

Looking to the Future with Faith & Joy

1. What is the difference between a Tithe and an Offering?

The Tithe: A tithe is 1/10th of the “income” we get from labor.

- It is usually the “increase” or “first fruits” of the land.
- For us today it is our pay before taxes. (Gross income)

“A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD. Leviticus 27:30 (NIV)

What is an Offering?

We are allowed to use the rest (9/10ths) for ourselves and family investing it wisely. Reasonable living expenses takes some and the remainder becomes “assets.” Today we call this our “Net Worth.”

An “Offering to the Lord” is made out of our assets. Scripture tells us these offerings are to be given freely and with joy (not under compulsion) at the Lord’s leading.

The point I’m making is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (ESV)

Typical reasons offerings are taken:

- Build/repair a place of worship (The temples in scripture)
- Extend the Kingdom (Missions, Billy Graham crusades, etc)
- Relieve suffering or address a crisis (Disaster relief)

2. An Example from Scripture – Constructing the Tabernacle

Moses said to the whole Israelite community, “This is what the LORD has commanded: From what you have, take an offering for the LORD. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the LORD an offering of gold, silver and bronze; blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; ram skins dyed red and hides of sea cows; acacia wood; olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense;

and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breast piece. Exodus 35:4-9 (NIV)

The response of God’s people:

*Then the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses’ presence, and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved him came and brought an offering to the LORD for the work on the Tent of Meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. All who were willing, men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as an offering to the LORD. Everyone who had blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen, or goat hair, ram skins dyed red or hides of sea cows brought them. Those presenting an offering of silver or bronze brought it as an offering to the LORD, and everyone who had acacia wood for any part of the work brought it. All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the LORD **freewill offerings** for all the work the LORD through Moses had commanded them to do. Exodus 35:20-24, 29 (NIV)*

The results: “More than enough!”

Then Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the LORD had given ability and who was willing to come and do the work. They received from Moses all the offerings the Israelites had brought to carry out the work of constructing the sanctuary. And the people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning. So all the skilled craftsmen who were doing all the work on the sanctuary left their work and said to Moses, “The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the LORD commanded to be done.” Then Moses gave an order and they sent this word throughout the camp: “No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary.” And so the people were restrained from bringing more, because what they already had was more than enough to do all the work. Exodus 36:2-7 (NIV)