

MULTIPLIED BY TEN

by Pat Jones

Contrary to what many religions teach, God did not bind a figure of 10%, a tithe, in connection with giving under the New Covenant. Instead, we are bound with the expression "liberality" (II Cor. 9:6-13). Still, a valid implication of the tithing commandments in the Law of Moses (Lev. 27:30-32) was that God believed that all (whether they prospered much or little) were capable of giving 10% . I seriously doubt that God thinks we are less capable of that today.

As Christians we present ourselves to God as "living sacrifices" (Rom. 12:2). In our lives we not only have money, but also time, talents and opportunities. Would you be willing to give ONE-TENTH of these? To phrase the question in another way, suppose that what you gave to the Lord this week out of your money, time, talents, and opportunities, God would give back to you next week multiplied by ten.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION — Would those who felt generous at putting \$15 in the collection plate be panicking at the thought of surviving on a \$150 pay check?

YOUR TIME — Would those who work God in for one whole hour on Sunday morning feel cheated to find that their week would last only 10 hours? Even those who faithfully attend each service (about four hours a week), but have no time for personal study, prayer, teaching others, good works, etc. would still find there 168 hour week cut to 40 hours.

YOUR TALENTS — Talents not only permit us to be of use in God's service, but also allow us to earn a living and function effectively. Talent is not so easy to measure by numbers, but just think--What if your skills of communicating on the job were effective only in proportion to how much you used them serving God. What a tragedy for those who were too busy to be leaders, teachers, or workers in the kingdom who would lose their talents and probably their jobs, too.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY— Opportunities abound. That car in the driveway could be used to go visit the sick or take someone to worship. That telephone over there grants you an opportunity to call and encourage a weak Christian. But what if God allowed that car or phone to work only 10 times for every once you used it for Him? Would they be operating at all next week?

As Christians our attitude should NOT be how little can I give to or do for the Lord and still get by. Instead, we should think, How much of the Lord's generous gifts to me, will I return to Him in thanksgiving? Jesus stated, "So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done." (Luke 17:10). How well would you do if the Lord multiplied by ten what you give to Him?