

# The Destiny Center, New Life Community Church (NLCC)

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## The Heart of Tithes and Offering

### The Antiquity of Offering to the Lord

-Ever since the days of Cain and Abel men offered up offerings before the Lord (Genesis 4:3-4)

-Offering something to the Lord is not simply an act but it was and still is part of worship.

-During the days of the Old Covenant whenever men or women wanted to worship the Lord in the tabernacle or the temple they had to offer up a sacrifice or an offering of praise. This can be seen throughout the first five books of the Bible called the Pentateuch of the Torah according to Judaism.

-The sacrifice provided for the atonement of sin so that men could enjoy fellowship with the living God. Men and women wanted to be caught up in the high praises of exalting Yahweh but they had sin their lives and therefore they had to provide a sacrifice that would stand in proxy for their sins.

### The Reason for Offering

-The reason for offering praise to the Lord was not that ritual would become stale and stagnant but that worship would come from the heart.

-When the Lord appeared to Abraham he built an altar. The reason why was because he wanted to offer something in thanksgiving to the One who just visited him. Abraham gave from his heart and that is true worship

*There the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendents I will give this land And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him" (Genesis 12:7).*

-Jacob also gives an offering from his heart right after he sees angels ascending and descending from heaven.

*Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land of which you lie I will give to you and your descendents. Also your descendents shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. (Genesis 28:12-18)*

-King David in Psalm 51 writes about a true offering of worship to the Lord when he says:

*"For you do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart-these, O God, You will not despise." (Psalm 51:16-17).*

King David also exalts the Lord Most high in Psalm 63 and in Psalm 84 the sons of Korah long for the

All scriptural references are in the New King James Version (NKJV)

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courts of the Lord where the worship of the Lord is happening incessantly.

***“O GOD, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirst for You; My flesh longs for You in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked for Your sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You” (Psalm 63:1-3).***

***“How lovely is Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes even faints for the courts of the LORD; My heart and flesh cry out for the living God” (Psalm 84:1-2).***

When the people of Israel offered sacrifice offerings simply because it was the status quo of the day that is when the prophets rose up and said that worship comes from the heart and it is not simply a stale action. Worship has to come from the heart, and then become an action, as seen through the previous biblical passages.

***“So rend your heart, and not your garment; Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm” (Joel 2:13).***

### **The New Testament and the New Covenant**

-Today after the death of Christ we now know that Jesus' blood is the lamb slain for our transgressions and therefore we never have to kill another lamb because Jesus now stands in proxy for us.

-So don't let the praise and worship, the tithe and offering, communion, and water baptism become familiar and stagnant in your own thinking. Enter into giving with a heart longing for revelation from the Lord Most High about His character and who He is. Come before Him with a broken and contrite spirit, with a spirit of humility. Come before the Lord realizing that Jesus is the Sovereign Creator of the universe and we are His creation.