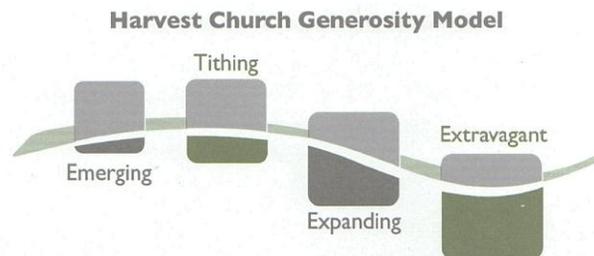




# In God We Trust

Building our theology of money and generosity

## Tithing



**OPENING DISCUSSION: 2 Corinthians 9:6–8** *“Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.” And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.”* (NLT) Vern said that when God gives a command that it is for our good, God wants our obedience to that command to develop a character quality within us. While Paul does not *command* them to give, he does give them a character that should be resident or must be developed through giving. **After reading this passage, what character quality is Paul calling Christ followers to?**

**READ: Genesis 14:17-20** After Abraham had rescued his nephew, Lot, from foreign conquerors, he also got the spoils of war the armies had gathered from the cities they defeated. Abraham, then, was now a VERY rich man. When Abram arrives in the area of Salem (modern day Jerusalem), the king Melchizedek, who comes out to bless him (the bread and wine). What did Abram do in response to God’s blessing?

**READ: Genesis 14:21-24** When the king of Sodom asked for his people back, but acknowledged that Abram deserved the spoils of war, what is Abram’s response to him?

Did Abram deserve the spoils of war?

What attitude did Abram have about where his wealth came from?

**READ: Deuteronomy 14:28-29** God commanded Israel to budget a gift from that year’s produce every 3rd year. What groups of people were the recipients of this tithe? What is the promise to them for giving this tithe? (cf the end of verse 29)

New Testament generosity of the tithe.

**READ: 2<sup>ND</sup> CORINTHIANS 8:1-15** We are going to discover some of the attitudes Paul wanted to accentuate in this collection.

What was the living and economic condition of the Macedonian Church (8:2-3)

**In spite of these circumstances, what does Paul point to about their attitude toward those who were in need? (2b-5)**

**What is our model for generosity in 8:9 and what is that model?**

**READ 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:10**

**Who provides our ability and resources for living and thriving?**

**What does God promise when we become generous with HIS stuff which are at our discretion? (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 9:11-12)**

**READ Proverbs 3:9-10**

**What does the Bible tell us about the faith that should go into tithing?**

**READ Malachi 3:8-12**

**What is the promise God gives to Israel when they obey His command to give a percentage of their increase?**

**Discuss the Harvest 90-Day Challenge (see Card attached)**

**What promises of God does this challenge call you to believe by tithing 10% of your increase?**

**What will you do with this challenge?**