



## The Tithing Experience

by Christopher A. Bush



I come to you today to talk about tithing. I want to tell you this story because my story is your story in a lot of ways. Most of you will be able to relate. My wife and I are a young couple trying to establish ourselves. If you know me then you know my wife has been very sick these last two years as she has battled with asthma. We also have an infant at home, so we have bills. Tithing was not an easy choice. There was a chance that if we started tithing a bill might not get paid.

We have always given, but when we actually started to add it up it wasn't ten

percent. The Lord put it on our hearts to start tithing. My wife and I sat down and talked about it. We got out our calculators and started totaling up our bills. As we finished we realized we might be short on a bill or two. We agreed to tithe anyway.

I must be honest though. That was not the last time I had doubt. As the weekend approached and we got closer to Sunday, thoughts continued to creep in my mind. The first thought said, "Why should I pay the church's bills?" As I thought this thought through, it dawned on me.... We tithe to give God back a portion of what he has given to us, we tithe because we are being obedient to God's word, and we tithe so that we can learn to take self out of the picture. Sometimes God can't bless us unless we learn to humble ourselves and put away that selfish part of us that always wants to put our needs first. That was not the last negative thought though. As Sunday approached, I thought, "Why should I tithe and cause my family to struggle?" As I pondered this, a voice in my head said, "Chris if you all can't live off of \$2500 then you can't live off of \$2250. It will be a

struggle regardless.” I decided then and there to tithe, but to tithe cheerfully. I tithed that Sunday and by that Monday God had already managed to bless us financially. On Monday, the assistant athletic director came to me and asked if I would like to drive the bus for teams’ whose coach didn’t have a bus license. He also told me that I would be paid by the hour. God had provided.

If you know me, you also know that I coach at the high school with Coach Chris Patton. Last year our boy’s cross-country team had a chance at winning state and ending up in a devastating third place. This year they had another shot. They were battling all season with the number one ranked team Saltillo. Saltillo would beat us by a point or we would beat them by a point. It was anyone’s race because these two teams were so evenly matched. Well, Pastor Diggs had been talking about have crazy faith. So I decided I was going to have crazy faith. I talked to God and I said, “ Lord, I have been obedient to your word. You said if I was obedient, my cup would runneth over. I dare you to bless my team with a championship.” We made it to the state meet. The gun went off. I raced to the one-mile marker to time my guys. Oxford and Saltillo are neck to neck again. It’s too close to call. I raced to the two-mile marker. As I call out times, I see it could be anyone’s race. When my guys past and I walk to the 3-mile marker, I go off into the woods for a minute. I raise my hands and I praise God for how far he has brought my team. At that point I let go, and I trust that God will provide. Well, the race ended and everyone sat near the award stand anxiously waiting for the officials to announce team places. The announcer said, “ In third place Pearl

High school. In second place with 57 points...Saltillo High School, and your state champions with 54 points.... Oxford High School.” God had provided.

Before I close, I must be sure to tell you that as I got to this point, the devil did not stay idle on my journey. That Tuesday after I tithed my grandmother called me. Her car had stopped on her and it needed to go in the shop. My wife and I gave her one of our cars to use and we just commuted to work together. Well, on Wednesday my grandmother called again. She said, “Chris your car stopped on me today,” I started thinking about that money I had put in Church on Sunday. I went to look at the car it looked like the battery was dead. I called Auto Zone and they quoted me a price of \$225 for a new battery. I was really thinking about that money then. In the midst of my anxiety, I stopped and in my heart I decided to just trust in God. In the same moment I went to start the car. It stuttered a little but turned over and cranked. God had provided.

This is no easy journey, and the devil hates to see us be obedient to God. But in the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. during the civil rights movement, “ A man can’t ride your back unless it is bent.” I want to tell you that the devil can’t ride your back unless it is bent. So, I am standing tall today. If you see me starting bend a little next week, just encourage me. Say, “Stand tall brother. “ If you ever see me bending all the way over, Come over and help me to stand...and I will do the same for you because that is what we are meant to do as the body of Christ. May God bless and enrich your journey.

# Joshua's Day: In His Own Words



Hello my name is Joshua "Josh." I wanted to take this time to give thanks for everything that has happened in my life so far. I was born November 1, 2012 and I was a very small and tiny baby. I have so much to be thankful for because when I was born I didn't weight but 3lbs and 4oz. I was so weak and under nourished that I had to stay 17 days in the incubator but thank God I didn't have to have tubes or anything like that. I consider myself to be a "miracle" baby because I was given up at birth and I was placed in foster care. But even being as tiny as I was God saw fit that I was going to live and be taken care of by somebody that would care and love me. On November 2, 2012 I was introduced to Denise and Earnest Peairs (my mom and dad) and from that day forward I was held and loved and I knew that I was given this life for a reason. I thank You Lord for my mom and dad. So now I am 1 years old and my parents gave me the best 1 year old birthday party a kid could have. I got gifts galore and to make it fun and exciting I had Stan

the Bear there to entertain me and my friends. I would like to thank all my friends and family that came to help me celebrate my 1 year party, and a big shout out to the best parents in the world. I could have been thrown in foster home to foster home not knowing what kind of treatment or care I would have experienced but God already knew what kind of life and situation He wanted me to be in. I love you God and thank You for placing me in a family and environment that I would be loved and cared for. I have a beautiful church family that loves me and I can't wait to be finally adopted to my mom and dad so that I can be Christened in BUMC. So even though I am little now and really don't understand what Christmas is all about I know that Jesus is the reason for me being here and He was born so that I can have a life to grow up in and live for Him and one day become somebody that He will be proud of.

—Joshua Milagro Nehemiah Peairs

## Free GED Classes at Burns UMC

Tuesday and Thursday Nights beginning at 7:00 p.m. See [www.BurnsUMC.org](http://www.BurnsUMC.org) for more details.

## Soup For Seniors

Burns UMC has a new Senior Ministry called "SOUP for SENIORS" on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday in each month. Come for a study of God's word, fellowship and yummy soup. Sponsors are Ann Cancer & Janis Blake.

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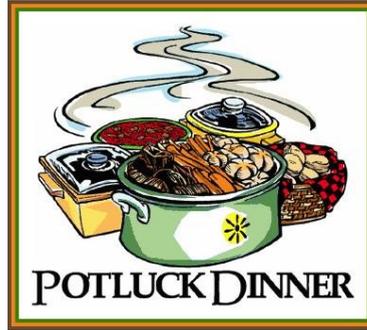
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## Burns UMC Bible Study



Bible Study will resume January 8th and we will be adding a new twist to our Bible Study. We will be having a "POT LUCK MEAL" after our studying. So

we ask that each person please bring 1 dish to our Pot Luck and let us all eat and get full off the Word and all those yummy dishes. Bible Study is on Wednesday night each week beginning at 6p.m. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO COME OUT AND PARTICIPATE and GOD BLESS.

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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE