

### TITHING EXPERIENCES.

**If the Tithe is not Binding?** One objection made against tithing is that it was a law only for Old Testament times and peoples, and is no longer binding. Suppose this true; what follows? If there is a change, in which direction must it be, towards a lesser or a larger giving? The answer is plain. To whom much is given of him much shall be required. We live in a fuller, richer, clearer, dispensation. We have more done for us, more given to us, and if there be any change in requirement it must be more than of old. Besides, there is more to do than of old; there is the giving of the Gospel to every creature. In view of these things no one can change from the old law without changing in the direction of a larger liberality.

To sum up, tithing is binding or it is not. If not, the change must, in the nature of things, be in the way of increase. If we would live up to God's claim we will give the tithe, or more. In any case, if the above reasoning be correct, the tithe is the minimum. The widow whose simple touching story is here given, departed from the tithe, but in a royal way.

#### A Widow's Story.

**EDITOR RECORD:**—I have been more than ever interested in the RECORD since the tithing experiences have been added to the other valuable information it contained. After reading them each month I would almost conclude to add my experience to the rest, but shrank from the publicity. I have now decided to send it for use if you think any of it will be interesting or profitable.

It is now about thirty years since I became, not exactly a tithe giver, but a systematic giver.

In looking back over my life there are many things I would like to correct or change, but that is one of the things I have never regretted. Indeed I may say it is one of the few luxuries that have helped to brighten my life, enabling me to become a co-laborer with Christ, the highest honor mankind can enjoy.

Being among the older members of a very large family my services were needed in my home until about eighteen years of age. As other members of the family came up to take my place I became anxious to earn something to call my own. For my first day's sewing I got twenty cents. It was then I began systematic giving. I had been a professing christian for some time, but until then had no money to call my own.

The day after receiving the twenty cents, being alone, I seemed to hear a voice saying, "how much of your income are you going to give to God?" No doubt it was the voice of conscience, but to me it seemed so real that I could imagine I had heard an audible voice in the room. I answered, "I will give a tenth." The voice seemed to say again,

"can you not give more than that?" I said, "I will give one fourth of all my earnings."

I kept that pledge for many years. I was always blessed with abundance of work and strength to do it, and I firmly believe that the three fourths, with God's blessing, went further than the whole would have done without it. Though my income was small, I never lacked for anything I really needed, and was able to save a part of the three fourths.

When I married, my husband was a liberal giver according to his means. I did not have the difficulty some have who are unequally yoked. We gave a tenth of all his earnings, and still gave one-fourth of what I earned with the needle.

But a testing time came. With one blow I was stripped of husband, home, and health, and I had to begin the battle with the world alone.

But God did not forsake. He fulfilled His promise to be a husband to the widow. And though He led me at times through scenes of deepest gloom, yet He was leading, and I was safe, even though in the darkness I often lost sight of my guide, but He did not lose sight of me. He was watching the refining process and knew just when to take the metal out of the crucible. I can truly say that, however straitened my circumstances, I was never tempted to withdraw the Lord's fourth of every dollar I received.

When health returned, I was again prospered for some years, and took a deeper interest in the Lord's work than ever before.

About eight years ago, after attending an annual meeting of the W. F. M. S., I was so much impressed with the great need of money to carry on the Lord's work that it weighed heavily on my mind. At last that same voice that I had heard years before, spoke even more loudly than before, "can you not do more than you are doing?" I felt as if I had no excuse, so pledged one half of all my earnings, and still one fourth of the interest of what I had saved or any other money I received. For four years I was able to do so and still add to my own savings by being very economical in my personal outlay.

But another testing time came, through which I am still passing. What I have laid up on earth I may lose, but what has been given for the Lord's cause cannot be lost; it is laid up where moth and rust cannot corrupt, and where thieves cannot break through nor steal.

My only motive in writing my experience is to encourage others to try systematic giving, especially the young, beginning life. If they begin it now with an eye single to God's glory they will never regret it. In some instances God prospers in temporal things those who do so, but if not, He will make it up in rich spiritual blessings, which is even better than any amount of temporal prosperity. The first step is to give ourselves to the Lord; then we will prove faithful stewards of what He entrusts us with.