



# CHURCH ON THE LIVING EDGE

A MODERN EXPRESSION OF AN ANCIENT FAITH

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ENCOUNTERING  
GOD

EXPERIENCING  
TRANSFORMATION

ELEVATING  
LIVES

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## Tithing at Church on the Living Edge (COTLE): Purpose and Meaning

At COTLE, tithing is more than a financial transaction—it’s an act of worship, gratitude, and obedience to God’s Word. It reflects our trust in God’s provision and our commitment to His mission. Tithing is a spiritual discipline that aligns us with God’s Kingdom purposes, helping us prioritize His work above all else. At COTLE, tithes support vibrant worship, community transformation, and the next generation’s spiritual development. They enable us to advance our mission of *Encountering God, Experiencing Transformation, and Elevating Lives*.

### Tithing in the Bible

The practice of tithing is firmly rooted in Scripture. In the Old Testament, Abraham gave a tenth of his possessions to Melchizedek as an act of honor and gratitude to God (**Genesis 14:20**). Jacob vowed to give God a tenth of all he had as a response to God’s promises (**Genesis 28:22**). Under the Mosaic Law, tithing became a sacred responsibility for the Israelites, used to support the Levites, who served in God’s house (**Numbers 18:21-24**). Even the Levites were required to tithe from the tithes they received (**Numbers 18:26-28**). In the New Testament, Jesus affirmed the value of tithing but emphasized justice, mercy, and faithfulness as even greater priorities (**Matthew 23:23**). Paul urged believers to give generously and cheerfully, supporting the work of the ministry and the needs of others (**1 Corinthians 16:1-2, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7**). These biblical principles form the foundation of COTLE’s commitment to faithful stewardship of tithes.

### What is Tithing?

At its core, tithing is the practice of giving one-tenth of one’s income or resources to the church. At COTLE, it is a sacred act of partnership with God’s work on earth. The word “tithes” means “a tenth,” reflecting the biblical call to set aside a portion of what we have as holy to the Lord (Leviticus 27:30). While tithing has roots in ancient traditions, at COTLE, we see it as a dynamic and life-giving practice, empowering the church to serve God’s purposes in the world. Tithing is not limited to financial contributions; it extends to our time, talents, and treasures, ensuring that all we have honors God.

### The Purpose of Tithing

At COTLE, tithing serves multiple purposes:

1. **Worship:** Tithing honors God as the provider of all we have, reflecting our gratitude and faith.

2. **Sustaining the Church:** Tithes fund the mission and vision of COTLE, ensuring that we continue to *Encounter God, Experience Transformation, and Elevate Lives*.
3. **Supporting the Community:** Through initiatives like *The Table*, tithes provide food, resources, and hope to those in need.
4. **Equipping the All Generations:** Tithing invests in ministries that nurture children, youth, emerging leaders, and seasoned saints, empowering them to live out their God-given potential.
5. **Expanding the Kingdom:** Tithes enable us to reach beyond our walls, funding local and global missions that advance the gospel and transform lives.

### **Why Do COTLE Members Pay Tithes?**

COTLE members tithe because they believe in partnering with God's mission and honoring Him as the ultimate source of all blessings. Tithing is an act of obedience that reflects our faith in God's provision and trust in His promises. Members understand that their giving directly supports the church's ministry, outreach, and discipleship efforts. At COTLE, we see tithing as a way to grow spiritually, deepen our connection with God, and align our lives with His Kingdom priorities.

### **How Much Should You Pay for Tithing According to the Bible?**

According to Scripture, the biblical standard for tithing is 10% of one's income (Leviticus 27:30, Deuteronomy 14:22). While this is the baseline, generosity beyond the tithe is encouraged as a reflection of our gratitude and desire to see God's work flourish. At COTLE, we encourage members to give faithfully and cheerfully, trusting that God will provide for all their needs as they honor Him with their finances (2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

### **How Are Tithes Used at COTLE?**

Tithes at COTLE are used to fulfill the church's mission and vision:

1. **Worship Experiences:** Funding music, technology, and creative expressions that help us encounter God.
2. **Community Outreach:** Supporting local missions like *The Table* and benevolence funds to meet practical needs.
3. **All Generation Ministries:** Providing resources and programs for children, youth, and young adults and adults to thrive spiritually.
4. **Global Missions:** Partnering with missionaries and organizations to advance the gospel worldwide.
5. **Facilities and Operations:** Maintaining and upgrading the church campus to create a welcoming environment for worship and ministry.
6. **Supporting Leaders:** Sustaining pastors, staff, and ministry leaders dedicated to shepherding the congregation.

### **Leadership Commitment**

Church on the Living Edge operates under an Eldership model of church government, grounded in biblical principles and focused on accountability, spiritual guidance, and care

for our community. Our Elders are dedicated to seeking God’s wisdom in every decision, overseeing the spiritual direction of the church, and providing support to our pastors, staff, and ministries. This model ensures that our leadership remains anchored in prayer, counsel, and a shared commitment to our mission and values.

We believe that integrity and transparency are essential in managing the resources entrusted to us. To uphold the highest standards of financial accountability, our finances are overseen by an external firm, providing independent oversight and assurance that our resources are managed with care and responsibility. Every dollar given is treated as a gift to God’s work, with careful stewardship ensuring that we can fulfill our mission to ***Encounter God, Experience Transformation, and Elevate Lives.***

Through this structure, we strive to foster a church environment marked by trust, integrity, and faithful service, always seeking to honor God in the care of our people and the resources entrusted to us.



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