

DEEPER LIFE BIBLE CHURCH NL | SUNDAY MESSAGE | 01 JUNE 2025

PROFITABLE SACRIFICE OF YOUR PRECIOUS SILVER

Bible Reading: Malachi 3:7-12; 2 Corinthians 8:1-12

The Church is God's family; it is God's household. God gives every member of His household power to get wealth (Deu 8:18). He expects every member to be financially committed to the local Church (Mal 3:10).

ENORMOUS BLESSINGS OF SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Giving in general is profitable, and sacrificial giving in obedience to God's commandment even more:

1. It opens the door to God's prosperity and closes the door to financial loss (Luke 6:38; Mal 3:10-12).
2. It provides help for the needy and attracts divine reward (Pro 19:17; 28:27; Acts 4:34-37).
3. It makes the giver a partner in God's mission and projects (Luke 8:1-3; 2 Kgs 12:4,5,9-12).
4. It provokes ministerial benediction (2 Cor 9:7-15; Phil 4:14-19).
5. Giving for a charitable cause is tax deductible (Ezra 7:24). In The Netherlands, you can get tax refund on up to 10% of your gross income donated to charitable organisations. Our Church is registered as a Public Benefit Organisation (ANBI). To get a refund, fill your tax form yearly and declare how much you have given as tithe and offering by using this link: <https://www.belastingdienst.nl/wps/wcm/connect/nl/home/content/inloggen-mijn-belastingdienst>

ERRONEOUS BELIEFS ABOUT SYSTEMATIC GIVING

There are many errors people carry about giving or not giving. Some of the beliefs are:

1. **"Tithing is of the law; it is does not apply to new testament believers"** (Gen 14:18-20; 28:20-22; Mat 5:17-20; Heb 6:19,20; 7:1-10): Tithing came before the law. And even Jesus came to fulfil the law. Moreover, Jesus' priesthood is after the order of Melchizedek, who received tithes from Abraham!
2. **"Tithing is unnecessary"** (Hag 1:2-7; Neh 13:10-12; 1 Tim 5:17,18): It is not man who decides what is necessary in God's law and what is not. Such people should ask themselves honest and practical questions. Without our tithes, how would we have a place to worship God? How would we finance outreach and edification of members? How would we provide for ministers? How would we help the needy? The Bible answers all these through the systematic giving of faithful believers.
3. **"God only needs our soul, not our money"** (2 Sam 24:23,24; Mat 6:19-21; Jam 2:15-17; 1 John 3:18): This might sound spiritual, but it is hypocritical. True love gives. David loved God dearly and he gave sacrificially. Your heart will follow your treasure! Don't only love in word; love in deed (practically).
4. **"You don't have to give if you have bills or debts to pay or you are poor"** (Luke 21:1-4; 2 Cor 8:1-4): This is also not true. A poor widow gave her all. The Macedonian believers were poor, yet they gave. Giving is an expression of spiritual riches. Those who are rich in faith honour God with their substance.
5. **"Money could corrupt ministers; they will 'eat' your money!"** (Luke 8:1-3; Acts 28:8-10; 1 Tim 3:2,4, Jam 3:1; 4:11^b). God has qualifications for His ministry; leave that to Him. People gave to Jesus' and Paul's ministries, yet it did not corrupt them. We pay our tax even when we disagree with some ways the government uses it. If you become a judge of the law, then you are not a keeper of it.

ESSENCE & BASICS OF SCRIPTURAL GIVING

The Bible gives us guidelines for scriptural giving; you should follow God's specification:

1. Give your life to God first: be born again (2 Cor 8:5; Deu 23:18). Tithing is for God's children.
2. Tithe is 10% of your gross salary (Gen 28:22^b). Offering is extra, which can be regular or special.
3. Pay your tithe first, not after other spending: it is the first fruit (Exo 23:19; Pro 3:9; 2 Chr 31:5).
4. Your tithe is not for personal disbursement. Bring it to the storehouse, your local Church (Mal 3:10). Do not send your tithe to churches in your 'home' country or other ministries and prayer groups.
5. Give cheerfully, purposefully, bountifully and consistently (2 Cor 9:5-7). Areas of giving include: help to the needy (Acts 4:34,35; 11:27-30), maintenance of ministers (1 Cor 9:13,14), special donations for equipment and church projects (Exo 25:1-80), outreach (3 John 1:5-8), etc

As you give sacrificially to God, you will never lack! *"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work"* - 2 Cor 9:8