198)***

**Tithing is an agreement that we are in partnership with God in the conduct of our finances. Tithing, which is based on a law that cannot fail, establishes method in giving. It is the surest way ever found to demonstrate plenty, for it is God’s own law. *(Charles Fillmore, in Revealing Word)***

**The ancient prosperity law is this: True prosperity has a spiritual basis. God is the Source of your supply. Your mind, body, abilities, talents, education, experience, job or profession are all instruments and channels of your prosperity, but God is the Source. Therefore, you must do something definite and consistent to keep in touch with that rich Source, if you want to be consistently prospered. *(Catherine Ponder, in The Dynamic Laws of Prosperity, p. 175)***

**A minister had reached that point in the service where the collection was to be passed. “And now, brethren,” he said, “let us all give in accordance with what we reported on Form 1040.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Pastor: “I’m going to pass the collection plate around again. This time, put money in instead of taking it out.” *(Harley Schwadron, in 9 to 5 comic strip)***

**Billy is very concerned about the man who is collecting money during the church service, and his mother says to him: “He’s not a beggar. He’s collecting money for the church.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**You can prove to your own satisfaction that your tithes will bring greater increase than any other property that passes through your hands. Tithing is the best investment you can ever make because it puts you in touch with the ceaseless flow of universal supply. Every phase of your life begins to reflect that wealth. *(Catherine Ponder, in The Millionaire Joshua, p. 149)***

**Bags of old, tattered bills were returned to the U.S. Treasury. A $1 bill and a $20 bill in the same sack started talking. “Gee, I went to nice stores, good restaurants, country clubs and exotic places,” the $20 bill said. “How about you?” “All I ever did was go to church, go to church, go to church.” *(Jack Hanus, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, “My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him $50.” The second boy says, “That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him $100.” The third boy says, “I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon . . . and it takes eight people to collect all the money!” *(S.C.U.C.A. Regional Reporter)***

**The pastor says to the congregation: “This offering was dedicated to the building fund . . . I see we have the price of a new doorknob already!” *(The Clergy Journal cartoon)***

**Andrew Carnegie arrived from Scotland penniless, got a job in a Pittsburgh steel mill for $4.80 a month, and fifty years later retired with a guaranteed income of one million dollars per month. He gave away 90 percent of his fortune before he died in 1911, to good causes, of course . . . such as public libraries, among many others. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia. p. 40)***

**If the CEOs of America's 500 largest corporations were to tithe -- that is, to contribute 10 percent -- of their 2004 salaries to the tsunami relief effort, this would produce a sum of money larger than the entire contribution pledged by our government, or by Americans privately. (This assumes that their 2004 salaries were no larger than their 2003 salaries.) Bill Gates would exceed the government's entire contribution to tsunami aid by pledging 1 percent of his net worth. Alice, Helen, Jim, and S. Robson Walton, heirs to the Wal-Mart fortune, could pool their resources and double the government's contribution by donating less than 1 percent of their collective wealth. *(Paul Campos, in Rocky Mountain News, January 18, 2005)***

My mother writes more checks in April than in any other month. Uncle Sam gets his, her insurance policies all come due and our church holds its annual fund drive. So when the parish priest called regarding Mom’s donation, she was quick to jump to the wrong conclusion. The priest began by saying, “I was wondering if you’d like to reconsider the size of your gift.” “Father,” my mother interrupted, “we’d like to be more generous, but you couldn’t ask at a worse time.” “I know,” the priest continued. “Your check bounced.” *(K. J. M., in Reader’s Digest)*

**One of the members of our pastors' study group may have hit on an excellent idea for church-state relations in these difficult economic times. “The greatest thing the federal government could do for the church,” he quipped, “is to stop printing $1 bills.” *(The Rev. Julie A. Hart, in The Lutheran)***

**Funny how a dollar can look so big when you take it to church, and so small when you take it to the store. *(Frank Clark, in Catholic Digest)***

**A little boy in church for the first time watched as the ushers passed around the offering plates. When one of them approached his pew. the boy said loudly, “Don’t pay for me, Daddy. I’m under 5.” *(The American Legion magazine)***

**During middle age while heavy in debt, everything looked hopeless in the life of R. G. LeTurneu, when he discovered the formula. He became the head of the world's largest maker of earth moving machinery. He established schools for underprivileged children and founded one of the largest charitable organizations in the world--The LeTurneu Foundation. John D. Rockefeller is another person who discovered the formula. When he was earning less than $5.00 a week, he started to use the formula. William Colgate is a name you will recognize. He left home penniless, and he learned of the formula. Heinz pickles are known all over the world. What is not known is that Heinz used this formula to build his success. Kraft cheese is a household word. Mr. Kraft used this formula in his early business career. In the parable of the talents, Jesus told us that the servants who used their talents were rewarded with more. The formula was used by Henry P. Crowell of Quaker Oats. M. W. Baldwin, the railway equipment manufacturer used the formula. A. A. Hyde, the man who made mentholatum a household word used the formula. If you were in show business and you had a good agent who would constantly provide you with good ideas and guidance for your life, you wouldn't think anything of paying 10% for all the breaks and hunches and new ideas. You would say, “It's a privilege.” *(Christopher Ian Chenoweth)***

**One Sunday morning, the chairman of the congregation’s building committee announced: “I have good news and bad news. The good news is we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it’s still out there in your pockets.” A small boy stunned his parents when he began to empty his pockets of nickels, dimes and quarters. Finally his mother said, “Where did you get all that money?” “At Sunday school,” the boy replied nonchalantly. “They have baskets full of it.” *(The Lutheran Witness)***

On a bumper sticker in North Carolina: “If God can make it on 10%, why not the government?” *(The Joyful Newsletter)*

**Remember . . . tithing heals cirrhosis of the giver*! (Rev. Gerry Comstock, Unity minister)***

**As the superintendent of our Sunday school, I was handing out the children’s offering envelopes to the parents. One envelope in each box was simply labeled “Initial Offering.” Attempting to explain its purpose – to cover the cost of the envelopes – I said, “The Initial Offering” envelope is intended for a donation which . . .” and there I paused. Whereupon one of the parents completed my sentence with, “Substantial.” *(Thomas Pfalzer, in The Lutheran Witness)***

**The phone rings at the synagogue office. “Hello, is this Rabbi Schwartz?” the caller asks. “It is.” “This is the Internal Revenue Service. We wonder if you can help us.” “I'll try.” “Do you know a Herman Cohen?” “I do.” “Is this man a member of your congregation?” “He is.” “Did he donate $10,000?” “He will.” *(Jonathan Powell, in Reader's Digest)***

**Even Jesus and His disciples were supported by money during His ministry throughout Palestine. The Bible records that certain women “ministered unto Him of their substance.” In other words, they helped pay the bills. They “picked up the tab -- and thus it has always been!” *(Eric Butterworth, in Discover The Power Within You, p. 122)***

**You will probably go from one-tenth to larger giving – thus opening the way to receive even greater peace, health and plenty in your life. In any event, you will find that tithing is the best investment you can make in successful living, and also the most soul-satisfying. *(Catherine Ponder, in The Dynamic Laws of Prosperity, p. 197)***

**The little boy puts his piggy bank on the table as the man behind the desk responds: “When you e-mailed us that you wanted to donate your entire life savings, we thought you’d be older. *(The Lutheran Witness cartoon)***

**A tithe literally means 10 percent. In the old days the smartest farmers took 10 percent of the best seed of their crop and reserved it for the following year. They then sold the balance for their livelihoods. This idea of seeding the future with your present good began to be understood as a universal principle of growth and prosperity. *(Mary Manin Morrissey, in Building Your Field of Dreams, p. 134)***

**Money-giving is a very good criterion of a person’s mental health. Generous people are rarely mentally ill people. *(Dr. Karl A. Menninger)***

**Some of the most prominent millionaires of the twentieth century attributed their phenomenal success to tithing. These included the Colgate, Heinz, Kraft and Rockefeller families. In 1855, as a young man, John D. Rockefeller began tithing. His total income for that year was $95.00, from which he tithed $9.50 to his church. Between 1855 and 1934, he gave away $531 million dollars. When people tried to criticize the Rockefeller wealth, he had a standard reply, “God gave me my money.” *(Catherine Ponder, in The Dynamic Laws of Prosperity, p. 180)***

**No cash for the collection basket at church? No problem. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati has made online giving an option for its 230 parishes and 110 parochial and diocesan schools in its 19-county region. “It’s a way to make things a little easier for people and for them to be a little more regular in their giving to the church,” Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk said., The new way, he said, won’t replace the old: the collection basket during Mass. With the online donation option, the diocese joined a growing group of churches nationwide that are using technology and the Internet to make weekly giving easier. Churches say high-tech donations are a response to changes in society, with fewer people carrying cash and using credit and ATM cards and the Internet to make transactions. Churches in St. Louis enlisted online charity firms, and others, including in Georgia and California, have used ATMs placed inside the church., The Cincinnati program was created as part of the Catholic Ministries Appeal, which funds programs such as the seminary, priest retirements and Catholic Social Services. About 2.5 to 4 cents of each dollar donated goes to pay fees involved with online collections, such as maintenance of the secure site used to collect donations. *(The North Platte Telegraph, December 25, 2007)***

**If you wish to be truly prospered by the act of tithing, it is wise to give at the point or points where you are receiving spiritual help and inspiration – whether that be the church of your choice, or a minister, spiritual counselor, teacher or practitioner. Your tithes will enrich the recipient, allowing that organization or individual freedom from financial strain. This enables them to fulfill their high mission of uplifting mankind, unhindered by the material cares which can be so burdensome. *(Catherine Ponder, in The Dynamic Laws of Prosperity, p. 192)***

**A rookie policeman was asked in an examination what he would do to break up a crowd. His answer indicated a deep knowledge of human nature. He replied, “I'd take up a collection.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**One morning, I had a 10-year-old boy drop by my office at Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church in St. Louis County. I knew him from Sunday school, and he was quite a conversationalist. After a bit, he said, “Pastor, when I get big, I plan to be rich, and I’m going to give you a lot of money.” “Johnny,” I said, “I’m glad you’re going to be rich, but why are you going to give me a lot of money?” “Well, Pastor,” he responded, “My dad says that you are the poorest preacher we’ve ever had.” *(Rev. Milton J. Nauss, in The Lutheran Witness)***

**When my grandchildren go to church with me, I like to give them each a quarter to put in the collection plate, which they both get very excited about doing. Well, on Easter this year, after dinner, my sisters hid some plastic eggs around my parents’ yard for the grandchildren to find. There was a surprise inside each egg. After having found them all, the children opened the eggs to see what was inside. When my 3-year-old grandson opened an egg containing two quarters, he excitedly held up the quarters and blurted out, “Look, money for Jesus!” *(Michael Peters, in The Lutheran Witness)***

**One Sunday a little girl was given two quarters -- one for the collection plate and another to spend as she wished. On her way to Sunday school, the girl dropped one of the coins, which rolled over the curb and disappeared into the storm sewer. The little girl looked through the grate into the watery depths and said sadly, “Well . . . there goes God's quarter*.*” *(Dorothy Stauffer, in Reminisce magazine)***

Even as a teen, before he became rich, John D. Rockefeller donated 6 percent of his salary to charity. At age twenty, he upped it to 10 percent. *(Don Voorhees, in The Super Book of Useless Information, p. 229)*

**Reader Doris Plese of Lansing, Michigan sent in this church chuckle about the minister who approached the local miser about a contribution. “I thought salvation was free,” the miser protested. “It is, my friend,” the preacher replied. “And so is water, but you still must pay to have it piped to you.” *(Country magazine)***

**After 1989 National Football League Rookie of the Year Barry Sanders was drafted by the Detroit Lions, he held out for a five-year contract that included a $2.1 million bonus. But the fans and media who accused him of greed were silenced when they learned Sanders sent a check for $210,000 to the Baptist church he had attended while growing up. Sanders has tithed ever since he left home. *(Austin Murphy, in Sports Illustrated)***

A little girl became restless as the preacher’s sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, “Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?” *(Pulpit Helps)*

Many of you have indicated an intent to leave money to the church, but since we wish you long and healthy lives, something now would be appreciated. *(Unity of Bloomington/Normal, Illinois, newsletter)*

**When it comes to giving to the church, some folks will stop at nothing. *(H. Skaggs, in Reminisce Extra Magazine)***

**A Charitable Estimate: Perhaps the most vivid way to depict the level of giving to churches is to imagine that every church member in the United States was suddenly bereft of all income and assets, and placed on public relief. Now suppose that each church member – subsisting on the average welfare payment – began to give a tithe of this meager sum. The income of America’s churches, under those circumstances, would be about 35 percent greater than it is now. *(From a parish bulletin, quoted by Louis Cassels, UPI)***

**When Patrick swallowed a quarter, his mother, Mrs. O’Brien, was very upset and called her daughter. “Molly, Pat has swallowed a quarter,” she said. “Run quickly down to the rectory at St. Mary’s and fetch Monsignor Monahan.” “Shouldn’t we get a doctor?” Molly asked. “No,” her mom said. “They say Monsignor Monahan can get money out of anybody.” *(Norman Jardine, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**The preacher was taking a special offering. Suddenly the town tavern owner rose and said, “I’ll give $2,500.” “Badly as we need the funds,” said the preacher, “I won’t take such money.” “Take it, Reverend,” yelled a voice from the back. “It’s our money anyhow.” *(The Christian Word)***

**One Sunday my teenage son was in church. When the collection plate was passed around, he pulled a dollar bill from his pocket and dropped it in. Just at that moment the person behind him tapped him on the shoulder and handed him a $20 bill. Secretly admiring the man's generosity, my son placed the $20 in the plate and passed it on. Then he felt another tap from behind and heard a whisper: “Son, that was your $20. It fell out of your pocket.” (*Mary C. Lowe, in Reader's Digest)*
The pastor addresses the lady behind the counter at the phone store by saying: “I'd like a telephone that will automatically dial each member of my parish and remind him they're behind in tithes.” *(The Clergy Journal cartoon)***

**Throughout Old Testament history the tithe is mentioned as a reasonable and just return to the Lord in acknowledgment of the good He has given. The exact proportion that we should give is not stated in the New Testament. *(L. E. Meyer, in As You Tithe So You Prosper)***

**One of the best tests of religion is to find yourself in church with nothing less than a 20-dollar bill in your wallet. *(For Benefit of Clergy, edited by Beulah Collins)***

**From a Lenexa, Kansas, church bulletin's Order of Service: “We present our thighs and offerings.” *(Reader's Digest)***

**One Sunday in church a little boy took off his tie and put it in the offering plate. “What are you doing?” asked the mother. “What pastor told us to do,” answered the little boy. “He said to give God our ties and offerings.” *(Cecil Kottwitz, in The Lutheran Witness)***

**The timid man yearns for full value and demands a tenth. The bold man strikes for double value and compromises on par. *(Mark Twain)***

**A little boy asks his Dad, who is getting ready to pay the bill at the restaurant: “How come the waitress gets 15% and God gets 10%?” *(The Lutheran Witness cartoon)***

**As my church financial secretary, my children are familiar with the weekly trip to the bank. But one day my 3-year-old opened the bank bag and looked in. “Where did all that money come from?” he asked. “From the collection plates at church.” David looked at me wide-eyed. “Does God know you did that?” *(Linda Beck, in Kids of the Kingdom)***

 **A pastor asked a youngster, “Johnny, do you know where little boys go if they don't put their money in the collection plate.” “Yes, Pastor,” Johnny replied. “They go to the movies.” *(Laura Baczkiewicz, in Reminisce Extra magazine)***

**Woman: “Why do they call Wimbledon the Cathedral of Tennis?” Crankshaft: “Because they take up a collection between the second and third sets.” *(Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers, in Crankshaft comic strip)***

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