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You've probably heard it before – or perhaps said it yourself: “All the church wants is my money.”

It's funny!! I've never heard anyone say “all McDonald's wants is my money”

Or “All the Blue Jays want is my money”

Or “All the country club wants is my money”

Of course the church needs money, but unlike those businesses I just mentioned, the church first and foremost is interested in your salvation - not your pocketbook.

First and foremost, your priest doesn't want your money, but rather wants you to know Jesus as Saviour and Lord; wants you to seek first the kingdom of God. But these ministries are funded by the money we give – you and me.

And that's where tithing come in - we pay tithes. Not that it's some sort of religious tax, but it is a monetary (material) recognition that Jesus is Lord of what we have.

Giving 10% of ones' wealth is first mentioned long before God talked about tithing in the Law. Abram paid tithes to Melchizedek, priest and king of Salem. He did this because God had given him a spectacular victory in a battle, where he received his nephew Lot and family from captivity and certain slavery. All that he gained in that battle was tithed to God's servant Melchizedek.

Tithing was endorsed by Jesus as a righteous act along with showing justice and mercy.

There are so many reasons to give 10% of your earnings to God's kingdom. I can think of 7 off the top of my head:

- 1. It's About God's Ownership. It is a recognition that God owns everything - Ps. 24:1 "the earth is the Lord's"**
- 2. It's a Lasting Investment. It is an investment in the most important enterprise on earth - the church of Jesus Christ.**
- 3. It's a Partnership with God. It permits God to become a real partner in our economic life.**
- 4. It's Pocketbook Love. – not loving our pocketbook in some idolatrous way, but the opposite. It allows our pocketbook to say that we love the Lord.**
- 5. It Opens the Door to Blessing. It opens the way for God's blessings (could quote Mal. 3: 10 & following here)**
- 6. It Grows Faith. It is a way to grow our faith by trusting God with our "stuff".**

7. It Revitalizes our Worship. It often produces a fresh sense of vitality in worship if tithe is given in worship.

If starting at 10% is too much of a challenge, start at 2%. Increment it by 1% each month. You will find as I have, and all tithers have, that miracle math happens here. Somehow living on 90% secures for us more than trying to live on all 100%.

And, oh yeah, you soon become a more-than-a-thither.

Be Blessed!