

1. In Genesis God speaks to Abraham with a promise of Blessing:

Read and discuss, Genesis 12:1-3 NKJV. <http://bible.com/114/gen.12.1-3.nkjv>

DISCUSSION POINT

In what sense does God desire prosperity over his people? And why?
What's meant by this statement: "Our Budget is a declaration of our theology..."

**2. So, what does it mean to be a trusted manager of Gods gifts, and finances?
Jesus speaks about money twice as often as he does about Heaven and Hell-**

Consider for example : Luke 16:1-13 NASB. <http://bible.com/100/luk.16.1-13.nasb>

DISCUSSION POINT

But isn't Tithing just part of the Old Testament and so it no longer applies to the Church?

Paul De Jong stresses that Stewardship begins with Tithing.

"The tithe or the first tenth of all our increase does not belong to us but to God. ...It is true that the tithe or the first tenth was required during the period of the Old Testament law, but it also was offered before the law was established and Jesus took time in Matthew to say we should continue in it within the New Testament. Tithing is:

- *In the Old Testament (Leviticus 27: 30-32)*
- *Activated before the law (Genesis 14: 18-20)*
- *Required after the law (Matthew 23:23). GOD, MONEY AND ME, Paul de Jong, Ch 26)*

3. Allan Meyer shows Jesus confronts the issue of Stewardship seriously, using Parables to highlight that the Primary interest of God in our finances is the Lost. (See Luke Chapters 15-16; the parables of the Lost Sheep, Lost Coin and Lost Sons, then lead into the Stewardship challenge and the Danger of riches without care others.)

Conclusion

Tithing is a New Testament Command for the disciple.

In 1 Corinthians 9:3-18, Paul is quoting Numbers 18 and applying the Law to the church in **The Lord has commanded that by the same principle of Tithing that applied in the Old Testament, there now applies an obligation of supply to the workforce serving the Great High priest...the Tithe is there to release the intended workforce of the church....** especially the Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers.

Our High Priest now is Jesus and we bring the Tithe to his feet, and He disperses it to the Building of His church and Kingdom on the earth. This is both Honour and Worship to the Great High Priest, and is the first part of our Stewardship, and our Identity and Purpose.

Jesus said: **From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.**" Luke 12:42-48 NASB