



TEN FOR THEM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Ten for Them Challenge?

Someone invested in the mission of creating a church you could attend. Now we're asking you to do the same by investing a percentage of your income in the ministry of the local church for a 60-day trial period. If you don't feel you can commit to a full tithe, choose a percentage that reflects a step of faith for you.

For many people, it will mean trusting God at a whole new level with their personal finances. We think that's a great thing, because when you trust God with your finances, you're deeply trusting God.

What is tithing?

The word "tithe" is derived from the Hebrew word ma'aser and it literally means a tenth. Ten percent of everything belongs to the Lord, even though really 100% belongs to him as we are a steward of everything we are entrusted with.

What does God promise about tithing?

In the Old Testament, God says:

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

In the New Testament, Christians became known for their generosity. Scripture says this about generosity:

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Isn't tithing just an Old Testament concept?

The practice of tithing begins in the book of Genesis, the very first book of the Bible. Eventually, the practice of tithing was adopted as the standard for the people of Israel. We believe that the tithe continues to be a reasonable level of generosity for all of God's people in every era.

What does the New Testament say about giving?

The New Testament standard might be better characterized as one of radical generosity (see Acts 2 and Acts 4). A great question to ask is what generosity looks like for people living in one of the most prosperous

cultures in human history—21st century America. In light of all we've been given by God, 10% might just be a starting point. Perhaps the New Testament standard is much higher than the Old Testament.

How do I participate in the Ten for Them Challenge?

Pray, read the scriptures, look over your budget to plan accordingly, and, when ready, fill out the Ten For Them Challenge card and sign it. Again, this is between you and God. The card is merely a symbolic way for you to commit to this spiritual act of worship. You can bring it to church with you, mail it in, or even fill it out online at parkerhill.org/ten-for-them.

An extremely convenient, easy and safe way to give is by going to our website, parkerhill.org/give to set up an automated, recurring giving amount.

Where does my money go?

It goes right back into creating a church where people can find their way back to God. Parker Hill is 100% supported through your investment in the mission and vision God has called us to. God is doing something now, and we want to respond now by being ready and opening up more room for new people.

Should I give while I'm trying to get out of debt?

Yes! This may sound irrational, because getting out of debt should be one of the highest priorities in your financial planning. But by obeying God first in our finances, we believe that God will begin to work with you on your financial situation. Also, since getting out of debt is all about discipline, think of the benefits of developing a financial plan that includes God's prescribed discipline of faithful giving.

Does Parker Hill offer any practical help for people with their finances?

Yes we do. On February 23, at the Dickson City campus, we'll again be offering Financial Peace University to help you win with your finances. Financial Peace University is one of the best personal financial management courses available, and it can change your life. Go to parkerhill.org/fpu for more details and to register.

Have more questions?

Feel free to contact Tom Gattorna, Parker Hill's treasurer and Executive Pastor of Operations. He can be reached at 570-341-8383 x33 or tom.gattorna@parkerhill.org