# *Excel in the Grace of Giving!*

**Lord, grant me faith to “Excel in the Grace of Giving.”**

**Honoring God with our Tithes**

There is a story about a financially successful man who had trouble with the tithing concept. He went to his pastor and said, “If I would tithe my $500,000 salary I would have to give $50,000.” The pastor listened to his problem and agreed that $50,000 was a lot of money to give, so he offered to pray for the man: “Dear Lord, please help my friend earn less money so he finds it easier to tithe.”

Tithing is the practice of honoring God with one tenth (10 percent) of our incomes. Tithing is a concept that is fair to the rich and the poor. Leviticus 27:30 says, *“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.”* A $50,000 gift, as in the story, is no more important from the perspective of Biblical stewardship than a $5 gift when they represent proportionate firstfruit giving. God is not concerned about the size of the gift, but the motive for the gift.

In the Old Testament, the tithe was brought into the storehouse to do the Lord’s work. The tithe most often was given not in monetary form, but in goods. Since this was mainly an agrarian culture, produce from the fields was offered. The food was used to feed the priests and their staffs as well as the needy. Today, as well, we bring our goods and money for the expenses of the church, spreading the Gospel, and helping the needy. Giving God our first and best demonstrates our complete trust and love for him.

As Christians today we are motivated for stewardship by the gift of God’s grace in the Gospel. Our giving can have no greater foundation than the Gospel of forgiveness and God’s promises. The tithe continues as a giving bench mark, while grace sets a higher calling for us to achieve as we stewards live and give.

**Prayer:** Lord, thank you for trusting me with so many blessings. Grant me faith to be trustworthy with your gifts. Use me as an instrument of your grace, mercy, and love to others. May others see you through me. In Christ’s name I pray. **Amen.**

© Copyright Parish Publishing, LLC ⚫ May not be copied without permission. ⚫ www.parishpublishing.org