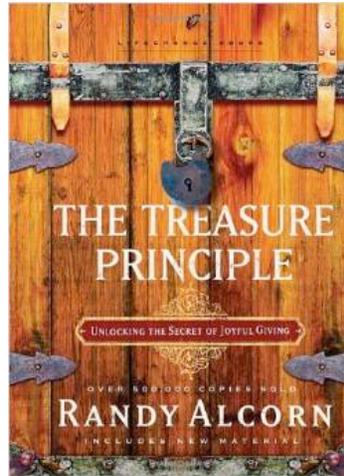


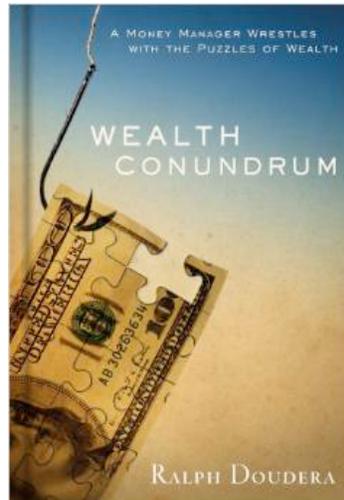
How Do I Start?

1. First, read scripture for assurance tithing won't ruin your life. Suggestions: Malachi 6: 6-13; Matthew 6:24-34; and Philippians 4:10-20.
2. Ask God to make it possible for you to honor Him with what He's given you. Be real and specific. Tell Him your fears and anxieties. Ask Him to give you the desire to give.
3. Develop a plan to start giving a certain percentage of your income to the Lord now and go from there. Starting is half the challenge. Work your way up to the 10 percent tithe as God opens doors and provides for you to give. You will be amazed how freeing giving becomes once you start and How God gives you power along the way.
4. Talk to others who practice tithing. Listen to their amazing stories of how God has provided. Ask questions. Learn how they started to give and how God has been faithful.
5. Remember that God pays for what He orders. Afraid you won't be able to afford a need or even a want? Honor God with your wealth and wait with expectations to experience more of God's hand and provision in your life.

Further Reading



The Treasure Principle
by Randy Alcorn



Wealth Conundrum
by Ralph Doudera

Pick up one or both of these books on the book table in the fellowship hall.

Why Tithe?

Reasons to Give

CHURCH OF THE **RESURRECTION**

11525 Greenspring Avenue
Lutherville, MD 21093
410-560-0456 • resbaltimore.org

Four Reasons to Tithe:

Everything Belongs to God

"It is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy." (1 Corinthians 4:2)

Tithing reminds us who is in charge of our lives. We are accountable to God for what we do with what He has entrusted to us. We are not owners in our own right, free to do as we please, but managers of God's possessions. One day we will give an account to Him for how we have managed all He has given to us. We know He gives the power to manage well what He gives (Philippians 4:13). Tithing not only reminds us it is all God's but is an act of worship in acknowledging Who God is and what He is worth.

Tithing Reflects Our Heart

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)

Tithing teaches us to put God first in our lives and experience the power to "let go" of the idols we falsely believe will provide us with freedom, joy and opportunities only God can give. God promises that if we trust Him, He will meet our needs not only for food, clothing and shelter, but for joy, purpose, and fulfillment. More importantly, seeking God first places all other wants and desires in His hands, trusting Him to give us what we need. Tithing is an act of worship.

Thankfulness

"What shall I render to the Lord for all his bounty to me?" (Psalm 116:12)

The motive for Christian giving is not pride, guilt, duty, fear or even to give to a good cause. The motive for Christian giving is thankfulness. The Biblical answer to "Why Give?" is found in Psalm 116:17: "I will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving." Gratitude for salvation leads to generous giving. Paul roots giving out of gratitude in the gospel itself writing, "for you know the grace of our Lord Jesus, that though He was rich, He became poor for your sakes, so that through His poverty we might become rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9)

Joy

"God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8)

God will bless us in abundance to enable us to have enough to give. He wants us to experience the joy of blessing others and becoming instruments in His kingdom expansion business. Those who know the grace of giving really do experience the truth "it is more blessed to give than receive."

Why 10 Percent?

God told the Israelites after they had been freed from Egypt that the first 10 percent of everything they earned or received belonged to Him. (Leviticus 27:30-32.) The purpose of the commandment was to remind them that everything comes from God who provides generously for His people. God didn't want His people to believe the lie that they were masters of their own destiny and could live without Him. The 10 percent tithe was a way to remain dependent on God by offering the "first fruits" of all they had. God says in Malachi 3, "Bring the full tithes into the storehouse... put me to the test, and see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing."

In the New Testament, Jesus talked about money more than anything else except the Kingdom of God. He promised that He could so free us from fear, from an inordinate love of money and from the world that we would gladly give of ourselves and our wealth to Him. He invited us to learn how to become stewards of what He gives. To them that are faithful, He promised to give more. (Luke 16:10-12) Some hold the New Testament standard is even greater than 10 percent – what is known as sacrificial giving, (2 Corinthians 8:7) and many Christians know the joy of giving more and more each year.