

7. SHOULDN'T I JUST GIVE WHATEVER AMOUNT IS IN MY HEART TO GIVE?

God's word says "The heart is deceitful above all things" Jeremiah 17:9. We have to be very careful about relying on what we feel, especially when it comes to money. Often this question or statement is an excuse for those who don't want to tithe. Sometimes 2 Cor. 9:7 is quoted to support this concept. But 2 Cor. 9 is not referring to the tithe, but to a separate benevolent offering Paul was taking to relieve the famine stricken Jerusalem church. So yes, give as much or as little as you want for offerings, but the tithe belongs to God. Isn't it interesting that when we rely on our "hearts" to determine an amount instead of just obeying God, we often shortchange what God desires? What is ironic though is that as we tithe our hearts do change and we do become more generous! This does not mean that we don't pray and ask for discernment in giving issues. Giving IS a heart matter. We just need to be careful not to fall into the trap of making excuses for our disobedience. And on the flip side we want to be careful that we don't slip into legalism by approaching tithing as a "10% tax" and ignore the heart issues of giving.

8. IF I TITHE ON MY GROSS INCOME, DO I NEED TO TITHE ON THE MONEY THAT I GET BACK FROM MY TAX RETURNS?

No, because you have already given your tithe on your gross income during the year.

9. IF I OWN A BUSINESS, DO I PAY A TITHE ON ALL MONIES

You should tithe on the net profit. Your materials and overhead cost should be subtracted from your income, then tithe on your net profit.