

My Faith Story

Hello, I'm Suzie. I have been a member here for 16 years but prior to that I did not attend church. I was baptized and confirmed Catholic but after a certain age, church did not interest me. I had a lot to learn. I came to a real personal relationship with Jesus Christ in 2005. As a new member of God's family, I soaked up everything that I could and eagerly asked questions like a child. Every sermon was, and still is, amazing.

One of those sermons was **about tithing**, something I knew nothing about and with each new amount of knowledge gained, I tried to change my behavior or put into practice what I had learned. This, however, was a little different. Would I be able to make other obligations if I started to tithe? I was encouraged in the sermon to "test God in this" and in ***Malachi 3:10 (NCV) it states, "Bring to the storehouse a full tenth of what you earn so there will be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord All-Powerful. "I will open the windows of heaven for you and pour out all the blessings you need."*** I decided to start tithing right away.

I was tithing for approximately two years when **God provided for us** in an unexpected way. A beloved aunt remembered us in her will and we received an unexpected windfall. So much so, that my husband and I were able to send our son to four years of college without any debt.

Father God loves us and wants to bless us. I know that I am a very different person than I was 16 years ago. I encourage you also, to put all of your faith and trust in our Lord in all things. Our Lord delights in giving his children good gifts. We as Christians should express our gratitude to God in our giving, discipline ourselves to show respect for the Lord by giving a tithe, provide for the ministry and take care of the poor. The practice of tithing seems as proper to the task of the church today as it did in the days of the kings of Israel and Judah.

God Bless you all.