

# FIVE REASONS TO TITHE

*(Adapted from “Giving – Growing Joyful Stewards in Your Congregation”  
The Episcopal Church in the United States of America)*

The principle of tithing is just one part of Stewardship as a way of life and tithing is documented very early in the Old Testament. How early? Try Genesis. Specifically, Genesis 28:10-22... “and of all that you give me I will surely give one tenth to you.” (Gen. 28:22) This is the story of Jacob and it’s one of the best tithing stories you can find, serving as evidence that Stewardship is an ancient model for living, and tithing is our **most ancient model for giving.**

Tithing helps us worship God more in our lives. It encourages our spiritual growth and **trust in God.** Tithing is an important form of self discipline for both the motivated and the non-motivated. If you’re not motivated in the realm of self discipline, what you begin to do from a sense of duty will eventually become your greatest source of joy. It’s all part of God’s provision for our trust-based relationship with him.

Tithing brings **God’s wisdom to our finances,** exercising a healthy spiritual discipline over them, and helping us combat the destructive materialism and greed that destroy the lives of many. Although credit may have become a necessary “evil” for today’s living, God never intended for us to spend more than we earn. When we plan to put God first in our lives, we plan to control destructive spending and borrowing.

Tithing provides the means to keep our pastors and missionaries in full-time service to God. The call to full-time ministry as employment is not given to many of us, but we all are called with the opportunity to **participate in ministry through our financial support.** Tithing makes that participation possible. It’s one of the ways we are joined with other Christians around the world as the family of God.

Tithing strengthens the ministry, outreach and health of our congregations, molding us into true Christian communities of faith, love and grace. This **congregational strength** is an important building block in our fulfillment of the greatest commandment, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” When we stand together, we stand a chance of reaching and changing the world with the Gospel.

So there you have it. **Tithing is an ancient model. Tithing builds trust in God. Tithing brings God’s wisdom to finances. Tithing provides ministry support. Tithing builds congregational strength.** Tithing. Try it. You’ll like it!