



CONTRIBUTE

PRAYER

PURPOSE: To grow in our relationship with God, grow in our relationship with each, and multiply disciples.

ICEBREAKER: When is the last time you laughed so hard you couldn't breathe? Share your story.

Worship: (Words should be printed out so that everyone can sing along)

EDIFICATION: Acts 2:44-45

One of the most talked about subjects in the Bible revolves around the topic of giving. It is an area that affects every area of our lives. One big misconception that we have about giving is that it involves the giving of money. While that is a part of it, it is only a fraction of what giving really means. At The Cloud Church, we believe that we are called to contribute. You can contribute by joining your church family and serve in a ministry, volunteer in our community service events, and by tithing faithfully of your time, talents, and treasures.

To contribute means to expand our hearts; it means to expand our ability to love and also to receive love. We believe that we are called by God to not just give, but to give with a cheerful heart. The act of contributing is all about the condition of our heart.

Here at The Cloud Church we constantly look for ways to contribute to our surrounding community. One of those ways is by feeding the homeless. It is something that is dear to our hearts. We see a need, and we do for one what we would like to do for all. Another way is by volunteering for our cities local marathon, and simply cheering the runners on, showing them they have The Cloud Church's support. Through the faithful giving of our tithes, it makes all these things possible. What exactly is tithing, and how do I tithe you may ask...

WHAT IS A TITHE?

"Tithe" means "a tenth part" and is a universal principle of *Divine Portion*.

GIVING HAS TWO FOUNDATIONS:

1. Tithing – which honors the AUTHORITY of Jesus.
 2. Offering – which honors the CHARACTER of Jesus.
- Tithing is about Stewardship. Offering is about Generosity.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "TITHE" AND "OFFERING"?

- The "tithe" is giving 10% of my income
- The "offering" is what I give in addition to my tithe.

WHAT SHOULD I TITHE? The first part of my gross income, not the net (what is left over).

Proverb 3:9-10

WHERE SHOULD I GIVE MY TITHES? Malachi 3:10

Where I worship.

WHEN SHOULD I GIVE MY TITHES? 1 Corinthians 16:2

There are 3 ways to give: Sunday's at the kiosk, or through an envelope, or online through Secure Give.

Question 1. Can you describe a time that you went above and beyond to give of either you time, talents, and/or treasures? How did this make you feel?

Question 2. What are reasons that keep us from giving (time/talents/treasures)?

Question 3. What is a practical way that we can start to contribute in our church today?

Prayer: Pray and ask God to expand our capacity to contribute.

Giving: We want everyone to have the opportunity to give. All life group members and guests can give through Secure Give by going to thecloudchurch.com and selecting the Give tab.

