

Exodus 35:21

Then everyone came whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, and they brought the LORD'S offering for the work of the tabernacle of meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments.

I think we all know the word “**tithe**” and even know what it means. For those who don’t, it’s simply giving back to the Lord as He has blessed us, and the rule of thumb is ten percent.

Yet how many actually “**tip**” God instead of “**tithe**” to God? Like, “*Good job God on getting me that raise or that new job, here’s a tip for all Your hard work.*” I know that sounds crazy, but if we only give when it is convenient for us, or when we feel like God “earned it,” then we are actually “**tipping**” God and not giving back (**tithing**) to God what He has blessed us with.

Think of being at a restaurant. We tip our servers based upon how good of a job they did. But let’s say you were out of a job, and your server knew it, so he or she got you a job at the restaurant that they work at. Now you wouldn’t tip them, but maybe you would give them a thank you gift once you got your first paycheck, but nothing after that. You also would not give them a portion of your paycheck each payday, because you are not that thankful to him or her.

But are we not that thankful to the Lord for all He does for us everyday? If we are, then why would we give God a **tip**, and not a thank you offering (**tithe**) each payday?

It also goes beyond tithing with money, but it can also be our time or our resources. Look at today’s verse, and see that it not only includes money, but the people’s times and resources as well.

† *“for the work of the tabernacle of meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments.”*

For me, I am a musician, and God has gifted me to play for Him, so I use that gift to help bring to congregation before the Lord each Sunday. But maybe you are not a musician, yet that is no excuse to not use what God has given you the ability to do as a resource to give back to the Lord. Some help in children’s ministry, some usher or work in the parking lot. Some help in the coffee ministry, or cleaning the church each week, or greet, or are security, or... So many things that God has given us the ability to do through the Holy Spirit. Once again, not so we can tip the Lord, but so we can give back to the Lord because of Who He is and all He does for us each and every day.

Jesus taught us to be servants, and a servant does not tip the ones he or she is serving, so let’s stop tipping God like He is our servant and give to Him the Honor and Glory He so deserves through our tithe and offering of service.

† **Malachi 1:6-8 (MSG)** *“Isn't it true that a son honors his father and a worker his master? So if I'm your Father, where's the honor? If I'm your Master, where's the*

respect?" GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies is calling you on the carpet: "You priests despise me!

"You say, 'Not so! How do we despise you?'

"By your shoddy, sloppy, defiling worship.

"You ask, 'What do you mean, 'defiling'? What's defiling about it?' "When you say, 'The altar of GOD is not important anymore; worship of GOD is no longer a priority,' that's defiling. And when you offer worthless animals for sacrifices in worship, animals that you're trying to get rid of—blind and sick and crippled animals—isn't that defiling? Try a trick like that with your banker or your senator—how far do you think it will get you?" GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies asks you.