

COMPULSARY OR VOLUNTARILY

HEBREWS 7:5, 12

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: The Hebrews were transitioning from compulsory tithing, driven by self-will to obey the Law, to voluntary giving that is driven by the grace of God in willing hearts.

GIVING TO THE LORD WAS COMPULSARY FOR THE OLD COVENANT JEW. “The Jewish law required that a tenth be paid from the produce of the earth and the increase of the flocks to the Lord...in the OT it (the tithe) was compulsory and was considered a means of earning favor with God. The Jews were prone to do the external and material while neglecting the expression of the inner qualities of the spirit...The Christian, however, is urged to give voluntarily (2 Corinthians 9:7) without neglecting the development of spiritual qualities.” Spiros Zodhiates, The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament, p. 403. (**Hebrews 7:5, Leviticus 27:30-34, fn 27:33, Deuteronomy 12:10, 11, Deuteronomy 14:28, 29, fn 14:28, 29, Deuteronomy 26:12, 13, fn 26:12, Luke 11:42, fn 11:42**) *In what way was tithing supposed to work in the everyday life of the Old Covenant Jew?*

GIVING TO THE LORD IS VOLUNTARY FOR THE NEW TESTAMENT BELIEVER.

“The New Testament does not specify any certain amount such as 10 percent, but a tithe certainly seems like a wise guideline...I do not think the New Testament requires everyone to give all that they have, or to give to the point they are living close to poverty, for the New Testament standard is generosity, not ‘give until you are poor.’” Wayne Grudem, Christians Ethics, p.1022. (**Hebrews 7:12, II Corinthians 9:6, 7, fn 9:7, II Corinthians 8:12-15, fn 8:12[1st], Proverbs 3:9, 10, fn 3:9, 10, Malachi 3:8-12, fn 3:8-12[2nd]**) *What does giving to God help you to do?*

NOW GIVING TO THE LORD SHOULD BE VOLUNTARY. Giving shows my obedience to God’s grace in joining my heart to God’s heart. It shows my love for His people and my desire to be a part of the work of Jesus Christ. Trusting in the Lord Jesus enables me to give, and “God promises several blessings for those who give.” Wayne Grudem, p.1017. (**II Corinthians 8:1-7, fn 8:7, 8, II Corinthians 9:8-14, fn 9:10 fn 9:13, Luke 10:30-37, fn 10:27-37, Luke 6:37, 38, fn 6:37, 38, Matthew 6:1-4, fn 6:3, 4**) *How could you know when and what to give?*

As you daily study the truths about Jesus, in what ways is the presence of the Holy Spirit revealing to you God’s majesty and glory?

