

**LESSON 7**

A dedicated Christian brother was a University lecturer. This brother began to hold meetings with Christian students to teach them about living a more dedicated and holy Christian life. As time went by, more and more young people began to listen to the lectures of this man. Many of them began to recommit their lives to Christ. Part of their commitment meant giving God a tenth (a "tithe") of all that God had given them. Many people who rededicated their lives to the Lord through the preaching of this man began to give the Lord a tenth of all their possessions. Some even gave more, up to 50 percent or 75 percent of all they had.

The result is one of the most amazing chapters of church history in Africa today. In a few short years this renewal movement based on total commitment to Christ has grown into one of the largest churches in Africa. In a country where many people cannot afford to buy even the basic necessities of life this church has built a large college campus in the capital city. Many students from this denomination receive theological education at this school and are trained for the ministry of the gospel at very low cost. Why? Because the church receives large sums of money from outside the country? **NO**. But because the members of this church have learned to give generously to the Lord for His work from what they have. God has blessed their faithful giving and multiplied their resources.

This denomination also has a local church with one of the largest weekly attendances in the world. This true story is an example of the words of the Apostle Paul which were quoted above, that . . . "having all that you need, you will abound in every good work . . . so that you can be generous on every occasion." (2 Cor. 9:7-11) God blesses individuals and churches who give generously to the advancement of His work. When God blesses what they give he makes it grow beyond their imagination, regardless of the country, culture, or condition of the economy in that country because God is all-powerful and God is faithful. God keeps His promises. He is the God of the resurrection. He is the God of the impossible. He is the God for whom no human situation is too difficult. It is up to his people to do what he asks them to do and then to discover with amazement what God will do. Tithing means giving to the Lord the first ten percent of all that a person receives. This can be in the form of money, goods, food or anything a person has. Many Christians have learned the blessing that comes from faithful tithing. Tithing was required in the Old Testament (Lev. 27:30,32) and Jesus encouraged the same practice in the New Testament (Matt. 23:23). For many dedicated Christians giving ten percent of what they have is just the beginning of their giving to the Lord. Many Christians have learned the blessing of giving a double tithe (20 percent) or even more. Some who have more resources discover that they can give 50 percent, 75 percent or even 90 percent of what God has given them and still have enough for their own needs. The matter of giving to God is a matter of understanding the nature of money and all material things. A mature Christian realizes that everything he or she has belongs to God, not just 10 percent of his or her money. It is not a matter of, "this much belongs to God and this much belongs to me." It all belongs to God. Long ago King David recognized this truth in one of his prayers. David said, "O Lord our God, as for all this abundance that we have . . . it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you" (1 Chron. 29:16).

**LESSON 7 Questions**

1. Discuss what you know about a foundation of a building \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. According to 1 Corinthians 3:11 what is the true foundation? \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. According to Matthew 7:24-27 & Luke 6:47-49 explain what it means to build on this foundation \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. Discuss what it means to build on this foundation using material mentioned in 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. List the reasons you can find in Deuteronomy 26:1-19 of why God established the Tithe \_\_\_\_  
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6. As per Malachi 3:8 what does it mean to rob or steal from God? \_\_\_\_\_  
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7. What are the consequences of stealing from God (Malachi 3:9-12) \_\_\_\_\_  
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8. Should New Testament believers pay Tithe? Matthew 23:23 \_\_\_\_\_  
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9. Based on Exodus 30:22-33 what and who was to be anointed with oil? \_\_\_\_\_  
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10. According to James 5:14 does the anointing oil heal the sick person? \_\_\_\_\_  
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