

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (NIV)

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.



 This is not just the Tithe. It applies to any form of giving (sparingly giving......)

- v. 7 Ultimately each person has to decide if they are going to give Tithes, Offerings, and Alms.
 - Will you tithe on the gross or the net? (or how much you make according to your 1040?)
 - And grow to the point you can give it Cheerfully.
 - The end result of doing it, and doing it correctly:

N.T. version of opening the windows of heaven

8 And (1) God is able to make all grace abound to you, (2) so that in all things (3) at all times, (4) having all that you need, (5) you will abound in every good work. 9 As it is written: He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.

Here are the N.T. earthly rewards for Tithing, Offerings, Alms.

- a. The Harvest is not just Financial.(It may be the smallest of what we reap)
- b. Abounding in every area of life is called: Prosperity
- c. The Good News (Gospel) is that we can Prosper in every area of our lives. (2 Corinthians 9:8)



If giving opens it up for us to receive all 5 listed above,

Then a lack of giving can allow the 5 things listed above to remain closed to us. (sow generously or sparingly will reap....)



The lack is not a Curse that is active in our life. It's typically the result of

- not understanding, or:
- our lack of faith to obey.

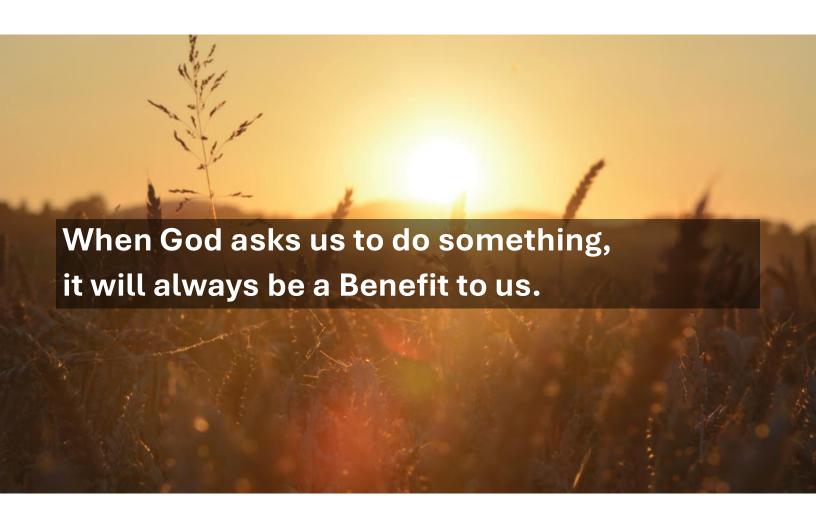


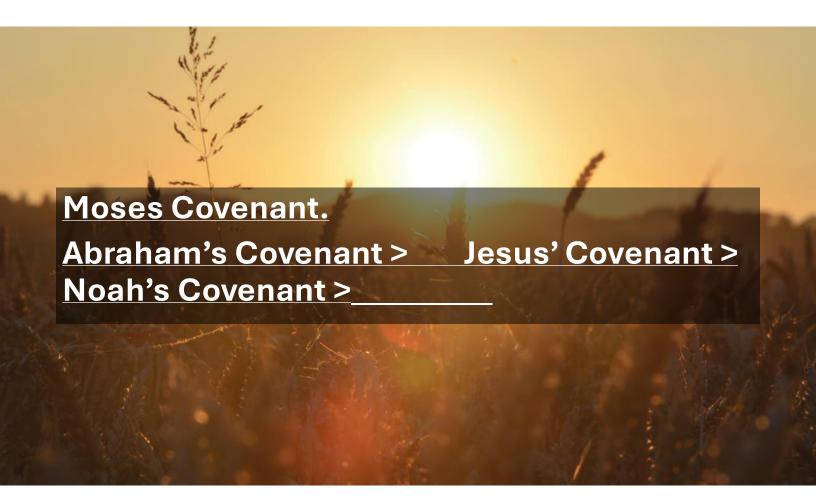
10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Philippians 4:15-20 (NIV)

15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; 16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need.

17 Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. 18 I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. 19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. 20 To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.







To be in Covenant means that everything I am before or without Christ (or, the other person) must die. (Pictured in the death walk)

I have taken on that persons identity. I am no longer my own / who I used to be. I am now a new person with a new identity.



Everything I am and ever will be - now belongs to the other person.

(Great Exchange)

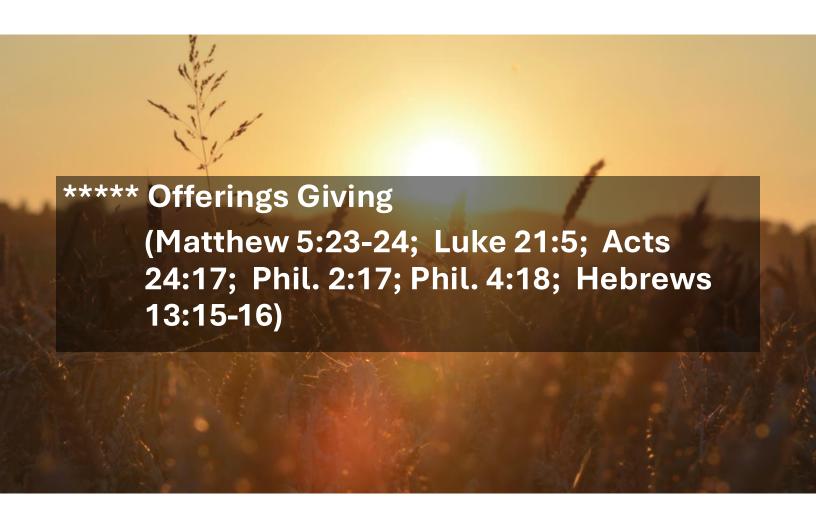


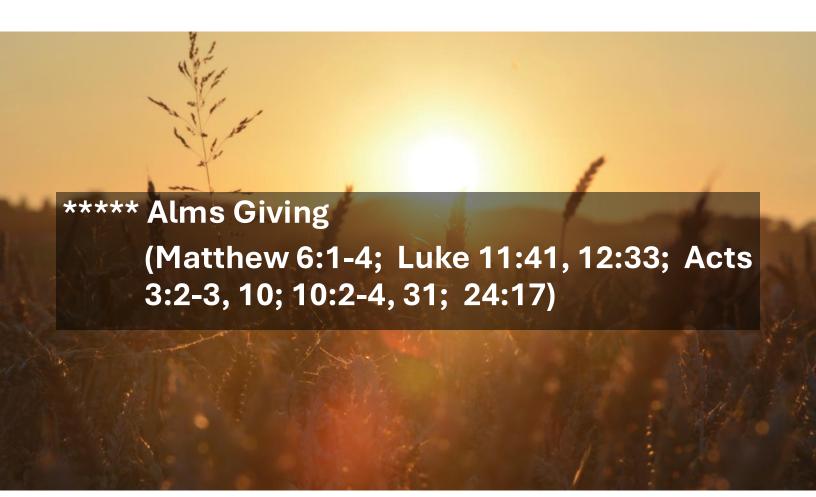
The Covenant / Exchange.

***** Everything belongs to God > Giving and Living









In Covenant, the 10% financial reciprocation on having received the Blessing of the Covenant - is merely a token of the exchange. In the true exchange, God get's 100% of us. He can rightfully ask for any good Godly thing - and we have no right of refusal. (And Vice/Versa)

In the N.T., God set aside all those laws for 2 commands both of them are built on Love. (Remember: from God's perspective, true giving flows out of Love)

We are in Covenant with God, so everything we are and have is his. And everything he is and has is ours (heirs).

(The Great Exchange)



- God has made us Stewards / Servants over everything on earth that is his.
- Genesis 1 & 2; Psalms 8:6-8; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

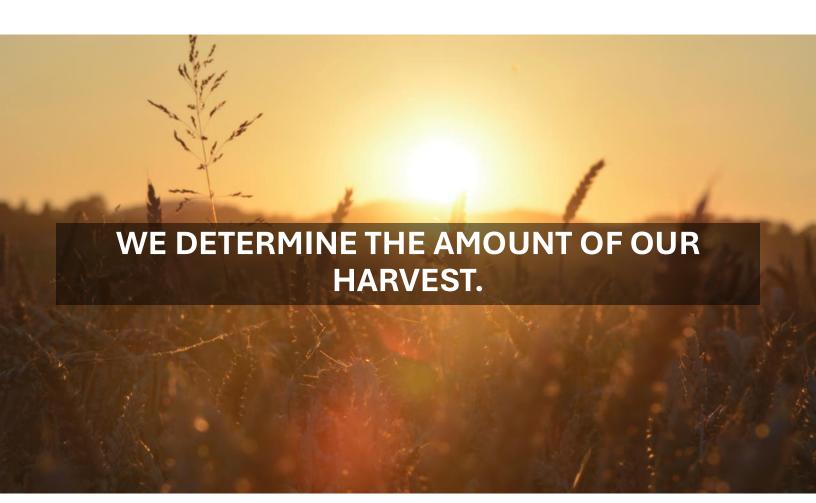
Application:

Everything we think we own actually belongs to God. We are stewards / servants of God taking care of it.

That's why he has the right to ask for everything, even our very life.

As believers, he owns us. He Redeemed us (Bought it back) with his Blood. He now owns us. We are legally his servants, which God has chosen to restore the rights of a son and the Kingdom to us.







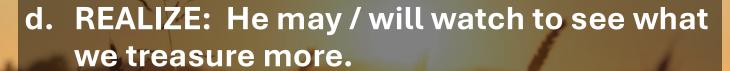
- b. You don't have to jump into the full 10% all at once....
 - start with consistent giving / planting seed.
 - let that produce some harvest in your life.
 - don't eat your harvest, but replant it,
 - until you can give the full Tithe.

- c. Realize: you may have to make some priority choices to obey God in this.
 - But we already know that Tithing is a test of our heart / motives. (We will likely be tested to see if we love something more than our tithe)

(2 Cor. 8:8)



- It's often the little things we spend our money on that eats up our tithe.
 - > Coffee, subscriptions, eating out, entertainment, hobbies, extra curricular things.....



- Remember: tithing is a covenant thing. (Exchange)

He may see if you'll give some of these up to begin putting him first.

Original Question: How does tithing benefit me?

It opens / activates every blessing of God to us..... (Nothing else does that.....)