

Acts 11:27-30

Free-Will “Proportional” Giving Not Strict Tithing is God’s Will/Way for NT Christians

Agabus, a NT Prophet from Jerusalem Comes to ABF and Predicts a Serious Empire-Wide Famine 11:27-28a

NT Apostles/NT Prophets

Foundational Gifts Given to the 1st Generation Church

Prophecy = the Reception and Communication of Direct Divine Revelation

1: Forth-Telling Prophecy: Gives Commands/Directions/Exhortation

2: Fore-Telling Prophecy: Describes/Predicts Future Events

The Prophecy Fulfilled during the Reign of Claudius 11:28b

Claudius was the Emperor of the Roman Empire from 41-54 AD

The historian Josephus (not a Christian) describes a serious famine which took place in 46 AD about 18-24 months after the prophecy of Agabus

True Prophets/Prophecy: 100% Accuracy (Deuteronomy 13/18)

The Christians/ABF: Proactively Collected an Offering to Help the Christians in Jerusalem 11:29-30

The Christians at ABF, were concerned about more than just their own situation/problems. They knew they/Antioch would face hard times....but that Jerusalem would have much harder times...and they acted accordingly in a truly Christ-like way (Philippians 2:3-8).

Strict OT Tithing < NT Proportional/Grace Giving

Mandatory for Every Family in the OT NATION Israel

A Fixed Specific % for All

1/10 in the Spring of Each Year

1/10 in the Fall of Each Year

1/10 every 3rd Year

Average/Year = 23.33%

NT Proportional/Grace Giving

Voluntary/not under compulsion, as one decides in his/her heart (2 Cor 8-9)

In general, the more spiritual a Christian is...the higher % he/she will give
and/or, the more income a Christian has...the higher % he/she will give

Who said (and where in the Bible does that Person say it?)

“It is more blessed to give, than to receive.”

Take This To Heart

Acts 11:29-30 A Superlative Example of Generous Giving-as an Expression of
Christ Centered Giving/Compassionate Hearts.

Rather Than a Specific % Given Because We “Have To” NT Believers “Get to
Give” Based on a Higher Principle/: For Each of Us to Prayerfully Decide in
Our Hearts How and How Much to Give, With the Motivation of Giving as
Much as We Possibly Can to the Kingdom of God

<https://bible.org/article/financial-faithfulness>

To Whom Should NT Believers Give?

1: The Local Church

“And let the one who is taught the word share all good things with him who teaches” (Gal. 6:6; cf. also 1 Tim. 5:17-18). If the local church is to form a solid home base for other ministries of outreach, it is only logical that it should become a first priority for our giving.

2: Other Organizations and Individuals

This would include missions, para-church groups and individuals who are involved in these ministries (3 John 5-8).

3: Fellow Believers in Need

Those unable to support themselves or who have faced serious problems are to be helped as we are able. Those who refuse to work are not to be supported (1 John 3:17; Jam. 2:15-16; Gal. 6:10; Heb. 10:33-34; 13:1-3 with 2 Thess. 3:6-10).

4: Unbelievers in Need

Our first priority is to those who are of the household of faith, but we are also to reach out to others in need as we are able (Gal. 6:10).

The Old Testament Tithe

The word *“tithe”* means *“a tenth.”* However, under the Old Testament Law, believers were required to give three different tithes.

(1) The first was ten percent of all one’s possessions (Lev. 27:30-33). This was given to the Levites for the temple ministry (Numb. 18:20-21).

(2) A second tithe was taken from whatever produce was left after the first tithe was given. This tithe was for the Lord’s feasts and sacrifices (Deut. 12:17-18; 14:22). “This command was considered by Jewish interpreters to be for a second tithe (see Lev. 27:30 and Num. 18:21) which was brought to the central sanctuary either in kind or in money.

(3) Another tithe was taken every third year specifically for the welfare of the Levites, strangers, orphans and widows (Deut. 14:26-29).