

Why You Should Never Feel Guilty for Not Tithing

Free Guide

Introduction

In this episode, we talked about how some people feel pressured to tithe because they have been taught that not giving means they are disappointing God. This pressure can become so overwhelming that people feel the need to explain their personal finances or prove why they cannot give.

But your relationship with God was never meant to be built on guilt, fear, or the expectations of other people.

Giving is something that should be between you and God. As you continue growing in your relationship with Him, you can learn to recognize His guidance without feeling controlled by religious pressure.

1. Giving Should Never Be Motivated by Guilt

Many people have been taught that tithing is something they must do regardless of their circumstances. They may fear that God is disappointed with them or that they are failing spiritually if they cannot give.

When giving is motivated by guilt, it changes the purpose of giving. Instead of being something freely offered from the heart, it becomes something done out of fear, obligation, or pressure.

God knows your heart. He knows your circumstances. He knows what you are facing in each season of your life.

Your relationship with Him is not measured by how much money you give.

2. You Should Never Feel Like You Have to Prove Why You Cannot Give

In this episode, we talked about someone who felt pressured to publicly share his personal expenses because he wanted to explain why he could no longer tithe.

No one should feel like they have to expose their private financial situation to prove they they are trying their best.

Your finances are personal.

Your struggles are personal.

Your conversations with God are personal.

God already knows your needs, your responsibilities, and your circumstances. You do not have to defend yourself before to anyone.

3. Other People Should Not Decide What You Give

When people begin telling someone what expenses they should cut so they can continue giving, they are stepping into an area that belongs between that person and God.

Other people may have opinions about your finances, but they do not know every detail of your life. They do not know your responsibilities, your current season, or what God may be leading you to do.

A relationship with God means learning to seek His guidance instead of allowing other people to determine what giving should look like in your life.

4. Giving Does Not Always Look the Same in Every Season

God may lead someone to give financially during one season of life.

In another season, He may lead someone to use their resources differently.

Giving can include your money, your time, your energy, your encouragement, or helping someone who needs support.

The important thing is not comparing your giving to someone else's.

The important thing is learning to recognize where God is leading you right now.

Your relationship with God allows you to seek His direction instead of following a one-size-fits-all expectation.

5. Your Relationship With God Should Guide Your Giving

The more you grow in your relationship with God, the more confident you become in recognizing His guidance.

Instead of asking:

"What will people think if I don't give?"

You can begin asking:

"God, what are You leading me to do in this season?"

When your giving comes from your relationship with God, it is no longer about meeting someone else's expectations.

It becomes an act based on your personal relationship with Him.

Growth Moment

Take a few moments to reflect on your current relationship with God.

- Have I ever felt pressured to tithe because I was afraid of disappointing God?
 - Have I ever felt like I needed to justify why I could not give?
 - Have I ever given because of guilt instead of because I genuinely felt led?
 - Do I feel comfortable bringing my financial decisions directly to God?
 - What is God teaching me about giving during this season of my life?
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Weekly Baby Steps

Day 1

Talk honestly with God about any guilt, fear, or pressure you have felt surrounding giving.

Ask Him to help you recognize the difference between His guidance and other people's expectations.

Day 2

Think about whether you have ever given because you felt pressured instead of because you genuinely felt led.

Bring those feelings honestly to God.

Day 3

Ask God how He may want you to use your time, encouragement, or resources to bless others.

Act only when you feel God may be leading you.

Day 4

Spend time going directly to God with your questions and concerns.

Remember that your relationship with Him does not depend on anyone else's opinions.

Day 5

Ask God where He is leading you to focus your resources during this season of your life.

Be open to the possibility that His direction may look different than someone else's.

Day 6

Reflect on how (or if) your understanding of giving has changed as you continue building your relationship with God.

Day 7

Ask God to help you release any guilt or pressure you have been carrying about giving.

Closing Thought

Giving should never be something that causes you to feel ashamed, fearful, or like you have something to prove.

God is not asking you to give because someone pressured you. He may not be asking you to give at all right now, and that's okay.

He desires a relationship with you where you can come directly to Him, learn His voice, and follow His guidance.

As you continue growing closer to God, you will become more confident knowing that your giving, your resources, and your decisions are between you and Him. And they happen in His timing, no one else's.

Because the goal is not religious obligation.

The goal is relationship.

And that relationship grows one baby step at a time.

Suggested Daily Prayer

God, thank You that You know my heart, my circumstances, and my needs. Help me release any guilt or pressure I have felt about giving. Teach me to seek Your guidance and trust that You will lead me in how to use my time, money, and resources. Help me grow in my relationship with You so my decisions come from a connection with you instead of fear or obligation.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Join the Community: Leigh invites you to her 100% free online community where you can grow in your relationship with God at your own pace without pressure or religious expectations. Listen to the podcast and access all free resources in one place!

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