

### **What is the basis for the tithe?**

In the Old Testament in Genesis 14, Abraham gives a tithe to Melchizedek and in the Law believers were required to give a tenth of their income to the support of the ministry and the needs of the poor. Jesus warns the Pharisees and scribes in Matthew 23:23 about disobeying the true principle of tithing. Elsewhere in the New Testament, we are taught that we should give as we are “able and even beyond [our] ability” (2 Corinthians 8:3). In principle a tithe of 10% is seen as a guideline for giving.

### **What if I am unable to give 10% right now?**

There are seasons when we have plenty and very little in life. There are financial responsibilities to our families, friends, communities, and in some cases, creditors. We should give without neglecting our legal and personal financial obligations. All our situations will vary, for some people, 10% will not be a sacrifice. For others, giving even 5% is a sacrifice. The goal is to give as an act of worship that models Christ's love for us.

### **Should I give all of my tithe & offering to Beulah Baptist?**

Not necessarily. The allocation of your money and time to God's service should be a through a result of prayer and ongoing evaluation. However, if you consider Beulah your church or you are a church member, you should consider allocating a significant portion of your tithe and offering to the community where you invest most of your time and where others are investing in you.

### **Isn't there more to generosity & stewardship than money?**

Being a good steward includes: money, time, skills, influence and position. Generosity and stewardship are about much more, but not less, than our financial resources. Our heart's inclination is to worship anything other than God. Learning to give as an act of worship can liberate us from our idolatry and fix our eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2).

### **Giving and Vision**

Beulah's vision of Knowing Jesus, Transforming lives and Changing society means we are invested in each other as a church, but we desire to be a people who impact those around us with the gospel too.

In a church with various ministries happening it is easy to think that your individual contributions do not make a great deal of difference to the work that is being done. However, most of our running costs comes from the weekly giving of our members and regular attenders. Your giving counts, changes lives, makes a difference and is greatly appreciated!

### **Devotion**

Read Matthew 6:21 out loud.

Jesus here tells us one of the most important lessons about money. Our heart and it's desires are closely tied to our treasure. How we handle our money often reflects our heart. When Jesus calls our attention to this part of our character, he confronts us. Money and 'nice things' have an allure that can make us act and believe in a way that is contrary to our Christian belief. He calls us to examine where we place our money and our heart: earthly pleasures that fade away or eternal kingdom investments that last forever.

1. Where is most of your treasure? Is that where your heart is?
2. When you give, does that frighten you or excite you? Why?

Pray that you a mind that tells treasure what to do, not treasure that tells your heart what to do. Take time to review your bank statement and your credit card statements. Specifically, where does most of your money go? Where are the priorities?

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