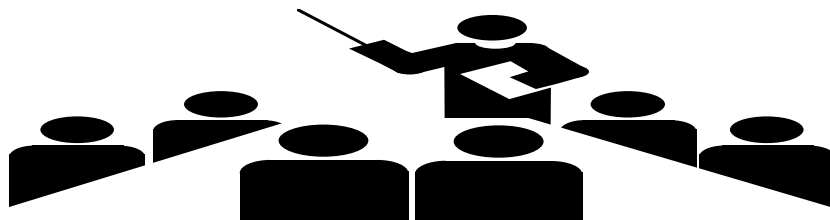


# STEWARDSHIP SEMINAR



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**Rediscovering Tithing as a Vital Part of Christian Stewardship**



# STEWARDSHIP SEMINAR

Rev. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Facilitator



## Topic: “Rediscovering Tithing as a Vital Part of Christian Stewardship”

### Part 1. Understanding Christian Stewardship

*A revival of Christian stewardship will inevitably mean a revival of spiritual life, and a revival of spiritual life will always mean a revival of Christian stewardship. This will be true of the individual, of the local church, or of the church at large. Christian stewardship, a right relationship with God, holiness of life, fellowship with God, victorious living, the consecrated life, and the Christian life are as dependent upon each other as are the spokes of a wheel.*

Milo Kauffman (*The Challenge of Christian Stewardship*)

#### I. The Meaning of Christian Stewardship

*Christian stewardship is the practice of systematic and proportionate giving of time, abilities, and material possessions, based on a conviction that these are a trust from God to be used in His service, for the benefit of all humankind.*

#### II. The Essential Elements of Christian Stewardship

- A. Christian stewardship is a *practice*—a practical expression of one’s experience with God, a fundamental principle and a Christian way of life.
- B. Christian stewardship is *systematic and proportionate*—issuing from the very heart of Christian living, it cannot be spasmodic and indefinite.
- C. Christian stewardship is *inclusive*—it is the management of life and all its resources for God and others. All of one’s time, abilities, and possessions are included.
- D. Christian stewardship is based upon a *conviction* that what we are and have is a trust from God. God is Creator and Owner of all things and we are stewards of God’s creation and of God’s gifts.
- E. Christian stewardship is *giving* for His service and for the benefit of humankind.

#### III. The Decisive Factor in Christian Stewardship (Personal Commitment)

- A. When we give ourselves to Christ, we don’t mind giving our gifts to His work. (2 Cor. 8:1-5)
- B. When we are committed to Christ, we don’t mind sharing our treasures. (Mt. 6:19-21, 24)

#### IV. The Bedrock of Christian Stewardship (Tithing)

- A. Tithing is an indicator that we recognize God’s ownership and our stewardship.
- B. Tithing is the foundation of God’s plan for financing His church.
- C. Faithfulness in tithing can lead to faithfulness in the other areas of stewardship.

## Part 2. Understanding Tithing

### I. The Meaning of Tithing

- A. It is giving God **ten percent** of all that He entrusts to us.
- B. It is giving as God has *prospered* us.
- C. It is giving *according to our ability*.
- D. It is the kind of giving that makes us a candidate for full membership in the church.
- E. It is the kind of giving that keeps us in good standing in the church.

### II. The Origin of Tithing (Tithing preceded the Mosaic Law)

- A. Abraham is the first known tither in the Bible. (Gen. 14:17-20)
  - 1. He tithed as an act of gratitude to God.
  - 2. He tithed voluntarily and not because he had to tithe.
  - 3. He tithed through the priesthood.
- B. Jacob was a tither. (Gen. 28:10-22)
  - 1. He had a personal encounter with God. (10-17)
  - 2. He set up a memorial and dedicated the place to God. (18-19)
  - 2. He vowed to give God tithes for the rest of his life. (20-22)

### III. The Seriousness of Tithing (Tithing was a part of the Mosaic Law)

- A. The tithe was **holy** unto the Lord. (Lev. 27:30)
- B. Our failure to tithe is a serious **sin** against God. (Mal. 3:7-9)
  - 1. It is going away from *God's ordinance*. (7)
  - 2. It is *robbing God*. (8)
  - 3. It results in coming under *God's curse*. (9)
- C. Our faithfulness in tithing will result in **God's blessing**. (Mal. 3:7-12)
  - 1. It is a way of returning to God. (7-9)
  - 2. It assures that there will be **meat (money) in God's house**. (10)
    - a) Money to support the ministry
    - b) Money to care for God's house
    - c) Money to minister to the community
  - 3. It results in the **windows of heaven** being opened. (10)
  - 4. It brings God's blessings in *overflowing* measure. (10)
    - a) *Financial* blessings
      - 1) Finances will come from unexpected sources.
      - 2) The other 90% will go farther.
    - b) *Spiritual* blessings
      - 1) Answers to prayers
      - 2) Solutions to life's problems
      - 3) Ideas that can change our lives and alter our careers
      - 4) Attitudes which can enhance our relationships
      - 5) Conduct which can glorify God and help others
  - 5. It results in the **devourer** being rebuked. (11)
  - 6. It results in others recognizing that God has *blessed* us. (12)
  - 7. It results in *joy* for the people of God. (12)

#### **IV. The Perpetuity of Tithing (Tithing goes beyond the Mosaic Law)**

- A. Jesus *commends* it. (Mt. 23:23)
- B. Paul taught *proportionate* giving. (1 Cor. 16:1, 2)
- D. Many New Testament passages suggest going beyond the tithe.
  - 1. Mark 12:41-44
  - 2. Acts 2:44-45
  - 3. Acts 4:32-37

### **Part 3. Understanding Giving**

#### **I. Another part of our Christian Stewardship is the giving of freewill offerings from a loving heart. (1 Chr. 29:5-9; 2 Cor. 9:7)**

- A. Offerings come from God in the first place. (1 Chr. 29:14)
- B. Offerings are an expression of our love, devotion, dedication, and faith. (1 Chr. 29:16, 17)
- C. Offerings supplement the work of God's church. (1 Chr. 29:18, 19)

#### **II. A major part of our Christian Stewardship is the wise and faithful use of the other 90%.**

- A. We must make sure that we take care of our families. (1 Tim. 5:8)
- B. We must make sure that we give to charity and those in need. (Pr. 19:17)
- C. We must make sure that we save, invest wisely, and prepare for retirement. (Mt. 25:14-30)
- D. We must make sure that we do not waste God's resources. (Pr. 18:9; 21:20)
- E. We must make sure that we are generous. (We can give our way to prosperity.) (Pr. 3:9, 10; Pr. 11:24, 25; Mal. 3:10; Luke 6:38; 2 Cor. 9:6-15)

#### **III. The heart of our Christian Stewardship is having the right motivation for giving.**

- A. Giving in the light of the tax advantages
- B. Giving in the light of the church's survival
- C. Giving in the light of God's possible chastening.
- D. Giving in the light of God's possible blessing.
- E. Giving in the light of God's glory.