

Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church  
2080 West Grand Blvd.  
Detroit, Michigan 48208  
Nathan Johnson, D.D., Senior Pastor

## Lesson 10: Contribute Cheerfully and Regularly

### Scriptures:

*Proverbs 3:9; Malachi 3: 8-11; Matthew 23: 23; 2 Cor. 8:9.*

Goal: To embrace and fulfill our covenant relationship with God and one another.

Objective: To understand the importance and significance of contributing cheerfully and regularly to the church.

### Church Covenant Segment:

*“Contribute cheerfully and regularly...for the support of a faithful and evangelical ministry among us, the relief of the poor and the spread of the gospel throughout the world.”*

### Introduction

God is a generous God! John 3: 16 states that *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”* We are commanded to ‘honor the Lord with our substance, and with the first fruits of all our increase.’ [Proverbs 3:9a]. This scripture summarizes the primary reasons for trusting God with our substance. First, we honor God because of who He is—a Righteous and Holy God—this constitutes an act of worship. Secondly, we honor God because of what He has done—which is an act of gratitude. Worship and gratitude are the only responses we can give God. When we worship God we recognize His character—the essence of His being. When we show gratitude to God we recognize what He has done—granting us a relationship with Him and eternal life through the sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus Christ. We honor, worship, and give thanks to God in a variety of ways—through the giving of our time, our talents, and our treasure. This is the basis for the cheerful and regular giving of tithes and offerings to the church. Through this act of obedience we not only honor and worship God but we also provide for the ministry of the church. Our giving provides the tangible means for the fulfillment of God’s purpose for the church. It is our giving that helps us implement an evangelical ministry of the church, the relief of the poor and spread the gospel throughout the world. Churches that are obedient to God’s command *‘to bring all the tithes and offerings into the storehouse’* find they have NO difficulty meeting their financial obligations or carrying out the activities of the ministry entrusted to them. The answer lies in obediently following and trusting God’s Word and His plan for the church. God’s Word is TRUE! As we study this lesson on giving of our substance, allow the scriptures to be the filter through which you examine both individually and corporately your motives and patterns for giving to the church.

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**Dialogue Web ~ Interactive Bible Lesson**  
*Contribute Cheerfully and Regularly*

*God is a tremendous giver! He freely gives His love, grace, and mercy. He gave His only begotten Son to die on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. With His sacrifice we have been placed in a right relationship with God inheriting eternal life. To be a faithful and thankful follower of Christ, one cannot omit the discipline of giving. It is an act of obedience to gratefully give of our time, talent, and treasure. “Giving done for the glory of God draws us more fully into the will of God and brings us more closely to the place where God can truly use us.”<sup>1</sup> This spiritual act of worship supports the needs of the church, its ministries and is an effective and powerful witness to the world as the church reaches out to the poor, the lost, and the desolate.*

<i>Guiding Questions</i>	<i>What the Scripture Says</i>	<i>Class Discovery Points</i>
<p><b>1. Why should Christians give?</b></p>	<p><b>1. John 3: 16; Matthew 23:23</b></p>	<p><b>Application (s) to the church.</b></p> <p><b>1.</b></p>
<p><b>2. What does it mean to honor God with our possessions?</b></p>	<p><b>2. Prov. 3:9-10; Matthew 6:21</b></p>	<p><b>2.</b></p>
<p><b>3. What is the purpose for tithing?</b></p>	<p><b>3. Leviticus 27:30-34</b></p>	<p><b>3.</b></p>
<p><b>4. Describe the relationship between giving and a church’s vitality.</b></p>	<p><b>4. Malachi 3:8-11.</b></p>	<p><b>4.</b></p>
<p><b>5. What does the passage in Acts 4: 32 - 5: 11 reveal about the seriousness of obeying God’s command to give to the church?</b></p>	<p><b>5. Acts 4: 32 – Acts 5: 11</b></p>	<p><b>5.</b></p>

<sup>1</sup> Turner, W.C. (2002). *A Journey through the Church Covenant*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press. pg. 56-57.

**Class Summary Statement**

*Contributing cheerfully and regularly as God has prospered us is essential because...*

**Lesson Summary**

God gives the church all of the financial resources necessary to fulfill His plan for mankind. The question is do we have enough faith to obey Him? Giving is a spiritual act of worship. It is God's plan for supporting the needs of the church, the poor, and the covenant community. Malachi 3: 8-11 reads:

*“Will a man rob God? Yet, you have robbed me. But you will say, how have we robbed you? In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse; for you have robbed me, even this whole nation.*

*Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in mine house, and test me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for you sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast its fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.”*

The prophet, Malachi issues a serious charge against God's people in this passage. The people had stolen what was rightfully God's by not bringing His tithes and offerings. God's command is fair in that each person brings as God has prospered him. That means you bring according to what God has given to you. This eliminates the human tendency to compare what we bring and to attach some divine valuation to the amount we bring. Your response in giving is towards God, according to what He's given to you BUT its purpose is for the good of the entire church, its members and ministries. It stands as a visible witness of what God can accomplish when we are obedient.

God challenges us to test His faithfulness to keeping His Word. If we are obedient and faithfully (cheerfully and regularly) give our tithes and offerings we will receive three things. First, we will be blessed beyond our ability to measure. Secondly, He will keep and preserve those things that we have already. Finally, He will protect us from anything that would seek to devour and destroy what God has so bountifully given. When we look at the many problems and crises that beset so many of our churches, one cannot help but wonder whether these issues are a direct consequence of disobedience.

So, do we qualify giving tithes and offerings by how we feel about our money or do we qualify giving tithes and offerings by how we feel about our relationship with God? Our obedience demonstrates our faith and trust in God. God has made us stewards of His blessings. The tithe is rightfully His and our offering is our gift to Him. “In all our giving

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and in all it accomplishes, let us never forget that in giving we are responding to what has been given to us.”<sup>2</sup>

**Going Deeper (*Personal Reflection*)**

- 1. How have you experienced the joy of giving?**
- 2. How does giving enhance a church’s vitality?**
- 3. What is the difference between giving tithes and offerings?**

**Closing Prayer:**

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## ***Where we are in the Church Covenant... \****

HAVING BEEN LED, AS WE BELIEVE, BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior; and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge and holiness; to give it a place in our affections, prayers, and services above every organization of human origin; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine; *to contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God has prospered us, towards its expenses, for the support of a faithful and evangelical ministry among us, the relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel throughout the world.* In case of difference of opinion in the church, we will strive to avoid a contentious spirit, and if we cannot unanimously agree, we will cheerfully recognize the right of the majority to govern.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to study diligently the word of God; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintance; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be kind and just to those in our employ, and faithful in the service we promise others; endeavoring in the purity of heart and good will towards all men to exemplify and commend our holy faith.

We further engage to watch over, to pray for, to exhort and stir up each other unto every good word and work; to guard each other's reputation, not needlessly exposing the infirmities of others; to participate in each other's joys, and with tender sympathy bear one another's burdens and sorrows; to cultivate Christian courtesy; to be slow to give or take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, being mindful of the rules of the Savior in the eighteenth chapter of Matthew, to secure it without delay; and through life, amid evil report, and good report, to seek to live to the glory of God, who hath called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

When we remove from this place, we engage as soon as possible to unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

***Each month we will include a copy of the Church Covenant and highlight the current lesson. It is our hope that this will give the larger context for the passage being studied.***

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