

# A Living Sacrifice

11/17/2019 Andy Figueroa

*On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper,*  
1 Corinthians 16:2

In November 2017, Nicholas Okoh, the primate of the Anglican Church of Nigeria, the world's largest Anglican province, spoke to reporters on the issue of tithing due to controversies that had been generated by a radio personality. The following is substantially quoted from a compilation of articles in the African press.

He explained, "Tithing is a very ancient tradition, Abraham paid a tithe to Melchizedek and people have become transfixed to that idea until today, but the New Testament gives other options. One, it says to set aside something every week which you think would be handsome for the glory of God and give that. Whether that is 10 percent or whatever percent I don't know, but the instruction is to set something aside every week.



*Archbishop Nicholas Okoh*

"Then, there is the gift required to be given by all; the first concept is that your life is **a living sacrifice**. A sacrifice is something you offer and withdraw your hand. That means the Christian offers his life totally: his training, his money and everything he has belongs to God.

"Therefore, the question of saying, 'God take 10 percent, I would keep 90 percent' does not arise. Let me give an example: If you are a tither and you give 10 percent to the Church, and after giving this percentage somebody is very sick and you still have your 90 percent, will you close your eyes to the person's need?"

"You see, that is one of the weaknesses of tithing if you follow it mechanically. In John chapter 6, Jesus asked about food, but only one young boy had two pieces of fish and five barley loaves. He did not give Jesus two pieces of fish and keep the rest; he did not give the barley loaves and keep the fish. He gave everything, and because he gave everything, the blessing of God multiplied it over and over.

"So the boy had enough to eat, the other people who were there had enough to eat, and there was food to spare. So, the point in this matter is that when giving to God, you don't just give him 10 percent. You give him what is worthy of his name. It might be more than 10 percent, it might be 10 percent, it might be anything depending on your situation, bearing in mind that every good and perfect gift comes from above."

On the stand of some pastors that anyone who refused to pay a tithe was under a divine curse, Archbishop Okoh said, "No, I don't believe it. I don't curse anybody. God does not compel us to go. He only makes us willing to go. If God has given you a gift, he woos your mind. He makes you to see why. Remember that the gift you give does not enhance God. God is full, complete. When you give, it is you the giver that is blessed. The person giving is the one lifted up. God is not hungry. According to Psalm 50, he said:

*"If I were hungry, I would not tell you,  
for the world and its fullness are mine."*

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