

## THE TRAINING WHEELS OF GIVING

January 12, 2014 Various Texts by Bob Branch

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**MAIN IDEA:** Explore Biblical tithing, and how it is the minimum standard of Christian giving.

1. **There is a fundamental connection between a person's spiritual life and his ATTITUDES and ACTIONS concerning money and possessions.**

**Luke 19:1-10. Zaccheus,** *“salvation has come to this house.”*

**Matthew 19:16-26. Rich young ruler.** *“Give away to poor, have riches in heaven, and follow me.”*

**Acts 2:42-47** They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

**Acts 4:32-35**

**Acts 19:18-20. Ephesians.** Burned occult books, worth \$4M

**Mark 12:41-44—poor widow.** Gave everything— *revealed her true spiritual condition thru her attitude/actions with money.*

**God doesn't need our money, but our attitude toward and our use of money either connects us into God's life or unplugs us from it!**

*“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”*

**Matthew 6:19-25**

2. **I direct my HEART by directing my TREASURES.**

3. **Tithing is the TRAINING WHEELS of Giving,... to get us going!**

*“A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.” **Leviticus 27:30***

◆ **“Tithe”**—means a tenth, 10%.

◆ **“Everything”** Not some things, or most things.

**Q: Gross or Net?**

◆ **“Belongs to the LORD”** It doesn't belong to me.

◆ **“Holy to the Lord”** Set apart & given to God.

**New Testament Radical Generosity...** Tithe plus...

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Old Testament: **tithes** (mandatory), **freewill offerings** (voluntary)

**Tithing was practiced before the law**, by Abraham & Jacob (Gen. 14:20; 28:20-22)

**There is no question that Jesus tithed.**

*“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.”*

**Matthew 23:23** (Gal. 3:24)

**Tithing is a way of putting God first.**

4. **Tithing CONNECTS us to God's blessing.**

*“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.” **Malachi 3:10***

**Make a plan.** Decide. Set aside money each week/pay period. Give it, and don't stop. See what God will do.