



EVERY NATION
CHURCH • SEATTLE

The Three Month Tithe Challenge

The Bible asks us to give our first and our best back to God, and He will bless the rest. According to the Bible, the first is the tithe, or “tenth” of our income. We return to the Lord 10% of what He’s given us, because it belongs to Him (Leviticus 27:30). In Malachi 3:10-11, God says, *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse that there may be food in my house.”* The 'storehouse' is the Old Testament picture of the New Testament church. Jesus himself affirmed tithing (Matthew 23:23), and it is one small way to respond with gratitude and worship in light of Him giving His all for us.

Giving away 10% of your income can be a big – and often frightening – commitment! That's why we created the Three-Month Tithe Challenge: a money-back guarantee of sorts. Essentially, it's an agreement based on the promises of God in Malachi 3:10-11. We commit to you that if you tithe for three months and God doesn't hold true to His promises of blessings, we will refund 100% of your tithe. No questions asked.

God doesn't need our money. He owns everything. But we give first because it takes faith to give and God wants us to trust Him. Tithing is a very practical and tangible way to put God first in our lives. He tells us in Proverbs 3:9-10 to *“honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops and then your barns will be filled with overflowing.”* We give first and the blessings of God follow.

How to Start:

1. Read the terms and complete the registration form below. Your three months will begin according to the challenge start date on your registration form.
2. Begin Tithing! You can give by check or cash with an offering envelope on Sunday mornings.

Terms:

- I would like to test God's faithfulness by accepting the Three-Month Tithe Challenge. I agree that for the three-month period, I will contribute to God, through Every Nation Church, a tithe equal to 10% of my/our income. At the end of the three-month period, if I am not convinced of God's faithfulness to bless my life as a result of my obedience to His Word, then I will be entitled to request a refund of the full amount of contributions made during that 90-day period.
- I understand this form must be completed and received by ENCS prior to the beginning of the Three-Month Tithe Challenge Period.
- I understand any request for refund must be received by the Executive Pastor within 30 days of the end of the Three-Month Tithe Challenge Period.
- I understand that, whether given at ENCS on Sunday or by mail, my tithe must be paid by check or by using an ENCS offering envelope, so that my tithe can be properly credited.
- I understand I cannot seek a refund prior to the end of the Three-Month Tithe Challenge Period, and that I cannot seek a refund for any contributions made prior to the beginning of the Three-Month Tithe Challenge Period.

The Three Month Tithing Challenge*

Registration form

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

I have read and agree to the terms of the Three Month Tithe Challenge listed above.

Signature: _____

*I realize this document is in no way legally binding. This is a "good faith" agreement between myself (and/or spouse) and Every Nation Church Seattle.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: *My spouse and I both work. Do we give 10% of what we both make?*

A: If your spouse is in agreement with you about taking the challenge, then you should give 10% of both your incomes. However, if your spouse does not want to participate, then just tithe on your income.

Q: *What if I miss a week or two during the three month period? Do I have to make that up?*

A: The tithe is based on what God gives you (your income), not on how often you go to church. To tithe means to give back to God 10% of what He has given to you. So when you miss church you simply make up the difference with your next giving opportunity.

Q: *My spouse's income is all we have, but he/she doesn't come to ENCS. I want to tithe, but I don't know what to do.*

A: We don't want your spouse to be turned off from church and turned off from God because of this challenge. What you might do is talk with them and explain that you'd like to do this, and that if they don't want to do it that's okay. Then you could tell them you'd like to tithe on just half of the income (that could be your half) and see if they are okay with that. That would still count for the challenge, since they don't come to ENCS. If they're not open to that, then maybe this isn't the time for you to take the challenge.

Q: *Should I tithe on my gross income or net income?*

A: The way the tithe is described in the Bible is giving the "first fruits" to God, which sounds like pre-tax, pre-everything, which would be gross income of money you earn. However, this is between you and God, and we believe that when you see how God blesses you for tithing you'll WANT to tithe on your gross income.

Q: *Should I tithe on loans, scholarships, or gifts?*

A: The tithe is based on what you earn from your labor. Loans are not really your money...they are funds you are borrowing that you must repay. You should not tithe on them. Scholarships and birthday presents are gifts, not things you worked for. Thus, feel free to give out of these extra forms of income as God leads you, but these would be considered "offerings," not tithes.