

LESSON 17 by *Dennis N. Roberts*
The Law of Tithing & The Law of the Fast

(Objective: to help members strengthen desire to pay tithing and fast)

Welcome

10 apples

1- The Lord promised blessings to those who pay tithing

Lord's definition of tithing

- a. D&C 119:1-4 What is the Lord's definition of tithing?
b. *Supplement #1* *First Presidency & Joseph Fielding Smith*

Lord's promises to tithe payers

- c. Malachi 3:8-9 How can people rob God?
d. Malachi 3:10-12 What does Lord promise to tithe payers?
e. *Supplement #2* *Elder Dallin H. Oaks*

Reason for paying tithing

- f. *Why do we pay tithing?*

1- _____ 2- _____
3- _____ 4- _____

- g. *Supplement #3* *Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin*

Use of tithing funds

- h. D&C 120 Who determines how tithing is spent?
i. *Supplement #4* *President Gordon B. Hinckley*

2- The Lord commanded us to fast and pay fast offering

- a. What are some purposes of fasting?

1- _____ 2- _____
3- _____ 4- _____

- b. How can we prepare for the fast?
c. How important is prayer during the fast?
d. How do fast offerings enhance our fasts?
e. How do we determine how much fast offering to pay?
f. Isaiah 58:6-7 What are consequences of paying offerings?
g. Isaiah 58:8-12 What is promised if we obey law of fast?

How does this apply to me?

What does it cost members to pay a 10% tithing and give a generous fast offering?

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LESSON 17 SUPPLEMENTS *by Dennis N. Roberts*

SUPPLEMENT #1 First Presidency

“The simplest statement we know of is the statement of the Lord himself, namely, that the members of the Church should pay ‘one-tenth of all their interest annually,’ which is understood to mean income. No one is justified in making any other statement than this”

(First Presidency letter, 19 Mar. 1970).

President Joseph Fielding Smith

“It is remarkable how many excuses can be made and interpretations given as to what constitutes the tenth. ... It is written, however, that as we measure it shall be measured to us again. If we are stingy with the Lord, he may be stingy with us, or in other words, withhold his blessings”

(*Church History and Modern Revelation*, [1953], 2:92).

SUPPLEMENT #2 Elder Dallin H. Oaks

“During World War II, my widowed mother supported her three young children on a schoolteacher’s salary that was meager. When I became conscious that we went without some desirable things because we didn’t have enough money, I asked my mother why she paid so much of her salary as tithing. I have never forgotten her explanation: ‘Dallin, there might be some people who can get along without paying tithing, but we can’t. The Lord has chosen to take your father and leave me to raise you children. I cannot do that without the blessings of the Lord, and I obtain those blessings by paying an honest tithing. When I pay my tithing, I have the Lord’s promise that he will bless us, and we must have those blessings if we are to get along’ ”

(General Conference, Apr. 1994, 43–44; or *Ensign*, May 1994, 33).

SUPPLEMENT #3 Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin

“the payment of tithing has less to do with money, but more to do with faith.”

(in Conference Report, Apr. 1990, 41; or *Ensign*, May 1990, 32).

SUPPLEMENT #4 President Gordon B. Hinckley

“I keep on the credenza behind my desk a widow’s mite that was given me in Jerusalem many years ago as a reminder, a constant reminder, of the sanctity of the funds with which we have to deal. They come from the widow; they are her offering as well as the tithe of the rich man, and they are to be used with care and discretion for the purposes of the Lord. We treat them carefully and safeguard them and try in every way that we can to see that they are used as we feel the Lord would have them used for the upbuilding of His work and the betterment of people” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1996, 69; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1996, 50).

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Lord's definition of tithing

- a. D&C 119:1-4 What is the Lord's definition of tithing? Read heading first / historical background
- b. Supplement #1 First Presidency & Joseph Fielding Smith What are consequences of paying more or less than 10%

Lord's promises to tithe payers

- c. Malachi 3:8-9 How can people rob God? Would you break into your neighbor's house and rob?
- d. Malachi 3:10-12 What does Lord promise to tithe payers? What could be your "devourer"? Remember...blessings come after a test!
- e. Supplement #2 Elder Dallin H. Oaks Do you pay tithing by convenience or by conviction?

Reason for paying tithing

- f. Why do we pay tithing? How does an honest tithing show our love for the Lord?
- 1- _____ 2- _____ Why is it sometimes a challenge to pay tithing?
- 3- _____ 4- _____ What can we do to overcome these challenges?
- g. Supplement #3 Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin How is tithing more about faith than finances?

Council on the Disposition of the Tithes

Use of tithing funds

- h. D&C 120 Who determines how tithing is spent? First Presidency, Quorum of 12, and Presiding Bishopric
- i. Supplement #4 President Gordon B. Hinckley What are tithing funds used for?

Temples and chapels / missionary work / translate & publish scriptures / seminaries / etc

2- The Lord commanded us to fast and pay fast offering

- a. What are some purposes of fasting? How can we make fasting a joyful experience? (3 Ps)
- 1- _____ 2- _____ guidance, draw near to God, spiritual strength, humility, bless others
- 3- _____ 4- _____ control bodily appetites, overcome weaknesses, strengthen testimonies
- b. How can we prepare for the fast? How is fasting more meaningful if we prepare for it?
- c. How important is prayer during the fast? Why is it important to pray throughout our fasts?
- d. How do fast offerings enhance our fasts? What are fast offerings used for?
- e. How do we determine how much fast offering to pay? See supplemental quotes from Romney and Kimball
- f. Isaiah 58:6-7 What are consequences of paying offerings? Loose bands of wickedness, undo heavy burdens, set oppressed free
- g. Isaiah 58:8-12 What is promised if we obey law of fast? Are there any of us who do not need these blessings?

How does this apply to me?

What does it cost members to pay a 10% tithing and give a generous fast offering?

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