

Who’s in Charge?

*1 Corinthians 4:1-2*

John Maxwell: “Stewardship is the proper Management of my Assets
in order to build God’s Kingdom.

A. The “Who’s in Charge?” Principle

* God is the Owner; Psalm 24:1; 1 Chronicles 29:11
* I don’t own Anything
* I am a Manager
* A steward is one who owns Nothing but is responsible for Everything
* Everything you have, you Don’t have. It All Belongs to God

B. The “Give and Grow” Principle

* Practicing Stewardship produces Growth
* Increase your Faith; Malachi 3:10
* Become spiritually Sensitive; Malachi 3:8-10
* Receive Blessings from God; Malachi 3:10-12
* Be a Blessing to Others; Galatians 6:10
* Make a lasting contribution to God’s Kingdom; Matthew 6:20
* Corollary: Investment and Return
* What you Sow, you will Reap; 2 Corinthians 9:6

C. The “Do it Now!” Principle

* Stewardship deals with your Present resources
* If you don’t give Generously with what you have now, you won’t do so when you have More; Luke 16:10
* Don’t Wait! Start Today!
* Don’t wait until you can Afford to give
* Trust God Now! Faith is Obeying God in spite of feelings, circumstances, or consequences

Bonus: The “I’m in Debt” Principle

* The moment you are Born, you are in debt
* Ask God to help you be a Faithful and Obedient steward

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**Tithing: A Biblical Foundation** (#1)

John Maxwell, Successful Stewardship

*Question:* **Isn’t Tithing Under the Old Testament Law?**

*Answer:* No. While tithing one’s income was a lawful practice for God’s people, tithing was practiced by the patriarchs 400 years before the law was even around (Genesis 14:20 and 28:22)! Abraham “tithed” to the Lord through the priest Melchizedek as a lifestyle principle, not a ritual. According to Deuteronomy 14:22-23, tithing was to be a practice of prioritizing God in life, and of recognizing that He is the source of our income.

*Question:* **How Do We Know that “Tithe” Means 10%?**

*Answer:* Tithing is directly mentioned thirty-nine times in Scripture, and in each case it means “a tenth part.” Again, in Genesis 14 it states that Abraham “tithed to the Lord;” then, in the New Testament explanation of that event, Hebrews 7:2-4 says that it was 10%. Numbers 18:26 speaks of the Levites “tithing off of the tithe” by giving 10% to the Lord from their income.

*Question:* **What if I Go Broke Giving Up that Much Income?**

*Answer:* This is a natural objection, given that the person still operates off of this world’s rationale. In God’s economy, however, the more a person sows, the more he reaps (Galatians 6:7). Give and it shall be given unto you (Luke 6:38). Tithing is just one of the three ways to “invest” in God’s kingdom – and in every case, God promises to repay in abundance. There is nothing unspiritual about this. The Apostle Paul discusses how to invest in the ministry through giving in Philippians 4, then concludes with verse 19: *“And my God shall meet all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”* Doubtless, prosperity preachers today can distort this sowing/reaping principle – but it remains a scriptural principle just the same. The classic text illustrating this is Malachi 3:8-12 where God instructs His people to bring their tithe to His storehouse in order to prove His generosity, as He blesses in return.

*Question:* **Does Jesus or the New Testament Teach Us to Tithe?**

*Answer:* People often mistake the New Testament truth that since “everything” belongs to the Lord, tithing is now obsolete. It is true that everything does belong to God, but far too often this becomes a cop-out for carnal people to hold on to money and material things. They prefer to spiritualize the issue just as the Pharisees did in Matthew 15:4-6. Jesus is concerned about both our understanding that God owns everything and that we ought to continue exhibiting our submission to God (tangibly) through the act of tithing; Matthew 23:23. Luke 11:42 echoes the same truth, straight from Jesus’ lips. Tithing is brought up again in Hebrews 7:5-9 where the writer discusses Melchizedek receiving tithes as a “type of Christ.” Clearly, this age of grace we live in was not to eliminate a biblical practice like tithing; if anything, we should be living an even greater, more supernatural life by giving more than our tithe!